

Camise

S E C R E T

VIA AIR POUCH

Dispatch No: MGB/A-2011

BSC/Ops/254

23 June 1948

TO : Chief, Foreign Branch "M"
 FROM : Act'g Chief of Station, Karlsruhe
 SUBJECT: CAMLET Project

1. A meeting with CAMLET was held at the SC Operational House on Monday, 14 June 1948, attended also by CAMISE and [redacted]. The primary purpose of the meeting was to convey to us the message of Dr SCHUMACHER which stated, in substance, that since he, SCHUMACHER, was a very sick man, he would appreciate if Mr RIDDLEBERGER of the Political Adviser's Office would hold the long-scheduled "off-the-record" conversation on the problems of the SPD with Herr OLLENHAUER.

Field Comment: The following is the background of the above: At a recent meeting between CAMLET and RIDDLEBERGER the latter expressed his desire to meet personally Dr SCHUMACHER and talk over the problems and plans of the Social Democratic Party.

2. CAMLET has requested our assistance to enable him to print an edition of the Telegraf in the Frankfurt area for distribution in western Germany. CAMLET stated that he discussed this plan with the appropriate British ICD officials. They supported his project in principle, but stated they were unable to give him any paper. CAMLET wanted us to arrange the following:

a. the cardboard molds of the paper (size of the newspaper page) weighing about a pound, be allowed to be put on the regularly scheduled afternoon plane to Frankfurt, where they would be picked up each day at the airport;

b. help him in prevailing upon AMZON ICD to grant him permission to print the Telegraf in Wiesbaden. (This is not a newspaper license, simply a permit to print.) The printing would be done at the already existing plant of the Wiesbadener Kurier, in which CAMLET has a financial interest.

c. persuade ICD to allot him 100 tons of paper monthly, which would permit him to print 80,000 daily papers consisting of 6 pages.

3. CAMLET argued that the above, while of great importance to the Telegraf and to him, personally, would also be of great benefit to the American authorities and the German population in the Western Zones. Publication of the Telegraf in Frankfurt would bring a newspaper of Germany-wide interest into the west, where papers are very bad and/or rare. CAMLET claimed his plan was endorsed by SCHUMACHER and all leading SPD circles, Lord Mayor KOLB of Frankfurt, the Minister Presidents in the West, etc. He insisted that the British, too, were in accord with the plan and did not feel that the Americans were trying to muscle in on an originally British-sponsored publication.

4. The Frankfurt edition will be assembled and supervised by a small staff of which the nucleus already exists and is presently engaged in local news gathering and organizing the future editorial offices. The bulk of the editorial work and the make-up of the paper would be done in Berlin, an important feature being the two political pages which CAMISE helps produce daily for the "Deutschland Ausgabe".

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5. CAMLET also prepared plans to spread the Telegraf illegally in the Soviet Zone. The substance of this project is to distribute miniature photographed editions of the Telegraf, printed on thin (india) paper, under the mast-head of the "Bauern-Zeitung" or some other Sovzone publication. We advised CAMLET that at present we were not in a position to support such an undertaking; his suggestion, however, was gratefully received; the idea would not be forgotten and if ever such an action would be adopted by the U. S. Government we will bear his facilities in mind.

Field Comment: It is suggested that a limited assistance, in line with the suggestions above, be given to CAMLET, not only to maintain his good-will, but in preparation for eventual use of his facilities by UMPIRE.

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Chief SC Berlin

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