

VIA: ATR  
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DISPATCH NO. EGBA 38394

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CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, EE  
FROM : Chief of Base, Berlin  
SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational/PBHASSOCK/BEDOX  
SPECIFIC— Hildegard Luise LAECHERT - Interim Report

DATE: 16 Jan 1957

INFO: COS  
**MICROFILMED**  
JUL 1 1963  
DOC. MICRO. SER.

References: BRLN 8752  
BRLN 8753

Summary:

Subject, a political repatriate from Poland, arrived in West Berlin on 12 Dec 1956, after approximately eleven years confinement in POW camps and prisons. She was allocated to BOB by PBHASSOCK on 17 Dec 1956. She has been in BOB control since that date although she was scheduled for interrogation by CIC and OSI upon release from BOB. Our interrogation revealed that the UB attempted to recruit Subject prior to her release from prison. She was LCFLUTTERED with favorable results on 21 Dec 1956. The details concerning the attempted recruitment aspect have been omitted from the attachment to this dispatch as they are included herein. The attachment contains the personalia, background and general experiences of the Subject during and after World War II including the events leading up to her return to Berlin.

1. Details of Alleged UB Recruitment Attempt:

On 1 Oct 1956, while in Fordon Prison Subject was notified that she was to be set free in accordance with an amnesty decree, and that she was to leave immediately for Warsaw for final processing in connection therewith. At approximately 2330 hours she departed Fordon by train arriving Warsaw at approximately 0830 hours on 2 October. She was escorted by a man and a woman guard. After a little difficulty, they found the Praga Prison in Warsaw, arriving there after travelling by streetcar. She was placed in immediate confinement. On 4 Oct 1956, at her specific insistence to speak to someone in authority, she was taken to the Office of the Director of the Prison, one ~~fnu~~ CHERNIK or CZERNY (Phonetic), whom she described as follows: 28-30 years; slender build; dark hair, worn long; Mongol features, ears crimped in; clean shaven, no glasses; spoke Polish, Russian; wore

Attachment: 1

APPROVED: *1 att. #/w*

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Prison Police Uniform with Captain's insignia. She was politely received by C. who listened to her complaint of being kept in confinement instead of being set free. He assured her that her case was being processed in accordance with a standard procedure and that she would be released shortly. On 6 Oct 1956, she was again taken before him. C. started the interview by inquiring as to her welfare, etc. After a short time he began to interrogate her with regard to ZUREK, The MOLINSKI Brothers, and Bishop HECKEL. (See paragraph H "Correspondents" for details of relationship between Subject, MOLINSKI, ZUREK and HECKEL). Subject was questioned in minute detail as to her relationship to all these persons. She claims that she called C's attention to the absurdity of his questioning her relative to ZUREK, when he obviously knew more about Z. than she did.

(Note: Case Officer questioned her as to how she managed to transport, from Fordon into Praga Prison, correspondence from the MOLINSKIs. She claims that she had the material hidden in her cell at Fordon, and carried it on her person enroute Praga, and later Mokotow and finally West Berlin).

C. closely questioned her on all possible illegal activities at each prison. She denied participation in or knowledge of such affairs. The following day she was propositioned by C. as to recruitment. In leading up to this matter he said that her life as a free citizen in Poland would be much preferable than the life of a former SS Lager Fuherin in West Germany. That there the Germans, and Allies in particular, would subject her to harrassment so that she wouldn't be able to establish herself or her children. He offered to bring her children to Warsaw and provide her with employment. No details were mentioned except that he said they could use her in Poland and give her a life of relative comfort. She claims that she asked for time to think it over. The next day she was recalled by C. and she declined the offer. He then referred to other methods that could be used to persuade her whereupon two other men entered the office. (Described as a UB man and Interpreter in Paragraph J of attachment). They re-interrogated Subject on the aforementioned persons and incidents in her prison life, gradually exerting pressure on her. They took up the subject of recruitment, switching the area to West Germany. They said that they were ready to offer her good pay for collecting information on the Allies in West Germany. While very few details were given her, they said that first she would be required to go to Munich where she was to contact Bishop HECKEL, and attempt to determine the extent of American sponsorship of his welfare work in Poland. She was told to learn the role of the Americans in his activities, they suspecting that his organization was a cover for AIS activity directed against Poland. She was told that she could communicate her information at intervals by travelling to East Berlin where she would be contacted through some type of cutout arrangement which was not specified. They also said that she could be utilized

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later in Hamburg, where she was to report on marine shipping development of all types, including merchant and naval shipping, construction, personnel and weapons. She was not told how she would communicate this information. Later, prior to the LCFLUTTER examination she admitted that the UB had discussed a third area, namely Heidelberg. Her target there was to be the American Headquarters with specific coverage of information concerning key personalities of the Headquarters and general military information which included atom weapons and storage areas for atom bombs/warheads. No system of communication was mentioned, it being covered in a general statement which referred to future developments when she would be told about it when it was necessary.

