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10 March 1950

Chief Pullach Operations Base
Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

SUBJECT

Kurt AUNER

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FATHER OF

MOA-930

1. Karlsruhe files contain the following information on Subject:

2. From a 7 August 1945, Hq. 3rd Army Interrogation Center Report: AUNER was born 5 Nov 1914 in Mediasch, Austria-Hungary (now Rumania) as son of Albrecht AUNER, Merchant, and Elfriede, nee PONTSCHE. From 1920-1932 attended German Volksschule and Mittelschule at Mediasch. Graduated in 1932, receiving the German "Matura" and the Rumanian "Baccalaureat". From 1932-1933 was employed in an agricultural bank at Timisoara. From 1933-34 he studied law at Cluj Univ. In March 1935 sent to Berlin with scholarship of the VDA (Verein fuer das Deutschtum im Ausland Organization of the Germans Abroad). Matriculated at the University for Law and Political Science (Rechts und Staatswissenschaftliche Universitaet). From 1935-39 attended Berlin University, majoring in Agrarian Economics, Politics and Foreign Trade, with a minor in Rumanian language. During this period he was a member only of the "Bund Auslandsdeutscher Studenten". Was not forced to join any of the organizations of the NSDAP since he still retained Rumanian citizenship. Obtained degree of Diplomvolkewirt. In order to receive position as Assistant, he decided to accept German citizenship.

3. In September 1939 was drafted into the Germany Army. Received military training with 1 Strty Sgt, Berlin-Potsdam until February 1940. From February 1940 to April 1940 was on leave of absence to finish his doctor's thesis. In April 1940 he returned to his regiment and received orders to report to RSMA, Amt VI.

4. Wilhelm WANSCH, then a (Hauptsturmfuehrer) was in charge of the Referat, with (Untersturmfuehrer) PRATSON as his assistant. During his first few weeks with the RUMANIA Referat, AUNER received some indoctrination training of a technical nature. He also met again Roland GUNNE, who was employed by the Referat in a position similar to his own. AUNER had met GUNNE first in 1934 when the latter was a NCO in the Rumanian Army, stationed at Braeov. During this first period of work for the SD, AUNER and GUNNE did some work on the files, made translations of Rumanian newspaper articles, and occasionally were allowed to read reports of general interest received from Rumania. They had no official position in SD or SS, nor did

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they join the NSDAP, GUNNE was dispatched to Bucharest in June 1940, AUNER following two weeks later.

5. Both were assigned to von BOLSCHWING, Chief agent of the SD in Rumania, camouflaged as an attache with the German Legation in Bucharest. Between May and December 1940, AUNER was used as interpreter, was paid to work on translations, and did other work around the office. Towards the end of that period, von BOLSCHWING employed AUNER as an interpreter in his conferences with various Rumanian agents. His official status was that of a minor agent (Vertrauensmann), his pay 20,000 Lei per month. Between December 1940 and January 1941, AUNER rose to position of von BOLSCHWING's assistant. He became acquainted with all phases of SD operations in Rumania, was permitted to read Top Secret reports, and his pay was raised to 30,000 Lei per month. This activity was terminated during January 1941. The SD and von BOLSCHWING had become embroiled in the abortive Iron Guard revolt of January 1941. As a result, the German Minister von KILLING, insisted that all SD activity in Rumania would have to cease. With the backing of RIBBENTROP, this demand was forced on HEYDRICH, then Chief of the SD, and on 6 April 1941 all SD operations in Rumania were officially suspended.

6. Von BOLSCHWING, AUNER and GUNNE, returned to Berlin. Until 21 June 1941 they were employed by the Central office, Refurat VI B 4, under WACKER. AUNER and GUNNE implored WACKER to send them back to Rumania, so that at least the information net could continue operating. WACKER brought this proposal to HEYDRICH who remained adamant in his refusal.

