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TO

INFO.

FROM

Chief, European Division

SUBJECT

RYBAT Reinhard SPITZY

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

Reference: 1620, 29 April 1974

1. Forwarded herewith for your background information is a report on Reinhard SPITZY provided by DCD. After some extensive research on the Second International Crawfish Symposium (held at Baton Rouge, La. April 8-11, 1974), a DCD representative subsequently located and interviewed a close acquaintance of SPITZY's who had attended the Symposium, and who is the source of the DCD report. A list of the attendees at the Symposium and three letters from SPITZY to the source of report are also being forwarded under separate cover. Headquarters traces on those persons mentioned in the report will follow.

2. You will note with interest paragraph 15 of the report which makes mention of a Soviet "representative". We would guess that this was either or Consul General Vladimir Ilich IVANOV.

3. In the event that there is any further personal contact between the DCD source and SPITZY before the envisioned Third Symposium in 1976, we look forward to obtaining additional information on the activities of SPITZY.

Attachment:

as stated - h/w:

- 1. (report on Reinhard SPITZY)
- 2. u/s/c: list of attendees & 3 letters

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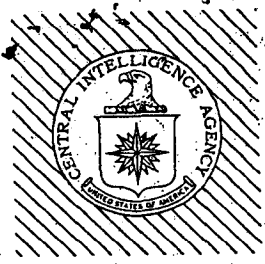
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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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REPORT NO. 00-A(S)-322/21257-74

DATE 1 August 1974

COUNTRY Austria

NO. PAGES 5

SUBJECT Reinhardt Spitzzy--Biographic and Assessment Data

REFERENCES DCD Case 62002

OPERATIONAL INFORMATION REPORT

This report has been prepared by the DOMESTIC CONTACT SERVICE, DDI. The operational information contained herein may not be disclosed to personnel outside of the CLANDESTINE SERVICE, CIA, without the prior permission of the Domestic Contact Service.

SOURCE US citizen; a professor of fisheries at a US university.

SUMMARY - Since the source first became acquainted with Reinhardt Spitzzy at the First International Crayfish Symposium which Spitzzy organized in Austria in 1972, the two men have been in frequent contact and have become good friends. Most of their correspondence and personal contacts have concerned various aspects of crawfish culture or preparations for the second crawfish symposium in Baton Rouge. For a self-taught man, Spitzzy has an impressive grasp of crawfish biology. He also has great energy, linguistic ability, and he exhibits considerable talent for effective organization and leadership. Above all, the source has been impressed by Spitzzy's sincerity, charm and sensitivity to others. Although he has no visible means of support, Spitzzy appears to be very well off financially, and his wife Maria is apparently wealthy in her own right. Despite the almost incredible accounts Spitzzy has related concerning his activist role inside the Third Reich, he now appears to hold no particularly strong views on contemporary political affairs. And at least in his professional relationships there is no hint of any bias based upon ideology, nationality, race or religion.

Personal History and Family Data

1. Although Spitzzy and his remarkable background were the subject of many conversations among the delegates to the first and second crawfish symposiums, it was during the first symposium which Spitzzy organized and led in Hinterthal, Austria, that he told the source a number of stories about his association with the Nazi Party.

