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9 July 1945.

TO : Chief CIB, G-2, United States Forces European Theater.
FROM : G.O., SOI Detachment, CIB, G-2, United States Forces European Theater.
SUBJECT: Special Interrogation Report, Frau Hildegarde BEETZ.

Following is a report of interrogation conducted and written by Reginald Phelps, American civilian, member of this Detachment, on above Subject. Interrogation was made in order to bring out some points it was believed should be known to BEETZ.

7 July 1945.

The main purpose of this interrogation was to find out (a) what Frau BEETZ knew about RSHA plans for postwar work, and (b) her contacts with HOEPTL. The results were negative on (a), but some information on (b) and a number of other subjects was received. Previous reports on Frau BEETZ are of course much more thorough on many aspects of her activity, particularly those connected with CIANO and EDDA CIANO.

1. Frau BEETZ: First Connections with the RSHA. -- Her first work was at Berlin in March, 1940, where she worked on Italy under Staff METZ, at that time head of VI E 1 (Italy); he joined the Waffen SS and was killed in Russia. His deputy REISSMANN, who died last winter, she describes as incompetent. Staff ROSSNER was head of VI E when she came, and remained so until the fall of 1941, when he went to Russia, either with the Waffen SS or the SD.

2. Reorganization in Amt VI. -- For some time after ROSSNER's departure, there was no Gruppenleiter for Amt VI E; then HAMMER took over the office, showed no competence, and later went to Bohemia-Moravia, she believes, as a Police President.

In a reorganization, Italy and Iberia, formerly in VI E, went to VI B and were there combined with France, the Lowlands, Scandinavia and Switzerland, while the Balkans remained in VI E, which then moved to Vienna because of proximity to its contacts and because of the desire to work more directly under KALTENBRUNNER. England had formerly been in VI G, but was transferred to VI D. She does not know any special reason for this reorganization.

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3. Further Work for Amt VI.--From the beginning of July until October, 1941, Frau BRETZ translated and interpreted for Ostuf ZDMEER, Hauptbeauftragter for Amt VI in Rome. He was blown eventually, so the whole section left Rome. She continued to work in Germany as a translator, and in July 1943 returned to Rome, ostensibly as translator for Stubaf LOOS, the new Hauptbeauftragter of Amt VI. The office was set up in the Embassy with Police attache KAPPLER. LOOS, who eventually joined the Waffen SS, did little, and she apparently ran the office.

4. Contact with Hoettl Concerning Italy.--Frau BRETZ met HOETTL for the first time in Rome in the spring of 1943. At that time, he was Referat for Italy and Hungary. He was much interested in the political information service, and in the establishment of a stay-behind network, which she had nothing to do with, which was badly managed, and which was under Dr. GROMBER, who was killed by partisans in the fall of 1943.

In August, 1943, she with other female employees of the Embassy left Rome; she began working for HOETTL in the Italian Referat, as translator (not as secretary).

HOETTL brought CIANO from Rome by airplane, and arranged for her to be sent to him at the beginning of September, 1943, as interpreter. When CIANO was taken to prison in Verona in October, she was again assigned, through HOETTL, as interpreter. She says that HOETTL made these arrangements with KALTENBRUNNER, and that SCHILLENBERG knew little about the situation. She was assigned to write reports on CIANO for HOETTL.

5. Meeting with KALTENBRUNNER and HOETTL re CIANO.--At the beginning of December, 1943, Frau BRETZ went to Berlin. KALTENBRUNNER had asked HOETTL for a major report on CIANO, with the aim of persuading the Answartiges Amt of the incorrectness of its policy.

Frau BRETZ met KALTENBRUNNER and HOETTL at Innsbruck 2 January 1944, to discuss the CIANO case. KALTENBRUNNER had decided to arrange certain agreements with CIANO, which were not carried out (cf. previous reports on Frau BRETZ).

She last saw HOETTL the day after CIANO's death, about the middle of January. HOETTL had come to Verona to undertake some action re EDDA CIANO, and he arranged for Frau BRETZ to go to Switzerland.