7. Finally WACKER acceded to their demands. They received his permission to re-activate the intelligence net in Rumania, without, however, any official sanction. Their activities were to be conducted without the knowledge of any Germany agency in the country (Legation, etc.). AUNER was to head the central office as Hauptvertrauensmann, while GUNNE was to organize the net of agents in the country. The organization, led by Andreas SCHMIDT was to be used extensively, especially for espionage purposes. One of the prime considerations in all work was to deceive the Foreign Office, which was to persist in its belief that no SD activity existed in Rumania. AUNER and GUNNE were not to be considered members of the RSHA or the SD, and were not to receive official salaries. Their payment was to be in the form of an "expense account" of 30,000 Lei each, per month.

8. AUNER and GUNNE arrived in Bucharest on 22 June 1941. The time between this date and late autumn was used for the organization of their net. As planned, AUNER remained in Bucharest to direct operations while GUNNE was charged with the field work, operating from Kronstadt. AUNER decided to build up a completely new organization. Of von BOLSCHWING's old contacts, he used only two agents, the journalists KOWALSKI and BERGL. In Dec 41 the new organization received a severe setback. GUNNE became involved in a row with Andreas SCHMIDT, quit his work in disgust, and joined the army, volunteering for frontline service.

9. AUNER decided to sever all ties with SCHMIDT and his organization and to work completely on his own. His office employed two persons (Michael BERGL a reports editor and secretary) and Hans MULLER, a radio operator, sent him by VI P. In Nov. 41, he established his headquarters and radio station in an apartment at Jules Michelet 23, Avenue from the former British legation. AUNER's main sources of information during the period 1941-43 were chosen from a point of view of objectivity of their reports. For that reason he did not use any pipelines to the Iron Guard because their reports were too biased and subjective.

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10. AUNER's main agents included Georg HENGE, Sandru HENGE, Tiky DELEKANI, NICOLESU (an editor of Timbul), STEFANESCU (export merchant), POLONY (former executive assistant to MURULESCU, influential member of the government), and BARBU (Chief of Cabinet of Ministru ANTONESCU).

11. During this period AUNER received 12,000 Lei per month. Each of his main agents received 80,000-120,000 plus some 60,000-80,000 Lei to be used as payments to subources. The subources collected the information through their contacts, passed it on to the main agents, who in turn informed AUNER. The latter edited the reports, evaluated them and transmitted them by courier (over the Lufthansa airline) to Berlin.

12. In the fall of 1942, WANECK informed AUNER that he now had the equivalent rank of SS Hauptsturmfuehrer. However, he was never officially admitted into the SS.

13. In the fall of 1943, AUNER received an addition to his staff in the form of ALLIGER. ALLIGER was officially on the staff of the Police Attache and intelligence collected by this agency was transmitted to AUNER by ALLIGER. In May 1944 AUNER resumed contact with GUNNE who, in the meantime, had become a captain in the German Army and was placed in charge of the Abwehrkommando in the Rumanian oil region. Collaborating closely, AUNER and GUNNE reorganized their combined nets in view of the imminent Russian occupation. Ten days prior to Rumanian unconditional surrender, AUNER was informed of these plans through Col. CRISTESCU, Chief of the Rumanian Secret Police. His report on this to the RSHA was met with utter distaste.

14. On 16 August 1944 AUNER and GUNNE reported to WANECK in Vienna. On 22 August they flew back to Bucharest; the next day Rumania capitulated. GUNNE was left behind in Rumania while AUNER succeeded in crossing the Hungarian border. Both agreed that Germany's doom was unavoidable. While passing through Budapest, AUNER had a long conference with HOETTL, deciding that a negotiated peace, combined with turning over the information to the Americans, was their only hope for survival. Between Oct 44 and May 45, AUNER was in charge of VI 7 (Rumania). While he seemed to be working with WANECK, he really used his position to inform HOETTL of all developments at Headquarters. He decided to reactivate his net, and to turn it over to the Allies eventually, in line with the policy agreed on with HOETTL. The first step was to get in touch with GUNNE. This was accomplished by using a SKOLENY sabotage agent, dropped over Rumania. After GUNNE had re-established radio contact with AUNER, the sabotage agent was played into the hands of the Rumanian secret police. GUNNE informed AUNER that his whole net was still active. GUNNE himself, was camouflaged inside the Rumanian Army, in various units, with the help of Gen. AVRAMESCU and other high army circles. AUNER remained in contact with his Rumanian net through GUNNE until he surrendered to America at Alt Aussee on 9 May 1945.

