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REF-4035

APR -9 1954.

Chief of Mission, Frankfurt

Chief of Station, Bonn

INFO: EE ✓
PCB

Operational/CARE

Hans-Walter ZECH-NEHTWICH - BfV Case "Kredit"

REF: EUNA-3904 of 17 March 1954

1. Attached is translation of an interrogation report on Subject which contains some rather interesting information on the Alfred FRIEDRICH case. The case came to the attention of the BfV as a result of inquiries from various German publishers to whom ZECH-NEHTWICH and Graf von FINKENSTEIN had offered for sale interesting material on the HEINZ-FRIEDRICH case. ZECH-NEHTWICH even claimed he could produce copies of the original interrogations of FRIEDRICH from the Federal Court (Bundesgerichtshof). The BfV then requested the "Sicherungsgruppe" (SG) of the Federal Criminal Police (BKA) to step in and arrest ZECH-NEHTWICH. This was done on 16 March 1954 at the Federal Press Office and at the same time a search was made of his base.
2. In addition to the material on FRIEDRICH, etc., ZECH-NEHTWICH also had in his possession a copy of the original indictment of the Federal Prosecutor in the KNUTH case, stamped "Secret". As explained in the attachment, ZECH-NEHTWICH claims to have received this material from (Dr) Horst FEIDMANN, Kaiserstr. 6, Bonn, who is FRIEDRICH's defense lawyer (see EUNA-4090 of 8 April 1954). FEIDMANN said he got the material from the court files to which he as defense lawyer had unlimited access. On the basis of this explanation, SG had no further grounds to hold ZECH-NEHTWICH who was released and who will probably succeed in selling some of this material. This is just another instance where the German judicial system will permit a Communist lawyer access to court records in an espionage case but will deny the Allies access to a defendant even with the prospect of producing damaging evidence, as in the FRIEDRICH case.

Enclosure:

- A. Inter. rpt dtd 16.3.54
ZECH-NEHTWICH

8 April 1954

Distribution:

- 3 - COM w/encl
3 - EE w/encl - DIRECT
1 - PCB w/encl

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 2B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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Encl. 1 to EGNA 4035
translation

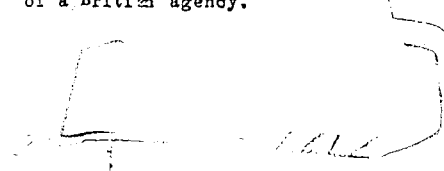
(Note of translator: The personal data listed below appear to be answers to questions contained in a form. However, the photostat from which the translation was made showed merely the answers, not the (probably printed) questions.)

16 March 1954

the following person

ZECH - MENNTWICH
Hans-Walter
journalist
(free-lance)
regular
10 July 1916 Thorn
West Prussia
Mehlem, Schloss-Strall,
Cologne
Northrhine-Westphalia
German
Catholic
divorced
Elisabeth n^{ée} Stadel
Huels near Grefeld, Markt 8
1
5
2
4 months and 1 1/2
Robert MENNTWICH (+)
Elisabeth n^{ée} Breiden
Mehlem, Schlose-Str. 11

fined DM 200 for having caused
bodily injury, in 1952;
sentenced, by a British Military
Court, in 1952, to eight weeks im-
prisonment for unauthorized entry
of a British agency.



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To the Facts:

In a lengthy preliminary discussion, part of which was held in my office with Herr B A C H M A N N , I was acquainted with the reason for this interrogation.

Concerning my present work I may say that since 1950 I have been doing journalistic work together with Herr BACHMANN. At the time we were both working for "Fortschritt", which we left, I think in spring of 1952. Herr BACHMANN established the "Bonner Informationsdienst" which is printed by IGB Press. This is purely information service of a politico-economic nature. I joined Herr BACHMANN, and I am supposed to be his assistant.

My financial situation is as follows: Herr BACHMANN pays me a regular monthly salary of 300 DM; from the NWDR (Nordwestdeutscher Rundfunk) I am paid an average of DM 400 for free-lance contributions, and I receive fees from several newspapers for occasional contributions, so that my total monthly income is between 1200 and 1500 DM.

