

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, EE
FROM : Chief of Base, Frankfurt
SUBJECT: GENERAL—Operational/CADORY

DATE: FEB 27 1962

INFO: COS
Bonn
BOB

MICROFILMED
FEB 26 1962

SPECIFIC—HRBACKING: Kiepenheuer u. Witsch

REF: A. BONN 3466

B. FROB 2143

C. EGNA 7868 *Handwritten: Kiepenheuer (Kiepen)*

D. EGNA 7999 *Handwritten: Kiepenheuer + Witsch*

1. The following material concerning the 22 - 24 November 1955 FedRep-sponsored Niederbreissig meeting of anti-Communist journalists (centering in the Kiepenheuer and Witsch group) and government officials interested in anti-Communist propaganda, received from is forwarded herewith:

- A - List of participants
- B - Agenda
- C - Propaganda program summarizing points recommended by various participants.
- D - Text of address by Ernest J. Salter, Berlin Journalist, on "Politik, Taktik und Abwehr des Kommunismus in Deutschland", delivered during the afternoon session, 23 November 1955.
- E - 30 November 1955 clipping from "Tribüne", East Berlin FDGB newspaper, attacking Ernest J. Salter as organizer of the conference; also same from 29 November 1955 "Neues Deutschland"; an earlier derogatory reference to Salter in 20 November 1955 issue of "Neues Deutschland"; and same from 6 September 1955 issue of "Tribüne".
- F - Text of Address by Otto Stolz, assistant editor "Welt der Arbeit", on Communist infiltration in the Federal Republic, and necessary countermeasures, delivered during the afternoon session, 23 November 1955.
- G - Editorial "Verbindung Halten!" by Otto Stolz in 2 December 1955 "Welt der Arbeit", highlighting several major points from Niederbreissig address; and 3 press clippings which echo this editorial.

Bulky destroyed

INDEX

CLASSIFICATION

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

EGFA-8963

Page Two

- H - Planned list of participants and agenda, as provisionally agreed upon, 2 November 1955, by Witsch steering committee, and submitted by [] 7 November 1955.
- I - A program statement, "Folgerungen aus der gegenwärtigen politischen Situation der Bundesrepublik", prepared by Dr. Scholmerich and von Nottbeck for the use of the individuals attending 2 November and 22-24 November 1955 conferences; submitted by [] 19 October 1955.
- J. - (Dr.) Witsch's summary of results of Niederbreissig conference of 22-24 November 1955, "Empfehlungen eines Kreises politischer Publizisten"; submitted by [] 25 January 1956.

2. Forwarded under separate cover are the following attachments:

K - Draft of an article by [] for anonymous publication in "SBZ-Archiv", which was prepared at the request of von Nottbeck.

L - Letter from von Nottbeck to [] dated 20 October 1955, soliciting Attachment "K"; also proofs of von Nottbeck article sent as enclosure with letter.

3. [] said, 25 January, when he submitted Attachment "J", that there have been no indications yet that, as Dr. Witsch had expected, the group which met in Niederbreissig is going to be convoked regularly to advise interested Federal Officials in planning propaganda front against the Soviet Zone. A steering committee, consisting of Dr. Witsch, (Dr.) Fritz Arlt, (Dr.) Hugo Wesemann, Herr Otto Scholz, (Herr) von Wittgenstein, (Dr.) Paul Franken, (Fräulein Dr.) Körner, and (Dr.) von Mahn, was supposed to have met during December, and then January, to plan the next conference, but the meeting of the steering committee was repeatedly postponed, and as far as [] knew on 25 January 1956, it still had not met. He believes that Dr. Witsch's deepest interest is in winning the support of the Federal German Government for a weekly anti-Communist newspaper, to be published by Kiepenheuer and Witsch on a fairly large scale. He said that Attachment "J" was slanted in this direction to a degree that drew adverse comment from other participants at Niederbreissig, who complained it did not fairly reflect conclusions reached at the conference. [] attributed the delay in organizing next conference to Dr. Witsch's

difficulties in selling his pet project to the appropriate government officials.

Hand W

4. The Kiepenheuer & Witsch publishing complex is a constituent part of the "propaganda juggle" sketched in Reference "C". [] said, 13 January 1956, that this publishing firm is completely dependent on subsidies from the Federal German Republic. [] pointed to the low selling prices of political books by Carola Stern, Duhnke, Wolfgang Leonhard ("Die Revolution Entlässt Ihre Kinder"), Joseph Scholmer ("Die Toten Kehren Zurück"), published in editions of about 5,000 copies each, and said he estimates that Kiepenheuer and Witsch probably had to receive 50 per cent to 80 per cent of the selling price as a subsidy in order to break even on its political book publications. Their magazine, "SBZ-Archiv", [] said, is fully subsidized by the Ministry for All-German Affairs.