6. EDDA CIANO in Switzerland.--HOETTL wanted to make sure that EDDA had no contact with the British I.S. in Switzerland, and made no arrangements about publishing the CIANO documents, and he hoped to persuade her to return to Italy; Frau BRETZ was to try to influence her in these directions. But EDDA was interned by the Swiss, under rigid surveillance, in the cloister at Ingenbohl, near Schwyz, and

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Frau BRETZ did not suggest in making contact with her. She did write EDDA a note delivered (?) with the help of PUGGI, urging her not to undertake any activities, and trying to hint that she should not return to Italy but should try to go to England.

PUGGI tried to get De GARSTON, a British I.S. man at Lugano, to arrange for EDDA to go to England, but De GARSTON apparently made no effort to.

7. PANCINO.--Frau BRETZ learned later from PANCINO that EDDA had received her letter. PANCINO, she is sure, worked for the Vatican I.S., and probably for some others; he misused his position as confessor for EDDA to procure information from her, and she made the mistake of trusting him. Later he reported to the SD (?) that EDDA had been aided by Frau BRETZ.

Frau BRETZ remarks that he is an important person for us to get in contact with.

8. HOETTL in Hungary.--Early in March, 1944, HOETTL went to Hungary with some such title, she thinks, as "Bevollmachtigter RF SS". He told her later that he had been responsible for the method of winning Hungary over politically, instead of by military force, in March, 1944.

9. FRAU BRETZ in Switzerland.--From the end of January till the end of March, Frau BRETZ was in Lugano, officially as an employee of the Consulate. "In recognition of her services", she was enabled to have her husband recalled from the front for a three weeks' vacation in Italy; then she was a few days in Weimar, and then went to Berlin.

Before this, HOETTL had written her that, now the CIANO affair was over, he wanted her to work as secretary of SCHEIDT (?), special envoy to the King of Rumania, a representative of the Auswaertiges Amt. Instead, she was recalled to Italy on a suggestion of PANCINO that he could bring her together with EDDA. FALTENBRUNNER approved this, and Frau BRETZ went to Como in May, 1944, with the intention of becoming a secretary at the Consulate in Lugano; but the Swiss, who were extremely reluctant to issue visas for Germans, held her up. At the same time, PANCINO went back and forth two or three times to Switzerland, while Frau BRETZ was in Como from May till the beginning of July.

10. The CIANO Documents.--EDDA told PANCINO about the CIANO documents, and told him that documents were hidden at seven different places in Italy. Frau BRETZ knew of three of these--with a Jewish family in Como, with a former Spanish envoy to the Vatican, and at the Kurhaus in Romiola.

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(This matter is related in other reports.) In trying to protect the papers, Frau BEITZ said she knew of one set, those at Romiola, which she had thought were the least significant; when they were found, she realized to her horror that they were the most important, since they contained information about Germany. These were the papers that she translated at home, and of which she has given copies (which she would like back) to us.

11. Translation of the CIANO Diary; Contact with STEINLE and SCHILLENBERG.—In July, Frau BEITZ prepared a condensation of the diary which was given to KALTENBRUNNER. Then, on STEINLE's orders, she made a full translation of it; STEINLE said this was for SCHILLENBERG, and urged her not to say anything about the work to her colleagues; hence he was willing to have her do the translation at home in Weimar.

This meeting with STEINLE was at Zossen, where all of Amt VI, except for a liaison office in Berlin, was at that time. When she returned in September, she found Amt VI at the Bernauerstrasse again. Later it was evacuated to Waldburg.

The only time she saw SCHILLENBERG was in September. She says he complimented her highly on the work. He was, she adds, a real ED type, brutal and cold.

12. STUBAF WOLF.—Most of VI B 1 (Italy) was in Verona, in the office of the BdB, in the Spring of 1944. She knows Stubaf WOLF had been in Verona, and she saw him at Como in June, 1944—he was there with Dr. HUBERL, former head of VI B 1. She says she did not work under WOLF.

13. Italian Foreign Office Documents.—After Frau BEITZ had completed the CIANO translation, she asked to be released because of the alleged sickness of her mother; or, as an alternative, that she be given work to do at home. Thereupon she was given to translate the part of the Italian Foreign Office Annals dealing with Albania. She says she did not make a copy of these for herself.

