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SECRET

DISPATCH NO. NECA-819

~~SECRET~~ (BY UNDERLINE)
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, NEA

DATE: 8 August 1953

FROM : []

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Opera/Intell

SPECIFIC— Alleged American Intelligence Agents

1. Attached is a copy of Army Attache Report No. 5-2-53 dated 30 July 1953 and a CAS Memorandum, part of which was incorporated in the Army report regarding allegations made by Colonel Kurt FERCHAL and Major Gergard Georg MERTINS, German military experts, who first ^{told the} claimed that they had been recruited to work for American Intelligence by Thomas G. MAPPLEBECK, a British businessman. They later changed their story that it was Erich OLBRUECK, (NBCW-298) a German businessman, who recruited them in collaboration with Mapplebeck.

2. Paragraph 7 of the Army report, we believe, reflects the Army Attache's scepticism toward our denial that Mapplebeck and Olbrueck are American Agents.

3. On 2 August 1953 [] went to dinner at Rumson's, where he met a Colonel LETHERIDGE and Thomas G. Mapplebeck. According to Lethbridge was formerly with British Army Intelligence in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. (Fieseler states that Lethbridge was in charge of British torpedo boats in the Mediterranean Theatre during WW II.) Lethbridge describes himself as a mining engineer consultant. He claims to travel to about 40 countries every year. He departed from Egypt on 2 August for Entaba, Uganda.

4. Mapplebeck said that he is in the military aircraft business. He is also associated with a firm named CRICK and another named McMAHON and Co., in the rainmaking business. Dorfach states that Mapplebeck made allusions which gave the impression he is working for British Naval Intelligence.

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