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Attachment to
EGLW-687

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Air Pouch

MSBA-4244

Chief of Station, Bonn

22 May 1951.

Chief of Station, []

Operational

Wirtschafts- und Sozialhilfe Europa (WISO);
ARTOS Internationale Handelsanstalt.

Ref.: BONS-0108, [] 1-3565.

1. A check of our files was made for traces on the firms mentioned in BONS-0108. Also, Source [] was instructed to investigate subject firms.

2. The Basel telephone directory reveals that the Wirtschafts- und Sozialhilfe Europa (WISO) and the ARTOS Internationale Handelsanstalt are both located at Elisabethenstrasse 1, Basel. However, each firm has its own telephone number, which are listed as follows:

WISO: 4.29.39

ARTOS: 4.19.22.

ARTOS also lists the following additional - outside of office hours - numbers:

(Dr.) H. ERIN	5.23.69
H. C. AGIN	5.98.07
J. G. LEVI-Soffer	5.98.48.

Neither of these agencies is registered with the Basel Chamber of Commerce.

Distribution:

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SECRET

CI-4244

22 May 1951

3. Source [] went to Elisabethenstrasse 1, but found no record of either WISO or ARTOS downstairs. On the second floor there was a door carrying a sign ARTOS and below it Wirtschafts- und Sozialhilfe Europa. On opening the door, Source was confronted by a man whom he later identified as H. C. KOHN. KOHN immediately said, "I suppose you want to speak to Mr. LEVY about sending gift packages". In order to find out what was coming, Source agreed and was ushered into an adjoining office where he met J. O. LEVY whom he described as a stout man, about 65 years old, with white hair, and a white moustache, who spoke the Swiss-German dialect.

NOTE: At the Population Office Source found out that Jacques Georges LEVY-Joffler resides at Neuanstrasse 33, Basel. Hans Cr KOHN-Anagnostou resides at Lunggasse 3, Basel. Both LEVY and KOHN are registered as merchants.

Source asked for information about sending food packages to Eastern Germany and to the satellite states. LEVY promptly handed him the attached envelope with the prices and wares indicated.

NOTE: Source states that the prices asked are somewhat cheaper than current prices for these goods in Switzerland and he supposes that this agency may have the goods in a free part.

Source stated that he would consider the matter and contact them again.

4. On checking at the Basel Chamber of Commerce, Source was informed that, while there is no record of Dr. H. BRIN's interest in ARTOS, the Chamber of Commerce does have information that this man is interested in another firm called BRIN & CO., Hammerstrasse 57, Basel, which deals in linen and cotton products.

NOTE: Dr. Hermann BRIN-staff resides at Bittingerstrasse 11, Basel. He is listed as a lawyer and merchant.

SECRET

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET

- 3 -

C 1-4244
MAY 22, 1951.

The Chamber of Commerce indicated that BRIN was also interested in a number of other small businesses.

5. Regarding ARTOS, Source noted that there was no secretary at this firm. The only person he observed there, once when he called at the office and once when he telephoned to the office, was KOHN. Source is of the opinion that ARTOS probably engages in trade in textiles through the firm BRIN & Co. On one occasion when Source telephoned to ARTOS, Source asked KOHN whether he would be interested in purchasing briquettes for Eastern Germany. KOHN did not register any interest until Source said that there was a rather large order possible, at which point KOHN told him to come to the office. Thinking that KOHN might have another office other than ARTOS, Source asked where he could meet KOHN. KOHN told him that his office is located at Elisabethenstrasse 1.

6. With reference to paragraph 3 a. and b. of ECNR-6108 you are advised that the Zurich telephone directory lists both SCHNEIDER & Cie. and "HYMODONT"-Laboratorium as located at Badenerstrasse 130. Source ~~PERSONAL FILE~~ checked this address and found not a factory but a very old building which contains the office of SCHNEIDER & Cie., makers of Hymodont toothpaste. Despite the fact that the telephone directory indicates that some sort of factory is located at the above address, Source saw no signs of any facilities for the production of toothpaste. At Badenerstrasse 130, Source spoke with a woman about 40 years old who stated that Isak SCHNEIDER was out. The woman, when questioned by Source, agreed that the firm made toothpaste and mouth washes. Source then telephoned to the office number, expecting to get the woman at Badenerstrasse 130, instead he got SCHNEIDER at his private address: Zeltweg 57, Zurich. Source inquired whether SCHNEIDER would be willing to sell toothpaste to Eastern Germany. SCHNEIDER said he would and invited Source to come to see him.