The material found in my possession, which I have surrendered voluntarily, and which I shall explain in detail, I obtained in the following manner:

- (1) the copy of the record of an interrogation in the "FRIEDRICH" case dated 7 January 1954 I received from Lawyer Dr. FELDMANN's office manager, Bonn, Kaiserstr. 6. The name of this office manager is Frau RICHTER. I do not know her address. This "FRIEDRICH" protocol is a copy of the original, with a carbon copy of that copy attached to it.
- (2) The copies of the letters exchanged between Herr HEINZ, Wiesbaden, and Dr. JOHN, Cologne, I received from the journalist LESCRENIER, Bonn, Pressehaus. This copy I lent Dr. FELDMANN for a while, who copied it for himself, as far as I know.
- (3) An article, also found in my possession, written in the manner of an account of eye-witnesses (notes hereafter called "the story"), was obtained from Herr OTTO, Siegburg, Luisenstr. 149. Part of this article I wrote myself. It consists of 70 (79 ?) pages, and the case "FRIEDRICH" provided the basis for the ideas expressed in it.
- (4) I also obtained from Dr. FELDMANN the "Rotaprint" copy of the Indictment of the Chief Federal Prosecutor in Karlsruhe in the KNUTH case dated 17 September 1952. There must be a complete extract of the KNUTH dossier among the material found in my possession. This, too, comes from Lawyer Dr. FELDMANN. Both items were given me in Dr. FELDMANN's office, in his presence. I do not recall with certainty whether Frau RICHTER gave it to me.

I shall discuss the other documents in detail afterwards.

Before I enter into details, I should like to describe my connection with Lawyer Dr. FELDMANN. When a charge had been filed against me in 1952 for bodily injury etc., Dr. FELDMANN was recommended to me. I asked him to defend me, and I was satisfied with his work. Afterwards Dr. FELDMANN acted on my behalf in a lease lawsuit against my mother,

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which was very unpleasant to me. In the course of this lawsuit so very personal matters were discussed that we got to know each other very well. Afterwards Dr. FELDMANN suggested that we call each other "Du", which we have done ever since. We met in private life, and we very often visited restaurants and other public places together. In the course of time I learned that Dr. FELDMANN had been, or was, a defense counsel in several espionage cases. The first case he told me about was the case of Frau KNUTH. Dr. FELDMANN of course knew well enough that I am a journalist. I asked him whether, and to what extent, that case could be used for journalistic purposes. Dr. FELDMANN was affable, and told his office manager to give me what I might think would be necessary.

The FRIEDRICH case

It was at the end of 1953, or at the beginning of 1954, that Dr. FELDMANN mentioned to me for the first time the "FRIEDRICH" case. Correction: it was before Christmas 1953. Shortly afterwards I saw Dr. FELDMANN in his office, and FELDMANN gave me a photostat of the record which was made of an interrogation of FRIEDRICH in Wiesbaden, which, if my memory serves me right, was signed by a Herr von SEIDLITZ. This was of no interest to me as I could not use it. I never saw the original. Nor did I see a file which might have had bearing on it. I do not know where the photostat came from. But I do know that Dr. FELDMANN has instruments with which to make his own photostats.

Approximately in mid-January 1954, Frau RICHTER rang me up and told me that I had been wrong in the "FRIEDRICH" case and that it was indeed "hot". Frau RICHTER dispelled my doubts by reading to me, over the phone, several lines of what she had. I found afterwards that it was the questioning on 7 January 1954 by the judge. I may add that Dr. FELDMANN had told me before of a conversation he had had with the prisoner FRIEDRICH. Dr. FELDMANN did not particularly call my attention to the FRIEDRICH case, but told me this conversationally.

While talking to Frau RICHTER on the phone, I still thought that the matter was of no use to me. Still, I asked Frau RICHTER to make me a copy. A few days later Frau RICHTER gave me the copy with a carbon copy, in the office of Dr. FELDMANN. She happened to mention that she had made part of the copy at home. As far as I remember, Dr. FELDMANN was present when she gave it to me. I have not given a recompensation either to Dr. FELDMANN or to Frau RICHTER in this case. I offered nothing, and neither of them demanded anything from me.

In regard to my personal relations with Dr. FELDMANN and with Frau RICHTER I wish to explain in general: I have mentioned before that we used to meet rather often in restaurants etc., sometimes in the company of a few friends, sometimes with a larger number of friends. The bills were paid either by Dr. FELDMANN, or by myself, sometimes by other persons. I do not recall that at any such occasion I paid much more than Dr. FELDMANN used to pay. In regard to Frau RICHTER I must say that approximately in mid-November 1953 I gave her a check over 150 DM. Frau RICHTER had asked me for it and said she was in financial difficulties. She promised to return the money not later than 1 March 1954. I intentionally made out the check in the name of RICHTER in order to be able to use it in case Dr. FELDMANN should at any time send me a high bill. Incidentally, I would never have pressed

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Frau RICHTER for the money. To this day I have not received the money. I think, Frau RICHTER needed it for trainfare for an aunt of hers who was coming from the East zone. As far as I know Frau RICHTER is Dr. FELDMANN's fiancée.