The other volumes of Foreign Office documents, dealing year by year with the period of CIANO's ministry, were being processed in Austria; unfortunately she does not know where.

After completing this translation in January, 1945 she had nothing further to do for the BDB, and says she simply remained at home. She says she had no contacts with HOETTL or with any other members of the office.

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14. Evacuation Quarters, Amt VI.--She knows of no evacuation places except Waldburg. She remembers receiving in January letters from Frl. THORMANN, one of STEINLE's secretaries, stating that Amt VI was still in Waldburg, but that Frl THORMANN was supposed to stay in Berlin in the liaison office there.

15. Amt VI Files.--She recalls that the files of Amt VI were in Waldburg, and that some of them, supposedly those least used, were moved to Marienbad in the fall of 1944. She thinks that none were lost by bombing in Berlin, and says that the Berkaerstrasse offices were very little damaged.

She knows nothing of any photostats or microfilms made of Amt VI files.

16. SCHELLEBERG.--She knows nothing of any plans to reorganize Amt VI, but she recalls that there was some office talk of hopes of SCHELLEBERG's becoming Foreign Minister. She says that near the end of the war she heard an announcement on the German Radio that SCHELLEBERG had become Minister to Sweden.

17. ROSTTL's Plans and Activities.--She says she knows nothing of any trips to ROSTTL to Switzerland.

When asked why she had stated earlier that ROSTTL might retain connections with some resistance movement, she said that this was simply her opinion--that she found it hard to believe that the ED people would give up their old contacts easily.

18. RSMA Gossip on Future Activity.--A comment of hers in a previous report, that she had heard discussions of postwar activities in the RSMA, was brought up. She says that "all the people"--i.e., the office staff, case officers, etc.--in VI B were speaking in Waldburg in the fall of the probability that they would have to carry on activities as partisans; and that some of them talked of withdrawing into the mountains. She knows no specific instances, gives no names, says there was no official word about this. She remembers Gruppenleiter STEINLE addressing a Kameradschaftsabend in the fall in a very stern tone about people who were hoping to get out of the ED.

19. Swiss Contacts of Amt VI.--She mentioned DAUFELDT. There was no Amt VI representative in Lugano--her reports were sent either by diplomatic courier, or by an Amt VI courier named PRAGER, a Merchant who had offices on both sides of the border.

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She claims to know almost nothing about Amt VI agents in Switzerland. She remembers that DAUFELDT had a Yugoslav, name unknown, as an agent there.

She claims that she thought seriously of working for De GARSTON, because she wanted to do something against the SD. She met a Swiss, in the hotel where she stayed in Lugano, who told her about the British I.S., saying that its contacts with Dutch and Belgian underground were carried out with the help of a meeting place near Lugano.

20. Oberdeutsches ARBEITSBUERO; HUEGEL.--She says she knows nothing about an Oberdeutsches ARBEITSBUERO.

HUEGEL had been chief of VI B 3 (Switzerland), and later in addition of VI B 1 (Italy); then he was sent to Verona as emissary of Amt VI with HARSTER the Bds. He came there while she was in Switzerland. His task was to prepare a stay behind net in Northern Italy, and he had charge of the usual business of recruiting, W/T equipment, getting people for sabotage. There was to be a W/T contact from Como to Lugano, but she knows no details.

She last saw HUEGEL when she left Italy in July, 1944. She thinks he stayed in Italy.

21. Japanese I.S.--She knows nothing of contacts of the Japanese I.S. in Italy with Amt VI, and knows nobody of that service. The only contact between German and Japanese I.S. that she could recall was that reports from a Japanese agent in Rome were sent to the DNB, and copies of these were received for Amt VI.

22. Letter from HOETTL.--She says she was much puzzled by HOETTL's letter to her, since it seemed to be an effort to frighten her into working for him. She says it indicated that he thought she would not be silent about the GIANG affair, and that he had a good position with the Americans. She gave the letter, and a translation of it, to the "GIC".

23. WEIHRAUOH.--She says that WEIHRAUOH of IV C, who spent a short time recently at the same house, is an expert on Japan, and that he told her he had offered his services to the Americans, and in fact implied that he was working for them. He made disparaging remarks about the SD.

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