7. SCHNEIDER, a Polish Jew, has been described as a UZF agent. It has been reported that during the war his Zurich home was the meeting place of Polish Communists, and that he has made

SECRET

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET

- 4 -

E 74244
22 May 1951.

several trips to Warsaw since the war. SCHNEIER also had business dealings with WISLA AG., a Polish commercial organization which was known to have been used as cover for IS activities. (E 7-244.) We have also been informed by a source in a position to know (for Wash; Subject of E 73554) that SCHNEIER is still operating on behalf of the Polish Legation in Switzerland.

8. Re paragraph 3 c: FALKINE should undoubtedly read FALKINEX AG., which is located at Freigutstrasse 6, Zurich, where it occupies two small rooms. The firm was founded in 1947 with the usual minimum capitalization of 50,000 Sfrs. It is owned and managed solely by J. S. FALK, a Swiss, citizen of Polish-Jewish origin, who lives at Bleicherweg 37, Zurich. It has been reported on good authority that this firm is engaged in purchasing activities on behalf of Poland. FALKINEX specializes in metals but is also known to have made inquiries concerning machinery and electronic equipment. For its more delicate inquiries addressed to Western European countries, chiefly England, FALKINEX uses the cover address, INTERNATIONALE HUETTENPRODUKTE, Vaduz, Liechtenstein. Mail is daily forwarded to FALK in Zurich from this address. (E 7-277; E 7280.)

9. Re paragraph 3 d: The firm Gebrüder GRUB operates a butchers' machinery office at Dickerstrasse 30, Zurich, and an export-import office at Beethovenstrasse 20, Claridenhof, Zurich. In May 1948 a report was received from a reliable source that Gebrüder GRUB was buying arms for the Communists. (E 7-18.) In February 1950 a further report on the activities of this firm was received, likewise from a reliable source. Gebrüder GRUB was acting as the chief purchaser of ball bearings for the East German Government and the Russians in Zurich. GRUB, who had been named official representative for sales to Eastern Europe of the SKB Ingallagerwerke (largest manufacturers of Swiss ball bearings), received an order from the Russians for bearings of a larger size than those manufactured by SKB and was therefore trying to get these bearings from the United States but was unable to procure an export license. GRUB then contacted various persons in Switzerland known to specialize in the export of difficult goods from the United States. (E 7-122.)

SECRET

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET

- 5 -

□ 7-4244
22 May 1951.

10. Re paragraph j e: Source □ checked on EURASIA AG., which is an import-export firm, located at Rheinfelderstrasse 10, Basel. The Basel Chamber of Commerce had a record on this firm which was founded in 1947. The head of the firm was listed as (Mrs.) Silvia ZAPPA. Associated with her is one Jean BOHNUTZ, who is listed as living at Rheinfelderstrasse 14, Basel. The firm is listed as dealing in chemical products, machines, clocks, tools and articles of all sorts. Source was informed at the Chamber of Commerce that EURASIA dealt particularly with the Near and Far East.

11. Source went to Rheinfelderstrasse 10 and found that it was an apartment house. The name ZAPPA appeared on one of the letter boxes. Source noted Mrs. ZAPPA going into her apartment and described her as a woman about 35 years of age, thin in build, with reddish hair. Source learned that Mrs. ZAPPA is married to one Andrea ZAPPA, also living at Rheinfelderstrasse 10, and a technician by profession. Source telephoned Mrs. ZAPPA one evening and asked her whether she was interested in selling anything to Eastern Germany. Mrs. ZAPPA said that at that very moment her firm was undergoing a change in its internal structure and that she could not undertake any new business commitments until after 14 May, when the changes would be published at the Chamber of Commerce. She invited Source to call her sometime during the week beginning 14 May.