The correspondence between HEINZ and Dr. JOHN:

I have known the journalist LESCRENIER since 1949. We often met in the Bundeshaus restaurant, and talked about specifically journalistic problems. LESCRENIER knew that I was particularly interested in the HEINZ case. Some three weeks ago he offered me copies of the correspondence between HEINZ and Dr. JOHN. He gave me the document in his office in Bonn, Pressehaus V, in the presence of his secretary. He received no remuneration for it from me. LESCRENIER knows HEINZ well, and according to his own statement he received the document from HEINZ himself. I know that excerpts of this letter were published by "DER SPIEGEL", and that in addition HEINZ had sent this letter to Ministerialdirektor Ritter von LEX and State Secretary Dr. GLOEKE.

In the quarters connected with my profession it is general knowledge that Herr HEINZ is trying to become a journalist. Therefore, he is making efforts to establish connections with many groups. I think it is one of such efforts that he gave a copy of this letter to LESCRENIER, who passed it on to me.

The "story":

This report of 78 pages was composed by the journalist OTTO and myself. It was based chiefly upon what we gathered from the interrogation protocol in the FRIEDRICH case. Some ideas were taken from the book "Rote Kapelle". The article is made up in a manner suitable to the modern reader's mind. Certain persons like Borischenko, Hirschfeld, etc. are referred to by their real names.

The KNUTH case:

As I have mentioned before, the entire dossier of the KNUTH case was given me approximately in mid-January 1954 in Dr. FELDMANN's office. I do not remember whether Dr. FELDMANN gave me the file himself, or whether it was Frau RICHTER who gave it me. However, at any rate Dr. FELDMANN had given instructions to hand the dossier over to me. It had a thick, but much-handled cardboard cover. As far as I know, this dossier contained everything which was at all existing in the KNUTH case. I am not sure whether the cardboard cover was red. Nor do I know whether it is the original of the Court's Records. Although I am being told that in view of the copies on hand there can be no doubt that it is the Court's Records, I still maintain what I said. This collection of documents, and the "Rotaprint" copy of the Indictment, of the Chief Federal Prosecutor, as well as the numerous copies attached to them, I received in the file just as they are lying here. I do not know who made the Rotaprint copy of the Indictment, nor who made the extracts from the original dossier. In the meantime it has come back to me that during a conversation at his office FELDMANN spoke to Frau RICHTER about copies of these documents. I do not know whether she made them herself. I presume that at the time when the trial was being held Frau RICHTER traveled to Karlsruhe and made the copies there. It is being pointed out to me that the KNUTH Indictment is the original of a Rotaprint copy of the Federal High Court, stamped "Gehem"; but I must say that at the time I did not give it a thought. I have no

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knowledge of original documents of this kind. In the KNUTH case, I did not attribute much importance to this copy; in particular, I did not give it a thought that this might be an original. I thought that, if Dr. FELDMANN gave me such material, it would be his stuff. Therefore, I assumed that the stamp "Geheim" was put on it by Dr. FELDMANN.

There is no record among these papers of an interrogation of FRIEDRICH in Wiesbaden which bears the signature of the Criminal Officer von SEIDLITZ. However, I know that this record is in Dr. FELDMANN's office. I saw it there myself, and I and my colleague OTTO perused it in a restaurant after having been given it by Dr. FELDMANN. I returned the document afterwards to FELDMANN's office. We were both of the opinion that we could not use it.

Sale of the "Story":

About two or three weeks ago, the press, in general, repeatedly published articles on espionage cases; they paid a good deal of attention to the HEINZ case. This made me decide to offer our story to the press, after having come to an agreement with my colleagues.

At first I contacted the "Deutsche Illustrierte", and one day I received the visit of a Herr PRINZ, Bonn representative of the "Deutsche Illustrierte". During the conversation the amount of 11,000-13,000 DM was mentioned. Correction: Herr PRINZ and I spoke of 1000 DM for each instalment, which is the sum normally paid for a story of that kind. However, as the papers have adopted the habit of printing as much as possible in one edition, so that there are only few instalments, I preferred a lumpsum. That was why we talked about 11-13,000 DM. The negotiations did not lead anywhere. I offered PRINZ only this story. There was no talk of the interrogation of FRIEDRICH. I merely thought that it would be good to show the record of the interrogation to whatever representative would see me, as a kind of proof that the report contained facts.