5. [], who is on the alert for every possible chance to add to his prestige by additional writing and speaking assignments, has benefited personally from the contacts he made at the Niederbreissig conference of 22-24 November 1955.

a. Dr. Fritz Arlt of the Deutsche Industrie Institut took the trouble of phoning [] in the Allgäu, where he was vacationing 28 December 1955, to invite him to deliver an address on KPD/FDGB infiltration and necessary countermeasures in West Germany before an employers' association in Wuppertal on 25 January 1955. [] said this was the direct result of contact he made with Dr. Arlt at Niederbreissig. Before accepting the invitation [] cleared it with [] and []. On 2 February, [] reported that he had had a friendly and enthusiastic reception at Wuppertal.

b. On 25 January [], at the suggestion of the undersigned, verified with Dr. Arlt that the Deutsche Industrieinstitut contributes to the support of the "Betriebsgruppenarbeit" of [] [] [] became interested in the question when the undersigned remarked, 20 January, that among the many Johnnies-come-lately who have been mysteriously insinuating that they did the AG Weser job, were people from the [] organization, who also boasted they were being supported by "industry". During the conversation [] had with Arlt on 25 January, Arlt emphasized that the Deutsche Industrieinstitut was by no means the sole source of support for [] and mentioned that the DI also contributes to the "Stätte der Begegnung" of Rietz(phon).

[] was unable to elicit details or critical appraisal of DI-[] relationship. [] did suggest that some interesting changes are taking place in the views of the DI on propaganda work in the factories, and that they now recognize that they must work at least to some degree, with the DGB, and perhaps even with selected SPD elements, if they are to accomplish anything among the mass of industrial workers.

c. [] reported 7 December 1955 that the Deutsche Industrieinstitut is bringing out a brochure on the KPD factory infiltration, and that in this connection Identity 1 had phoned [] 1, 6 December, to say that he was seeking permission from his superiors to work with [] and [] on this. [] reported this to [] at once, who said he would be glad to cooperate. [] said, 7 December 1955:

"That Industry is now ready to work with [] and [] is one successful consequence of Niederbreissig conference. Arlt spoke at length with [] there. Arlt got a distinctly favorable impression of both of us at Niederbreissig."

On 25 January () reported that Identity 1 had come to visit with him in his office, and remarked:

"He has become quite courageous. Of course he was authorized to visit me. He said so himself. I notified [] . We both agree that [] Identity 1 does not realize his bosses are way ahead of him. They are changing their course, and wish to avoid antagonizing [] ."

It was during 19 January meeting between Identity 1 and () that Identity 1 explained background to retraction by Deutsche Industrieinstitut, in their 14 January "Schnelldienst", of the charges lodged in 6 January issue against "Sirene", the factory newspaper published by I G Metall in the AG Weser shipyards, to the effect that "Sirene" had regrettably tried to outdo the Communists in the demagoguery of its attack on management. Identity 1 said that (Dr) Mansfeld, "Geschäftsführender Direktor der Deutschen Industrieinstitut", had called an emergency meeting, pointed out unfounded nature of charge against "Sirene", expressed regret for consequences, and introduced decision on publication of retraction with the words: "Meine Herren! Eine Panne ist passiert! Wir müssen zurückziehen."

d. () has been invited by Dr. von Hahn of the Bundeszentrale für Heimatdienst to deliver two addresses on Communist infiltration and necessary countermeasures in West Germany before Identity 2 on 9 March and 17 May 1956.

e. () has been invited to participate in Identity 3 with Identities 4 and 5 tentatively scheduled for 20 March 1956.

6. () reported 7 December 1955 that () made a full length report on Niederbreissig to () and Identity 6 on 4 December 1955; and that both men were not only interested but:

"gave [] and me the explicit assignment to continue working with the Administration."

7. With reference Attachment "E", [] I remarked, 7 December 1955, that the heavy Sovzone press attack on Ernst J. Salter, and the slightly confused references to what might have been the Niederbreissig conference, are most likely due to Salter having freely discussed the Niederbreissig conference in Berlin, and thus inadvertently putting some Communist informant on the alert.

APPROVED: []

16 February 1956

Enclosures:

Atts. A - J HEREMITH
Atts. K - L SEPARATE COVER
Att. M (Identity List) S.C.

Distribution:

✓3 - EE w/Encls. (DIRECT)
3 - COS w/Encls.
2 - Bonn w/Encls. (DIRECT)
2 - BOB w/Encls. (DIRECT)

- Identity 1 - ~~Herr~~ von Tobien, press relations man with Deutsche Industrieinstitut, formerly with Kampfgruppe gegen Ummenschlichkeit, formerly "Neue Zeitung" Berlin, and same paper in Munich in 1949
- Identity 2 - Meetings of Evangelical representatives of trade unions and employer groups at the Evangelische Akademie Bad Boll
- Identity 3 - NWDR round-table broadcast on "Der Funktionär in der Modernen Gesellschaft"
- Identity 4 - ~~(Professor)~~ Franz Boehm
- Identity 5 - ~~(Dr.)~~ Hugo Wesemann
- Identity 6 - ~~Alfred~~ NAU

1
1
13
14
15

30-124-3-2021