NOTE: Source called our attention to the fact that the records of the Chamber of Commerce indicated that quite a number of persons have been in and out of EURASIA since it was founded in 1947.

12. □ 7-19163, dated 6 March 1951, states that a contract which is being negotiated between the DDR and EURASIA is awaiting the approval of MIAM (We do not know the significance of this abbreviation). This contract calls for the delivery by EURASIA of 300 tone foundry soft-lead (Watten-Weichblei) in exchange for chemicals to the value of \$136,000.

13. Re paragraph j f: HUGI, an import-export firm, located at Burgunderstrasse 28, Solethurn, is not listed in the Swiss Trade Registry. When Source □ called at the above address HUGI was not at home. On the next day, Source telephoned to HUGI and asked whether he was interested in selling a large order of briquettes in Eastern Germany and whether he could deliver

SECRET

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET

C I-4244
22 May 1951.

the order to Eastern Germany. HUGI seemed interested and invited Source to call on him at his office. A check of the files of this office reveals no traces on Emil HUGI.

14. Re paragraph 4 of HOBRO AG, is located at Gotthardstrasse 6, Zurich. Early in 1950 HOBRO underwent various changes and at the same time a new company was founded in Bern under the auspices of HOBRO, viz. the OLCOMA-Handelsgesellschaft s.b.H., Muhlentstrasse 62, Bern, with a capitalization of 20,000 Sfrs. Investigation revealed that OLCOMA had been set up by HOBRO for the purpose of carrying on business with INTRAC, since HOBRO was concentrating on trade with the Russian Zone of Germany and did not wish to become too well known by monopolizing this field as well as trade with the Russians in Vienna. OLCOMA was therefore to take over the latter field for HOBRO. It was learned that OLCOMA was founded as the successor to the bankrupt OLCO company in Bern which had specialized in the export-import of machinery. (NSG-258.)

15. Re paragraph 4 b: The Swiss telephone directory lists a Vladimir MARISCHKIN-Weber as living at Habsburgstrasse 17, Bern, and a Vadim MARISCHKIN, employee at the United Nations, residing at Chemin Eriq, Geneva. A check of our files reveals the following probable traces:

Count NAVISOHKINE; Liechtenstein national of White Russian extraction living at Clarens. Age about 43, about 1.90 m tall, well-built, blond hair, rather bald, blue eyes, long face. Thought to be connected with the house of Liechtenstein. Previously lived at Vienna. NAVISOHKINE is a fanatical anti-communist and was on friendly terms with von BROELBRECHTER, German Consul at Geneva. Source came into contact with NAVISOHKINE with the departure of von BROELBRECHTER and used him as a link with the Polish organization. NAVISOHKINE is described as a very sincere and serious-minded person who by virtue of his "European" outlook is claimed to be of possible interest to the Allies. (Source: Interrogation Report on Hans von ESCATORE, June 1945. It has been assumed all along that NAVISOHKINE and MARISCHKIN are identical. There is nothing to prove that this is so - on the other hand it would seem that the spelling of NAVISOHKINE were definitely incorrect.)

SECRET

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

- 7 -

E J-4244
22 May 1951.

16. Re paragraph 4 c: A check of our files reveals no traces on Harry LONG-Johnston, also the Population Office in Zürich has no record of anyone by that name. Source [] however, reported that Case 372 is located at the post office in the Zürich-Enge railroad station, and that the postal number for Zürich-Enge is Zürich 27.

17. It will be noted from E J-17222 (copies of which were distributed to Karlsruhe) that SCHNIEDER & Cie., FAELZIMEX AG., and HOBRO AG., all of Zürich, are acting as intermediaries in procuring scarce materials for the orbit countries from Western Europe. As can be seen from the results of our investigations, much of the information reported in BORN-0108 has been confirmed insofar as addresses and firm names are concerned. However, as stated in E J-3565, we are unable to answer all your questions with regard to business deals of the firms mentioned.

18. Should you desire further information on WISO and ARTOS, it is suggested that our Basel police liaison be queried.

Attachment:
Envelope (BORN only).