Another offer to the illustrated weekly "Quick", whose representative in Bonn is WOLLER, was made by OTTO; I was present at the negotiations in their later stages. Here, too, only the story was offered. In offer to prove its credibility, he was read some passages of the record of the interrogation. In this case, too, it was not discussed whether the record of the questioning should be attached if the deal should come off. As in the first case, we demanded 1000 DM per instalment. No lumpsum was mentioned.

OTTO, Graf von FINKENSTEIN, and KALTHOFF made efforts to sell the story elsewhere. Herr KALTHOFF, who has not been long in Bonn, and who publishes an Information Service for Lawyers, OTTO, and Graf von FINKENSTEIN are friends of mine. This friendship is mainly based on the fact that the Office of the Federal Chancellor is planning to set up a "Redaktion z.b.V." (literally: Office of Editors for Special Missions), whose chief will be OTTO. Graf von FINKENSTEIN, myself, and a certain Dr. WIEBE (President of the Federal Press Conference) will probably be assistants. It will be the mission of this newly to be established agency, to prepare certain reports to influence public opinion, and human interest stories.

It is natural that we also had a common interest in the sale of our story. It was also planned to cover espionage cases in order to keep the population informed.

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As far as I know, the story has been offered to the following papers, by the persons as indicated;

- (1) Graf von FINCKENSTEIN offered it to the CDU Bundestag delegate BUCERIUS who is the publisher of "S t e r n" and "Z e i t". I know no details of this offer.
- (2) Graf von FINCKENSTEIN offered it to "R e v u e"; I know no details, and the negotiations are still pending;
- (3) Graf von FINCKENSTEIN also offered it to "T i m e"; I know no details about this either;
- (4) OTTO offered it to "Abendpost"; the result is not yet known;
- (5) KALTHOFF is at present negotiating with a newspaper in Essen; I do not know its name.

OTTO and I also wrote a story of the KNUTH documents, on which we started at the beginning of January of this year, and which appeared at the beginning of February under the name of Heinz OTTO. He should be able to make statements because it was he who conducted the negotiations.

The correspondence between HEINZ and Dr. JOHN, as it is here, was not offered for sale by me, or by any of the other gentlemen. Its contents as well as the record of FRIEDRICH's questioning were used in the story we wrote.

Four or five copies were made of the story on KNUTH on which OTTO and I had worked together. OTTO wrote it, and he will be able to give exact information on it. One copy is in the possession of ZOEGELMANN, editor-in-chief of "Fortschritt" in Duesseldorf, Worringerstrasse. The "Heidenheimer Zeitung", seat and publisher unknown, has a second copy. A publishing house "MOSTAR" has the third copy; its seat and publisher are unknown.

OTTO will be able to state where the other copies are.

As far as I know, the material on the KNUTH case, especially the indictment and the extracts from the acts, have not been read by anybody but by OTTO and myself. There is a chance that Graf von FINCKENSTEIN may have seen it.

I do not know how many copies are existing of the story on the FRIEDRICH case. I think there must be 4 or 5 copies. I know that

one copy was given by KALTHOFF to an Essen paper for perusal, and one copy was given by OTTO to "Abendpost" in Frankfurt/Main, also for perusal.

The third copy is here among my papers.

OTTO should be able to say how many copies there are, and where they are.

Of the questioning of FRIEDRICH by the Investigating Judge there are, as far as I know, only these two copies here. I do not know whether Frau RICHTER made more carbon copies. I am certain that OTTO, Graf von FINCKENSTEIN, WOLLER of "Quick", and the "Revue" representative from Munich read it. It is possible that KALTHOFF saw it, but that I do not know.

In regard to the questioning of FRIEDRICH by the Judge I may explain

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that I learned from Dr. FELDMANN that the case is not yet dismissed. Correction: I did not learn this from Dr. FELDMANN; I mean I had heard nothing about FRIEDRICH having been convicted. As Dr. FELDMANN had not given me anything on FRIEDRICH for some time, I was under the impression that the investigations by the judge had been closed. Dr. FELDMANN did not tell me to keep silent about the record of FRIEDRICH's questioning. He merely asked me not to tell that I had obtained this material from him. He never mentioned secrecy. He did know that the records were to be used for a story.