15. Further information in Karlsruhe files states that AUNER married a Rumanian, Erna nee TSCHURR, in December 1941. In 1943 she was still in Bucharest. According to KANTENBURNER, AUNER's wife and two children, Kurt and Erni, were captured by the Russians during the occupation of Rumania.

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16. According to Ernst KALTENBRUNNER, AUNER was the liaison officer of the Iron Guard and MANIU was personally in touch with the Iron Guard through AUNER. KALTENBRUNNER also stated that AUNER had once been in Austrian territory and was also a prisoner in the Reich after the Iron Guard putsch. We can find no information in Karl files to confirm or refute this allegation.

17. AUNER, with HOETTL, ^(see) surrendered to CIC Kirchdorf and sent to Freysing Interrogation Center. He was involved with HOETTL in the OSS-proposed Operation Mount (taking over of HOETTL's Balkan network). This was disapproved by USFST and on 8 July AUNER was returned to the Interrogation Center for formal questioning. He was later interned in Camp Marcus W. Orr, Salzburg.

18. According to WANGCK, as of mid-1943, AUNER was Hauptbeauftragter, planted as a representative of German nationals in Rumania. At the same time he belonged to the Office of the Fuersorge Offizier of the Waffen SS for German nationals. According to KALTENBRUNNER, AUNER was a leader of the Landesleitung German minority organization in Siebenbuergen, headed by SCHMIDT.

19. Search of the GIS files on Amt VI and Subject reveal that AUNER was concerned primarily with the gathering of political and economic information, though he did submit OB and other types of data too.

20. A memorandum in Karl files, dated 25 February 1948, reports that Prince Nicolai STURZENEGA approached the U. S. Embassy in Bern and stated that he was one of a group of Rumanians in Salzburg engaged in intelligence work for the Americans under the direction of Herbert MAINER and von BOLESCHWING. Among those named in the group was Kurt AUNER.

21. Other information in Karlsruhe files confirms the data given above. Intelligence Division, ZUCOM, files contains the same information as that given in paragraphs 2-14, inclusive, above.

22. CIC files contain the same information as given above with the following additional reports:

a. MOIC, Headquarters CIC Region IV, 970th CIC Detachment, subject: French Intelligence Agents in U.S. Zones of Austria and Germany, dated 18 December 1947, evaluated B-3, states: "AGNER (AUNER), fm, address SALZBURG, Sigmundboefnerstrasse 1, is a former Sturmabfuhrer of the SD. During the war subject was liaison officer between the Reichssicherheitsamt and the Roumanian IS. Subject is presently alleged to be working for an American intelligence agency in SALZBURG. At the end of October, subject met the chief agent runner of the French IS, COWALSKY. Subject is suspected of working now for French Intelligence Branch as he was introduced to Captain GALLIEN (allegedly running an agent network for the French IS in Austria) by COWALSKY."

b. Another CIC report, dated 10 November 1948, evaluated B-3, states substantially as follows: "An fmu AUNER, a former Sturmabfuhrer of the SD, presently living on Sigmundboefnergasse, SALZBURG, is an important employee of an American intelligence agency or service operating in SALZBURG. AUNER is a "go between" for the RSHA and the Roumanian. During the last

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war, he was the leader of a group of individuals working in the Balkans. According to CIC's source, AUNER is presently attending a school operated by Americans in a large mansion near Wolfgangsee. Physical description of AUNER is given as follows: Height: 1.78 meters; blue eyes, blond hair, fair complexion, and muscular build. He speaks Roumanian, German and a little French."

23. According to CIC, subject is not nor ever has been in the employ of CIC in any capacity.

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