

This case should not be mentioned to the GIS. Since our knowledge of this operation is not received open in all respects, ignorance on our part is to be expected.

1502

CASE NAME: ASKARI

AGENT NAME: Alfred LUECKENHAUS CRYPT: ASKARI

GIS C/O: Heinz FELFE @ FRIESEN
@ REUTER in Bonn

CIA C/O: []

OPPOSITION C/O: None. Initial spotting being done by Karl von SCHNITZLER.

OPPOSITION SERVICE: RIS, probably KGB in Karlshorst

OPPOSITION TARGET: Unknown, probably, at least initially, political intelligence on West Germany.

OPPOSITION CONTACT: Personal meetings between ASKARI and von SCHNITZLER in Berlin.

GIS CONTACT: Personal meetings in Bonn.

SUMMARY: This is an offshoot of the LENA-THEODOR cases. ASKARI, a correspondent for various West German periodicals, wrote a book Von Aussen Gesehen about the Far East. SHCHUKIN, LENA's case officer, has several times mentioned ASKARI's name to LENA and also to THEODOR. When THEODOR came across a copy of ASKARI's book, he promptly sent it to SHCHUKIN. Shortly thereafter, in June 1956, ASKARI was approached in Berlin by the chief East German radio political commentator, Karl von SCHNITZLER, who stated that he had read ASKARI's book and wondered if ASKARI would be willing to assist von SCHNITZLER in a book von SCHNITZLER wanted to write about east Asia. ASKARI expressed willingness to help, but complained about availability of source material, and indicated a desire to get a Chinese Communist visitor's visa. Von SCHNITZLER stated that such a visa could readily be gotten and promised to get one for ASKARI.

The GIS believes that this was an approach preliminary to recruitment, and that RIS recruitment through von SCHNITZLER will be forthcoming shortly. There have been several meetings between ASKARI and von SCHNITZLER since this first meeting, and it is currently believed that the actual recruitment pitch may have been put off until sometime in the course of ASKARI's physical presence in China.

The GIS approached ASKARI in Bonn in July 1956. ASKARI, when it was explained what the probable course of von SCHNITZLER's approach was, readily agreed to cooperate with the GIS. The situation at present is awaiting the issuance of the Chinese visa, or a straight recruitment pitch from the RIS while ASKARI is in the West.

It is of interest to note that the BfV learned of this case and wanted to make the initial approach to ASKARI. However after discussions between the GIS and the BfV, the BfV admitted the GIS' prior interest, and the BfV retired from the case.

LENA reported that SHCHUKIN stated that the ASKARI case had been transferred to another section of the RIS (i.e. other than SHCHUKIN's section). When this case develops, there should be some interesting CE information,

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particularly if SHCHUKIN's statement is correct. Whether or not any worthwhile Chinese leads can be developed awaits the outcome of ASKARI's trip to China. CIA has agreed to provide "support" in Hong Kong should ASKARI stop over there when on his China trip.

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