(Note: Case Officer queried her as to the reason she waited until just prior to the LCFLUTTER examination before revealing the Heidelberg target. She claims that she was afraid that if she mentioned it earlier it might preclude her going to Heidelberg thus interfering with her personal plans, which she emphasized do not include espionage. It must be added that prior to the time of the LCFLUTTER preparatory interrogation, she did tell the Case Officer that Heidelberg was one place where she hoped to settle with her children some day).

Subject states that she declined this proposition too and she then was the victim of a rougher type interrogation which included beatings at frequent intervals. Subject claims that she became ill from the punishment and strain, and had to be hospitalized at the Mokotow Prison Hospital. She was admitted there around the end of October about the 28th. During this period of convalescence she gradually regained her strength to the point that she looked and felt comparatively well. She started on her repatriation trip to West Berlin on 9 December.

2. Richard Krajewski:

Paragraph "K" of the attachment furnishes the pertinent details of her association with Richard Krajewski. Subject claims to feel a close attachment to K. and she believes the feeling to be mutual. When it was discussed with her at some length she conceded that her reaction to K. could be affected by the fact that he was the first male that she had been alone with in 12 years, probably the first that showed her any degree of affection and sympathy in that same period of time. Eventually, when the possibility of his having deceived her for the purpose of contacting Western IS's was brought up, she also conceded that this is a definite possibility that she must keep in mind. She seems firmly convinced that he is sincere in his attitude towards Communism and feels that he will make some sort of effort to flee. The only possible method that she thought he might use would be when he escorted prisoners to the DDR border he then in some unknown manner crossing the Polish-DDR border illegally.

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She admits that she has not definite information on this, nor could she shed any further light on the March 1957 date which was mentioned by him as to the time that he would defect. Subject plans on corresponding with him at the address he furnished on the envelope after she establishes herself in West Germany. She plans on using a pseudonym and will furnish an address which cannot easily be traced directly to her. She feels that he will correspond with her. She has agreed to permit us to guide and monitor her correspondence, if we so desire. This offer arose through the Case Officer expressing interest in the matter. It was not brought up on her own initiative.

3. Subject's Future Plans:

Subject with her 2 children is processing as a political repatriate through the German Red Cross. This processing is carrying her through a screening procedure which includes BIS, FIS, GIS, the Berlin Police and Federal German Repatriation authorities. She has been briefed relative to what she can and cannot tell the other Services. She has been specifically told that she is not to furnish details on her relationship with Krajewski nor to mention the UB attempt to recruit her. The PGHASSOCK panel members have been notified of our operational interest in her. She hopes to finish her processing about 15 January, and then be flown out to Camp Friedland in W. Germany. Before she departs, she will be instructed how to contact the Case Officer in order to notify him of her whereabouts. For this purpose she will be given a West Berlin Post Office Box address.

4. Field Comment:

a. From the outset we have been aware of the possibilities of this being a UB operation directed at a Western I. S. We have handled the persons concerned accordingly. The relationship of Subject to Krajewski is most suspect and we consider it unlikely that K is what he purports to be namely a UB man who wants to defect. At this point we feel that Subject is probably truthful in what she has revealed and that she could have been taken in by K. On the other hand her experience in such matters should make her realize that K is an unusual UB man to say the least, when one considers his taking her into his confidence and the fact that he allegedly corresponds with someone in the United States, if he does. With regard to this correspondence, an attempt is being made to recover the original envelope which was given Subject by K. in order that we can have it examined technically for possible clues as to its authenticity. At the present time we are only in possession of a copy-rapid sample of the original envelope which is not suitable for accurate, detailed photo

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reproduction. We will forward a copy of the envelope involved for possible mail cover use in the United States.

b. Berlin files were checked on all persons mentioned in paragraphs G, H, I and K of the attachment. The only person on whom a probable trace was uncovered was one Eva LEMBERG, a former Kubark Agent, whose file was forwarded to Headquarters via EGBA 32867. The BOB file card mentions additionally that L was born 4 Jan 1924 at Posen; that she was the "number one in the Chain"; [ ] was the Case Officer and that her ASE was submitted 14 Sept 1954.

c. Subject's intelligence activities including SD service will be elaborated on in a separate dispatch.

d. Our recommendations for possible future handling of this case will be forwarded as soon as feasible, following the departure of the Subject from West Berlin.

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