

MEMORANDUM

American Legation
Bern, Switzerland
11 April 1950

MICROFILMED
OCT 3 1963
DCC-MICRO SER.

TO: Dr. ~~CONF. MICRO SER.~~
FROM: James S. Kronthal
SUBJECT: Isidor KOPPELMANN

MICROFILMED
FEB 19 1963
DCC-MICRO SER.

1. In answer to your request for information on Isidor KOPPELMANN, we are pleased to submit the following notes: Subject, a banker residing at Albanenanlage 39, Basel, was born in that part of Galicia formerly belonging to the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He lived and worked for some time in Vienna prior to World War II. During the war he appeared in Switzerland and served here as an agent of the Polish Intelligence Service. He currently holds a stateless passport.

2. KOPPELMANN is a director of the Internationale Kapital-Anlagen Gesellschaft of Basel (IKAP), a firm which was founded in 1934 or 1935 by members of the La ROCHE banking family, including Dr. Jacques ROSENSTEIN, who is related to the La ROCHE family by marriage. ROSENSTEIN, who is at present residing in New York, still directs the activities of IKAP through his principal agent in Switzerland, Isidor KOPPELMANN.

3. IKAP claims to finance foreign trade transactions, to obtain assets for loans abroad, and to engage in clearing blocked accounts held by foreign nationals in Switzerland and elsewhere. IKAP is, however, notorious in Swiss business circles for financing exports to Russia's eastern satellites, especially Czechoslovakia, and for the consummation of large-scale deals involving east-west trade. In its pursuit of the latter activities, IKAP works through a series of small but powerful Swiss banking houses, including the following:

Lombard Odier & Cie.
11 rue Corraterie, Geneva

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Neue Guyerzeller-Bank AG
Bürsenstrasse 16, Zürich

E 1-3040/01

Privat-Kommerzbank AG
Pelikanstrasse 37, Zürich

IKAF also has financial dealings with the Union des Banques Suisses and with the Chemical Bank and Trust Company of New York.

4. ROSENBERG, KOPPELMANN's principal, is reported to have facilitated his operations by means of bribing certain persons in high places, including Dr. CTF of the German division of the Swiss Compensation Office (Verrechnungsstelle) in Zürich.

5. KOPPELMANN recently established contact with Bela SZABO, a Hungarian promoter with whom he is now working on some commodities exchange transactions involving Italy, Russia, and the United States.

6. In September 1949 KOPPELMANN is reported to have been in contact with Meier STIGLITZ, an international smuggler residing in Brussels.

7. Early this year KOPPELMANN took part in the formation of the KAY company in Zürich and the CHEBA firm in Liechtenstein. It is believed that these new firms will be engaged in east-west trade.

8. In January 1950 KOPPELMANN instructed a Viennese lawyer to assist him in the purchase of shares in the Vereinigte Glanzstoff-Fabrik AG of St. Pölten, Russian Zone of Austria.

J.S.K.

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