

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

S E C R E T

VIA AIR

DISPATCH NO. EGGA-923

32W-002-00014

TO : Chief of Base, Bonn DATE 23 April 1958  
FROM : Chief of Base, Hamburg Info: COS, MOB, BOB, FOB  
SUBJECT: GENERAL - Operational/CART/Liaison  
EE

SPECIFIC - Information on KUENAST, BfV Field Office

Reference: EGNA-14777, 15 April 1958

ACTION REQUIRED: For your information.

1. Reference, which was not sent to all addressees, requested information on KUENAST. Since there seems to have been no comprehensive reporting on this office in the past, we have prepared a summary of the information available at Hamburg Base which may be of general interest.

2. \*KUENAST is a BfV field office in Hamburg, and as its full name (KUESTENNACHRICHTENSTELLE) implies, it is the BfV's Coastal Intelligence Office responsible for North Germany. Kuenast is not listed in the Hamburg telephone book or city directory. The mailing address is KUENAST, Hamburg 20, Postschliessfach 3807. The Kuenast offices are located at Hamburg 20, Eppendorfer Landstrasse 44, in an apartment on the top floor of a large old-fashioned apartment building. The apartment consists of at least seven rooms and also serves as living quarters for the chief of the office, Paul OPITZ. The door plate shows Opitz' name; there is no reference to Kuenast.

3. Paul \*OPITZ, born 17 September 1897 at Bad Schmiedeberg (near Wittenberg) appears to have been in charge of the office since its inception in 1951. He is an old police/counter-intelligence specialist who has been in the security business since 1921 when he joined the Upper Silesian Free Corps (Selbstschutz Oberschlesien). In World War I he served as lieutenant of infantry. He joined the Prussian police service in 1923 and after service in various elements of the criminal

S E C R E T

**COPY**

(Basic doc. f. 32W-5-13)

S E C R E T

EGGA-923

Page 2

police specialized himself in border control work. His highest rank was Regierungs und Kriminalrat. He also held the SS rank of Sturmbannführer and apparently ex officio got himself incorporated into the SD. He was not a member of the NSDAP, although there is evidence that he applied for membership. His application was not considered because of omission in the Fragebogen. Whether this omission was by design or by accident, we do not know. At any rate, Opitz was a good "Beamter" who kept the confidence of his Nazi superiors in the SD and later the RSHA and he was given important and sensitive assignments in the border control and security fields during the war. After the war Opitz lived in Berlin, with no regular employment, until he became a "Freier Mitarbeiter" of the BfV. We assume that Opitz' SS rank precluded his appointment as a regular staff employee of the BfV. There is some talk that he will be appointed Oberregierungsrat, presumably to entitle him to better pension benefits since he is approaching the mandatory retirement age.

4. The Kuenast mission is restricted to counter-intelligence to uncover sabotage on ships and in industrial installations related to maritime activities. This includes the Elbe River traffic. The Kuenast charter appears to have been drawn up rather carefully in order to avoid the accusation that the Kuenast is duplicating the work of the LfVs in the North German area. There is, of course, a certain amount of duplication of effort since Kuenast cannot possibly do its specific job without attempting broad counter-intelligence coverage of the entire maritime field. In general, Kuenast works the shipping field and foreigners while the LfV concentrates on political matters, security and counter-intelligence involving Germans, and protection of the shipyards. We have found that both the LfV and Kuenast express interest in and operate against the Soviet trade offices, the Czech trade mission and similar targets. The LfV concedes sabotage jurisdiction to Kuenast. The LfV claims, and the BfV has conceded, the primary operational responsibility for foreign missions in Hamburg. This has not prevented Kuenast from taking a strong interest in these missions and collecting a good deal more information on them than the LfV, as well as we can judge, has been able to gather. We have seen no indication, however, that Kuenast plans to attempt any actual penetration operations against these missions, which would be clearly against BfV instructions.

5. While the LfV and Kuenast appear to have arrived at an understanding of sorts on jurisdictional matters, probably due to the willingness of the BfV to give way to the demands of the Hamburg LfV on this score, the working relationship is anything but happy. The chief of

