

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3028
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

27 August 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Ludwig Albert

1. In 1955 Herbert E. Weinmann, @Burkhardt, a former Sfs agent who was arrested by the West Germans on old criminal charges, offered to reveal his knowledge of West Germans in contact with East German intelligence in exchange for freedom from prosecution. After Weinmann furnished an exact personal description of Ludwig Albert (DPOB: 8 July 1900, Frankfurt/Main) including information about his home and his automobile, Albert was arrested on 4 July 1955. Although most of the first group implicated by Weinmann confessed to collaborating with the Sfs, Albert denied that he was involved in treasonable activity. On 15 July 1955 Albert hanged himself in his prison cell.

2. A search of Albert's home after his arrest produced film emulsions, a microfilm reading device manufactured only in the Soviet zone, intelligence reports filed in three separate sets, personnel lists from various government organizations and a requirements list typed with an American typewriter which requested these lists. Albert's home was sumptuously furnished with Persian carpets and was discovered to be worth twice the value that Albert had claimed. Albert's claim that his mother-in-law had helped to finance the home was also found to be false. Receipts for the Persian carpets, one costing DM 3,500, and Albert's many expensive suits showed that Albert paid cash for his purchases. Other incriminating evidence included the fact that in January 1954 Albert requested new license plates and papers for his official BND vehicle with proper approval. Also, Albert once reported that his wallet had been stolen and so he received all new identification documents.

3. In 1950 Albert was the chief of the BV 2600/North, Frankfurt-Kassel regional office. The main emphasis of this office was legal and illegal communist party activities, especially courier routes and communist front organizations. In addition, the office conducted applicant security clearances for the Gehlen organization in the Hessen area.

4. At the time of his arrest in 1955, Albert was the deputy chief of the BND's field base in Karlsruhe, Dienststelle 142. As a result of several security flaps involving this base,

SECRET

IMPDET CL BY 019816

SECRET

-2-

including the June 1954 discovery in a dead letter drop of a sensitive BND document determined to have originated in Dienststelle 142, the BND operations security officer, @Edinger, informed Albert and his chief, @Leidl, that there was a security leak in Karlsruhe. Thereafter, @Klausner, chief of the BND CE section, began receiving reports from Leidl denouncing the men who had left the Karlsruhe staff for BND Headquarters. During Leidl's absence from Dienststelle 142, Klausner had former members of Dienststelle 142 search the Karlsruhe office. They determined that the notes had been written by Albert for Leidl's signature. Unfortunately, Heinz Felfe, a BND officer subsequently arrested for collaborating with the KGB, participated in the search.

5. Any current investigation of the Albert case is complicated by the fact that Felfe participated in a large portion of the original BND investigation. In addition to muddying the reliability of the results of the Albert investigation, during his interrogation statement Felfe proposed the theory that Albert was collaborating with the KGB. Felfe claims that because one of his early KGB case officers suggested that he transfer from Dienststelle 142, the KGB probably already had someone in Karlsruhe. Although Felfe admitted that a later KGB case officer would not confirm this assumption, Felfe claimed that information that he gave the Soviets about Karlsruhe was sometimes not the only Karlsruhe information appearing in Soviet publications. However, Felfe's guesswork is not supported by the evidence discovered in Albert's basement. No Soviet-originated intelligence requirements were discovered. Investigating authorities, supported by later Agency analysis, believe that Albert worked as an SfS penetration of the BND (per Weinmann), as an oral-reporting CIC penetration source of the BND (per CIC's source Heinrich Schmitz, who wrote Albert's oral comments, and Schmitz's CIC case officer) and as General Gehlen's source of information on the requirements levied by the CIC against the BND.

CI/R&A/O

Distribu

Orig -

1 - CI/R&A/O (penetration/Germany)

1 - CI/R&A/O Chrono

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

Leads from Albert (201-44320) File

Eugen Hebler - Former chief of Sicherungsgruppe. In 1954 in charge of security in the Blank Office of 114. Removed from Sicherungsgruppe and confined to supervision of physical security before being transferred to the Blank Office.

Felix Vieth and Ruth Vieth nee Schwarz - Identified by Herbert Weinmann @Burkhardt as being involved in the East German penetration of the BND. Felix a truck driver, Ruth a translator at the US Army intelligence school c. 1955.

Werner Repennig - Possibly tipped the Land Ministry of Interior that one Karl Pforr was working for the Gehlen organization. Repennig was under investigation by the Gehlen Organization because of his contacts with Arno Maneck, Pforr's predecessor as chief of Land Hess LfV. Ludwig Albert described Repennig as a charlatan.

Bodo Fromm - Discovered dead letter drop with BND document determined to be from Karlsruhe BND office. Arrested 27 January 1955 as a Soviet agent.

Christian Fries - Source of BND OVL report, which stated CARAVEL an ODYOKE agent.

SECRET