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SSC/OPS/MEMO/13

26 Nov 47

SUBJECT: Heribert von STREMPER

TO : CHOB

FROM : C

L.D.P.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2005

1. Ever since the establishment of the Bizonal Agencies, this office has been searching for a suitable source to cover KPD penetration of the Bizonal Agencies or similar SC targets. However, as ordinarily, the Bizonal Agencies represented, if any, an FR target, no special effort was made until it was recently reported in WED 1363/MGH-A-1918, that two men, SCHACHT and SALONON, from the Russian Zone Economic Administration, had arrived in Frankfurt. They were reported to have carried with them recommendations to the local KPD and it was stated that their mission could probably be described as observers rather than agents which, however, still gave them the status of legitimate SC targets.

2. Fortunately, about 5 weeks ago, subject was met socially and when it was learned that his background and present position were highly suitable for the desired type of agent, social contact was maintained with him since the original meeting.

3. At the last meeting with subject, he furnished information and a document without being asked to do so or without being aware of L's connection with any intelligence agency.

4. For a preliminary appraisal of subject, there is quoted below an extract from Preliminary Interrogation Report No 35, published by the Mil. Intel. Service Center, Oberursel, where subject was interned for several months during 1945/46.

"STREMPER was born 8 March 1902 in Berlin. He graduated from high school in 1919 and studied law at the University of Jena from 1919 to 1922. In 1923 he entered the diplomatic service as technical assistant in the Foreign Office under Dr. von BUELOW, head of its League of Nations Dept. In 1926 he passed his diplomatic examinations and became attaché in Paris with a German delegation which was to negotiate a trade agreement with France. During 1927 he worked as 2nd secretary in the German embassy at BELGRADE and from 1928 to 1934 as chargé d'affaires in Chile. The Foreign party organization of the NSDAP then demanded his recall because he was not a party member. At that time there was an opening in the embassy at WASHINGTON for a second secretary and he was assigned to this position by the Foreign office. The Nazi party did not approve of this assignment either. He was, therefore, attached to the press Dept of the Foreign Office in Berlin as specialist for South American and Anglo-Saxon affairs until 1937. In 1938 the German ambassador in WASHINGTON requested a career diplomat with knowledge of Spanish and English, and since he was the only eligible candidate for this

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position, he was sent to America. The party again requested his recall, which did not take place because of the outbreak of the war. STREMPER remained in WASHINGTON until 1942, when he was exchanged. He returned to the Press Dept and was placed in charge of the North American Press Section.

He states that he was promoted only once under the Nazi regime, from second to first secretary, which promotion had already been proposed in 1932. He never entered the Nazi party, or any formation thereof."

5. Since his release from internment, subject has lived in the British Zone except for a period of several months when, at the request of the US government, he and Hans THOMPSON, former German Charge d'affaires in Washington, were brought to the US to testify at ~~the~~ several sedition trials.

6. Von Stempel now is connected with the British-sponsored German newspaper "Die Zeit", published in Hamburg, and originally he came to Frankfurt to cover the Bizonal Agencies for it. Through friends, which include Dr. SEMMLER, the director for economic administration of the Bizonal Agencies, subject has been offered several jobs with the agencies. At the present, it appears that he will become the Economic Council's advisor on American affairs, however, the entire council appears to be still in a state of continuous change and subject may land an entirely different job. Whether subject will maintain his connections with "Die Zeit" has not yet been decided.

7. If a cursory examination of subject's background renders him suitable for intelligence work, it can also be said that motivation is sufficiently strong for it. Vague as the term is, subject is strongly inclined toward the Anglo-Saxon Powers. By tradition and education he is definitely not inclined to side with communism or the Soviet Union. Although his home used to be in Berlin, he has not returned there since the end of the war because of his fear of the Russians, who, he claims, have already exported several German Foreign Office experts for work in Russia, particularly those with special knowledge of the USA. Subject has innumerable good friends in the US, he still has considerable property which, although blocked now, he hopes to see again some day, all of which represent ties with the West sufficiently strong to create a positive reaction against the East.

8. When weighing subject's agent possibilities, it cannot be overlooked that he may well be in the employ of a British intelligence agency. Obviously, it is too early to form an opinion on that question.

9. As mentioned above, subject furnished a document called "Germany's Economical Situation" to [] at the last meeting. This document was forwarded to CHOB under separate cover. Inquiries about the two men from Russian Zone Economic Administration, now in Frankfurt, will not be made until a better picture can be formed of subject.

10. If possible, it is suggested that traces be requested on subject at the earliest possible moment.

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