S E C R E T

# BEST AVAILABLE COPY

S E C R E T

EGGA-923

Page 3

the Hamburg LfV has in effect declared Opitz persona non grata and has forbidden his men to have anything to do with Kuenast as long as Opitz remains. This has not prevented informal contact on the working level but has successfully poisoned the atmosphere. The situation on the Soviet target has gotten so bad that the previous direct exchange of information was stopped and coordination now is done through BfV headquarters. Kuenast's poor relationship with the LfV, which also seems to extend to the Criminal Police and the BND, is more than likely due to Opitz' personality. The contrast between Opitz and Paul PFEIFFER, the LfV chief, is particularly noticeable. Pfeiffer is an attorney, a life-long Social Democrat, and served as Hamburg Commissioner for Denazification before taking on the LfV assignment. He is a strong family man with three children, a wry sense of humor, very careful in his working habits and possesses impeccable social manners. Opitz, on the other hand, spent his life in the police, a good part of it under the Gestapo. He has a suspicious nature, does not get along well with his colleagues and subordinates, has practically no sense of humor, is somewhat crude in his behavior, and is a bachelor who leads a hermit-like existence. He has lost classified information more than once, on one occasion having lost a brief case with secret papers which the Post Office turned in to the LfV. One of the LfV case officers told us that the BfV had planned to transfer Opitz to Berlin after promoting him to Oberregierungsrat but the Berlin offices concerned showed a completely negative attitude. Whatever the reasons for Opitz' troubles, he is obviously a pariah in the Hamburg intelligence community.

6. The Kuenast staff in Hamburg consists of about 10 persons, including at least one laboratory technician, one case officer in Bremen (fnu Behncke - alias Heinz, believed to be a former CIC employee), 2 agent handler case officers working out of the Hamburg office (of whom Johannes \*DRUSZELLA, is a Polish-speaker, on Satellite and German operations) and 3 girls (Barbara Steinmetz, Adelheid Moog, and Marianne (lnu)). The atmosphere in the office is not a happy one. Opitz is a fussy and pedantic boss who rides his staff hard; they in turn do not much respect him. For example, on one occasion [redacted] detected certain inaccuracies in a report on the Soviet trade mission while in Opitz' office. Opitz called in his Russian case officer ("Andres" - no other information available) and gave him a dressing down in front of [redacted] discussing the inaccuracies in the report and pointing out in a rather pedantic fashion the elements of good reporting. A few minutes later Opitz got on to another topic with Andres standing behind him. While Opitz talked, Andres shook his head in an obvious "do not

S E C R E T

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

S E C R E T

EGGA-923

Page 4

believe that stuff" attitude for [ ] benefit. Of course, Opitz sitting at his desk, could not see Andrés' mimicry. There seems to be an attitude in the office that the old fellow does not have all his marbles but he is nearing retirement so one can put up with it.

7. The negative picture of Opitz given above must be tempered by the statement that operationally Kuenast seems competent enough and in coverage of Soviet and satellite targets is far ahead of the LfV. Sitting in Opitz' office, one gets the impression of a great deal of activity, although the amount of effort seems to us to be out of proportion to the value of the information received. Opitz strikes us as having a tendency to get lost in limitless detail of marginal value. Nevertheless, he has provided us with useful information and we have received excellent cooperation from him from the very beginning of our relationship. He is helpful, talkative, and always ready to be of service. We have had access to a considerable number of their working files, reports to BfV headquarters, and internal correspondence, in addition to the material which is given to us officially. (FYI, we have given serious consideration to the reproduction of Kuenast files as we get access to them. Although the opportunity is tempting, we decided against it because of the continuing burden this would place on our limited reproduction and clerical facilities, and because in the aggregate the information does not seem significant enough to warrant blanket reproduction for our files. (Of course we review carefully any Kuenast papers for items of general interest.)

8. Contact with Kuenast is as frequent as the workload demands and we can call Opitz day or night. The burden of liaison is carried by [ ] who sees Opitz once or twice a week, usually at Opitz' office. We occasionally meet him for lunch at one of the local restaurants, and he has been to my house once. He is not a man for small talk and does not seem to feel comfortable in the presence of ladies. Because of his bad relations with other German security people, and his rather poor social manners, I have not felt that I could invite him to parties with any of his Hamburg counterparts. His relationship with his own office staff appears to be less than satisfactory; his counterparts in the LfV and the Hamburg police are unfriendly and even contemptuous of him, and there is evidence that the BND people dislike him, too. On the other hand, his relations with the border control service seem to be excellent and he obtains adequate cooperation from the working level of the Lower Saxony police. While Opitz may be a boring fellow with a large number of fixations, he is not stupid and the attitude of the BND and LfV has not gone unnoticed. This situation has benefited

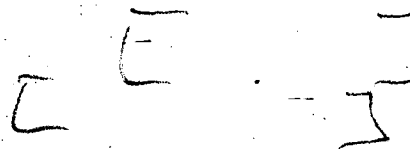
S E C R E T

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

S E C R E T

EGGA-923  
Page 5

us; Opitz has repeatedly turned information over to us which he does not give his fellow Germans, and he seems genuinely appreciative of the attention we give to him.



DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - Bonn
- 2 - COS
- 2 - MOB
- 2 - BOB
- 2 - FOB
- 3 - EE

S E C R E T