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FROM Chief		MICROFILM
SUBJECT Contact	with Karl FREY and Arrango g of German Military Record	ements for Independent
Action Required: 201 open	ing on Karl FREY and trace	S
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NOTE FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Karl FREY

- 1. The first time that I met Karl FREY was in the end of July or the very beginning of August 1970. It came about in the following manner: I wanted to visit WAST's POW holdings in order to become completely familiar with them. (Quite some years ago I had been given a tour of WAST and found that they held the greatest CI potential of all the holdings, because WAST constantly receives inquiries concerning them from various foreign countries, including the bloc areas.) Arrangements were made through the BDC in 1970 for me to visit WAST as Col. Charles P. JOHNSON. The BDC did not know that the alias belonged to me. At first ${f I}$ met the <u>Director</u> of <u>WAST</u>, <u>Walter HERMANN</u>, who was just about ready to go on leave at the time. Therefore he turned me over to FREY, who is an old Wehrmacht seargent. He assumed a military stance which he hasn't dropped since that time. (The Berlin Base had furnished me a chauffeur driven official car and this fact, too, seemed to impress him immensely.) He began to express an admiration for the United States right off the bat. and I got the distinct impression that he was not very happy with the French who control and run WAST and in whose sector of Berlin he resides.
- 2. At the time FREY had just received all of the POW files which had been held in the U.S., and he couldn't stop praising the excellent order in which the records had been preserved. He made it a point to show me the differences in records housekeeping which existed between the U.S. files and the French and British files. As we talked about the holdings of his section of WAST, he kept telling that he would be very pleased to serve any needs that I, representing the U.S. Army, would have. I told him that I would be very grateful if he were willing to help me out on occasion, when a need arose in the future. He asked me to let him know if I needed anything. Before leaving the Berlin Base in 1970, I named checked FREY and found no record of him. I also checked him at Headquarters upon return and, similarly, found nothing. Shortly after returning to Headquarters I sent him a letter and provided him with a post office box address in the Headquarters area, using the above-mentioned alias. At the time I reported this entire matter to the Berlin Base.
- 3. Since then there have been three or four occasions on which information of a non-sensitive nature was needed at Headquarters. Each time that I wrote to him and asked him for help, he responded quite promptly and furnished copies of the material available at WAST.
- 4. On 9 June 1972 I visited FREY once again. He seemed very happy to see me and asked me whether I would also like to see Director HERMANN. I told him that I had no need to see him, but would visit him if FREY thought it necessary. He said there was no need for it and there was no

力 COPY SECRET mistake in his tone that he was quite pleased that I saw no need to talk to his boss. Later in our conversation it developed that he does not particularly care for HERMANN and that he distrusts him. He explained that HERMANN is a very smooth article who presents a false front. He claims to know for certain that in 1948 or even earlier, when nobody was certain about the directions in which the political winds were blowing, HERMANN had filled out a personal history questionnaire in which he showed a more leftist background than he would like to show these days. According to FREY--who said that his source is the chief of personnel of the Berlin Senate--HERMANN had stated on his PHS that his parents had been Communists. In 1952 or 1953, the chief of personnel had supposedly told FREY that HERMANN had attempted to recover his PHS in order to change the leftist slant in it, stating that he had written his PHS in that manner purposely as a mere political expedient of the time and that it was having the opposite effect by the early 1950's.

- Another reason for FREY's reluctance to trust HERMANN is the fact that the latter has been meeting with two Romanian diplomats. He identified them as fnu JUGANARY and fnu MIRON. He explained that initially they had come to WAST in order to represent a number of Romanian nationals who had served in the Honved forces during WW II (allied with the Germans), had been captured by the U.S. and had been held in the U.S. as POW's. The Romanians were asking the West German Government to give them back pay for the time that they had spent in captivity. FREY is certain that they had received all the pay that was due them from the U.S. Army and therefore referred the Romanians to the U.S. Army's Finance Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. FREY was rather upset about this situation because HERMANN seemed to be very anxious to give the Romanians anything they wanted without making any fuss about it. But FREY is convinced that the Romanians are not only not entitled to the back pay, but that their representatives (from their Embassy in East Berlin) have some sort of ulterior motive. For this reason he has been dragging his feet. One tactic he used in this respect was to request the current address for all of the Romanian claimants whose names the representatives had submitted. This information was furnished by them with a great deal of reluctance and only after FREY had persisted and insisted on it, even to the point of contradicting HERMANN. He showed me the list (about 20 pages) and told me that he will copy it and mail it to me piecemeal to the address he has for me in WOCORK.
- 6. In great confidence FREY also told me that HERMANN is a very avid yachtsman and that he is probably anxious to cater to the Romanians because he figures that he will get an invitation to spend some vacation time at the Black Sea. Still in the greatest of confidence—and extracting a most solemn promise of secure handling from me—FREY told me that HERMANN, although married, has a mistress with whom he frequently spends lengthy lunch periods at her home. The mistress also works at WAST and is the wife of a French officer of the Deuxieme Bureau. HERMANN is married to his second wife. The mistress name is fnu CIMOSO. It was

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having served in the Wehrmacht as a sergeant during World War II. His entire demeanor also leaves little doubt that he is an anti-Communist. He served mainly on the Eastern front, has seen Communism first hand, and is very quick to point out that he has nothing but disgust for it. Finally, one cannot help but notice that there is a good deal of the dictatorial German office manager and bureaucrat in him. A number of additional factors also come into play in trying to establish a motivation for his willingness to help us:

- a. He is ambitious. Nothing, I believe, would please him more than to be able to unseat HERMANN. He seems to dislike him for three main reasons: (1) HERMANN has not always agreed with him on key issued; (2) he considers him a pussy-footing politician who is afraid to make hard decisions; and (3) he would rather rule the roost himself.
- b. He is very astute. He displayed a native shrewdness and quick wit during our meeting, particularly when he was interrupted by several telephone calls. He also has a good grasp of international politics and is extremely well-informed about his profession (records management, related file holdings, etc.)
- c. Like many people in Berlin, he has a basic trust in the Americans. He does not always agree with U.S. policy, but he is intelligent enough to allow for the fact that everyone makes his share of errors.

Thus he seems to have been able to combine a number of factors in his make up and beliefs to serve him as a justification for being so frankfwith me in such a short period of time.