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2. Spitzzy said that he had become enamored with Nazi programs and propaganda as a young man in Austria in the 1930s, joining the party and rising rapidly through the hierarchy until he eventually became secretary to one of Adolph Hitler's closest aides. In this position Spitzzy came to know Hitler well, and he also developed a more than casual acquaintance with Benito Mussolini. Spitzzy said that Hitler had once even tried to dissuade him from marrying his wife Maria because she was not German or Austrian. (The source believes that Maria is British, despite the latin flavor of her name and those of her sons.) Spitzzy (and presumably other close associates) eventually became disenchanted with Hitler's policies, however, and some time after the "General's Plot" against Hitler failed, Spitzzy and his friends attempted to assassinate Hitler themselves.
3. Spitzzy said that he placed an "English-made bomb" in Hitler's cognac case just before the Fuhrer was to depart with it on an airplane flight. The bomb failed to explode, however, and Spitzzy and his associates fled the country. Spitzzy sought sanctuary in a monastery in Spain or some other Spanish-speaking country, and he remained there for two years. Afterwards he worked for the Coca-Cola Company as a salesman or distributor in Spain or Latin America. During the Hinterthal symposium, the source was introduced to a Spanish-speaking priest who said that it was he who had sheltered Spitzzy after the latter had fled Germany. The priest displayed a photograph of a young man in monk's habit whom he identified as Spitzzy in his monastic disguise.
4. The source has no knowledge of Spitzzy's activities following his days as a soft-drink merchant, until the early 1970s when Spitzzy began introducing American crawfish into European ponds and lakes. Spitzzy remained unknown to the source and to most US crawfish specialists until he invited them and others to attend his 1972 symposium in Hinterthal.
5. Maria Spitzzy must be in her early 50s, but she looks about 45 or 47 years old. She is slender, tall (about 5'7") and quite attractive. She is, in addition, very poised in public, and while she was helping her husband coordinate the Hinterthal meeting, she occasionally came under considerable pressure, yet she never lost her composure or appeared flustered. Maria is gracious, unpretentious, and to the source, a "wonderful person." The Spitzzys have two sons, Miguel (about 25 years old) and Sandro (probably a few years younger than Miguel). At the Hinterthal meeting, Sandro told the source that he was interested in studying in the United States, and he requested information on the opportunities at Louisiana universities to study ecology, meteorology or physics.
6. It is clear that the Spitzzys are financially well off. They travel frequently and widely. Their home in Hinterthal is a large but not pretentious lodge which was built before 1400 (BC) by a feudal ruler who used it as a hunting lodge. The building occupies a picturesque site on the side of a mountain above Hinterthal. The Spitzzys may also own most of the mountainside on which their home stands, for Spitzzy told visitors once that he controls the stream upon which the village depends as its sole source of water. The family also owns the hotel in which the symposium was held and the delegates were housed, and early on in the conference, Spitzzy told the delegates in a humorous aside how he had come to acquire a castle through his wife (or her family) and had subsequently disposed of it.

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7. Spitzzy appears to be about 64 years old, and is 6'2" or 6'3" tall. He is in robust health and exudes vitality. [Collector's note: the source has a number of good-quality photographs depicting Spitzzy in the company of his wife, or with friends and associates. He has promised to make the photos available.]

Professional Standing

8. Although self-taught in crawfish biology, Spitzzy is widely respected by professionals for his in-depth knowledge of the subject, and he has pioneered the introduction of American crawfish into a number of West European ponds and lakes (specifically in West Germany, Austria and Luxembourg) where indigenous crawfish had existed before they were wiped out by disease many years ago. As a layman, however, he had no opportunity to publish his views or report his activities in scholarly journals, which is probably the reason he remained unknown to many scientists until the Hinterthal meeting. The source, who is a rather prominent specialist in the field himself, declares flatly that if it hadn't been for Reinhardt Spitzzy's intense interest, energy and efforts, there would have been no international meetings and there would be no international crawfish society today. Although Spitzzy is described as "Dr." or "Professor" Spitzzy in published references to his work, he probably does not hold a doctorate in any field; nor is he a professor.