For the past six weeks I have hardly been in touch with Dr. FELDMANN, although I did not actually break with him. The reason is this.

In the course of a conversation in the office of Dr. FELDMANN, in the presence of Frau RICHTER, Dr. FELDMANN, who kept me posted on his visits to FRIEDRICH, suggested that I accompany him on one of his trips to Karlsruhe. There he would have opportunities to give me FRIEDRICH's clandestine letters (Kassiber) for exploitation, which he might receive from FRIEDRICH when he called on him in his capacity of defense counsel. Dr. FELDMANN and FRIEDRICH had agreed that FRIEDRICH should make notes on paper bags -- the glueing of which was his work in prison -- and should give them to Dr. FELDMANN who would forward them. As far as I know, these notes contained details of FRIEDRICH's life. I raised objections to such material, and FELDMANN replied that he had a good memory, and that he would be able to bring over certain information. The main purpose of this trip was for Dr. FELDMANN to be taken to Karlsruhe and back in my car. I had the impression that he wanted to save trainfare and time. I refused to make the trip because I had no desire to become guilty of a punishable offense, and because this has nothing to do with journalism.

Some time before, also in Dr. FELDMANN's office, and in the presence of Frau RICHTER, Dr. FELDMANN spoke of his trip to East Berlin. He wanted to see Kurt FRIEDRICH, brother of the imprisoned FRIEDRICH. In this case I also refused to make the trip. I think this was at the end of January 1954, or at the beginning of February. I voiced certain objections; especially did I point out that no documents of any kind should be taken to Berlin. I cannot say whether Dr. FELDMANN was in the possession of the Court's Records, or whether it was only his own personal file which he took along. Upon his return Dr. FELDMANN related that he had left the documents in West Berlin, and that he had gone to East Berlin alone. There he had been retained for several hours, and it was demanded that he produce the documents. He pretended that he would go and pick up the documents in West Berlin, and then return to East Berlin; they let him go, but he did not return to East Berlin. From what Frau RICHTER told me I know that Dr. FELDMANN was overdue for three days; that is, he could not be reached. She had several times telephoned, or sent telegrams, to Dr. FELDMANN in West Berlin at the address of a friend with whom he stayed and who had taken him to Berlin in his passenger car, but she had received no answer. Also, Dr. FELDMANN was accompanied by a Fraulein WEIS from Bonn, who, as far as I know, accompanied him to the East Sector. Fr. WEIS should be able to tell more about it.

Furthermore, I know from conversations with Dr. FELDMANN, that FRIEDRICH had given him a certain telephone number which Dr. FELDMANN was to call when in East Berlin. It is possible that this is Kurt FRIEDRICH's

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telephone number. I know no more about it. I think Frau RICHTER has that number.

I learned from Dr. FELDMANN that shortly after he had been appointed defense counsel for FRIEDRICH he was paid a fee of 500 DM by the wife of the imprisoned FRIEDRICH who lives in West Berlin. After a while Frau FRIEDRICH left West Berlin and moved in with her brother-in-law Kurt FRIEDRICH in East Berlin.

Finally I wish to add that I advised Herr FELDMANN before he made his trip to Berlin to contact the Federal Criminal Agency. I repeated this advice when he related his experiences upon his return from Berlin. He made no comment, and when afterwards I once more referred to it, Dr. FELDMANN said that he had made a detailed report to the Senior Public Prosecutor ORCZEZWSKI of the Oberlandesgericht in Cologne.

I should like to add to my list concerning the sale of the KNUTH story the RUDL Publishing House in Frankfurt/Main or Bad Homburg where OTTO offered one copy of the story. OTTO can tell more about it.

I wish to emphasize that the search of my desk in my office, and of other containers was made with my definite approval. I submit voluntarily the written material which the officials carried off. I do not want a detailed list.

I have been told that I must hold myself at the disposal of this agency at any time, and I shall immediately follow each summons. I shall not contact any person mentioned in the course of this interrogation, nor talk to anybody of the matters discussed here.

I have been able to follow the interrogation in all its parts, and I think I have said everything which might have bearing upon the case. I have made my statements voluntarily. No promises have been made me, nor have my statements been influenced by threats.

Dictated, refrained from having read, and signed:

/s/ Zech-Nenntwich

Closed:

three illegible signatures.

[Handwritten signature]