Personality and Character

9. Part of Spitzzy's success in his adopted field is undoubtedly due to his personality. His great energy and intense professional interest are balanced remarkably by his sensitivity and his exceptional consideration for others. He speaks most common languages well, and makes a sort of hobby out of learning new ones. There have been only a few delegates (who were, incidentally, from Sweden and Finland) with whom Spitzzy was not able to communicate in their native tongues.
10. Spitzzy is seriously concerned about protocol and attempts scrupulously to observe all professional courtesies and conventions, and he gave a great deal of consideration to distributing titles and positions of honor among the various delegates to both meetings. For the Baton Rouge symposium, for example, he suggested the establishment of several honorary positions and boards for the meeting--primarily of course to honor the men so chosen, but also to encourage their attendance at the meeting. He also gave careful consideration to the languages which were to be employed at the meetings for both diplomatic and practical reasons. One Mexican scientist whom Spitzzy especially wanted to attract to the Baton Rouge meeting, Dr Alejandro Villalobos Figueroa, was offered at least two such honorary titles or positions at Baton Rouge, but Figueroa is elderly and weak and could not attend.
11. The source can not recall a single instance of Spitzzy's speaking critically or maliciously of anyone else--not even the Swedish scientists with whom Spitzzy has disagreed rather fundamentally over the introduction of foreign crawfish. The Swedes, who are adamantly opposed to Spitzzy's work, say that it may introduce new diseases onto the continent and again jeopardize the existence of crawfish throughout Europe. The source points out that the Swedes also own the only commercial crawfish farm of any size in Europe and consequently enjoy a monopoly position at present. Despite their conflict, however, Spitzzy has never spoken ill of his

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Swedish opponents. Aside from his unusual courtesy, tact and charm, Spitzzy has a well-developed sense of humor, and he obviously enjoys telling jokes, although none which are likely to cause offense.

Foreign Friends and Associates

12. Spitzzy and his wife contacted the Mexican scientist Figueroa when they were in Mexico during the summer of 1973, but were apparently only able to speak with Figueroa by phone. From Mexico the Spitzzys flew to New Orleans where they remained for a week or ten days in the company of a Swedish couple whom the Spitzzys seemed to regard as close friends. Richard and Brita Du Rietz, the Swedish couple, appeared to have only a casual interest in crawfish culture, so their relationship with the Spitzzys may have been based on some other common interest as well. During the Spitzzys' stay in New Orleans, the source visited them at their hotel about three times to discuss preparations for the 1974 Baton Rouge Symposium, and at his invitation, both the Spitzzys and the Du Rietzes came to Baton Rouge one evening to enjoy a backyard crawfish boil at the source's home. When Du Rietz confessed that he collects rare books, the source took him to visit the rare book collection in LSU's Library.
13. One of Spitzzy's more colorful European collaborators is Archduke Andres Salvador Habsburgo-Lorena of Madrid, Spain, who shares Spitzzy's interest in crawfish and who had discussed with Spitzzy at some length the possibility of introducing crawfish farming into the ricefields of southern Spain. Spitzzy liked the idea and encouraged the archduke to invite the source to Spain to explore the project's feasibility further. In Spain, the archduke acknowledged that although Spitzzy is financially secure and is unconcerned with commercial production of crawfish, he (the archduke) is relatively young (39, he said), and he said that he is interested in the commercial possibilities of crawfish farming in Spain.
14. The source gathers that the Spitzzys have other very prominent friends in Europe. Maria, for example, was unable to come to the Baton Rouge meeting because she had to remain in Hinterthal to entertain the newly elected German chancellor, or perhaps a minister--the source is not certain. He presumes that the official is a West German, however.

Relations with Soviets and East Europeans

15. Because some excellent research on crawfish is being performed in the Soviet Union, many western researchers, including Spitzzy, have been anxious to include Soviet scientists in their meetings. All were somewhat disappointed when no Soviet researchers appeared for the Hinterthal meeting. Sometime after the meeting had begun, however, a Soviet "representative," who was not a scientist, and his chauffeur turned up at the hotel, and Spitzzy left the group to insure that the Soviet visitors were made comfortable, showing them a trout pond which he had installed behind the hotel.

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16. A Polish delegate also showed up two or three days late in Hinterthal. He was a scientist, however, and had apparently encountered enormous difficulties in obtaining approval to attend the Hinterthal meeting. Eventually he was allowed to go, but he was given virtually no money to spend, and as a result he arrived at Hinterthal hungry and exhausted from his two-day train ride. Spitzky arranged for the Pole to be accommodated in his hotel without charge and asked other delegates to contribute whatever they could to pay their indigent colleague's other expenses, which they freely did.
17. No Soviets or East Europeans attended the Baton Rouge meeting, and the group tentatively scheduled the next, 1976 symposium at Helsinki in the belief that the city's close proximity might encourage Soviet scientists to attend.

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