

SECRET CONTROL

MGB-A-4124

CAMISE

12 June 1949

Chief, FBM

COS, Karlsruhe

SS Sturmbannfuhrer Dr. Wilhelm Höttil

1. I gather from newspaper reports that the redoubtable Dr. Höttil is on the loose again. The Telegraf reports on 11 June under a Vienna date line that he was among a group of Nazis arrested by the Austrian Police when returning from a conference with leaders of the Oesterreichische Volkspartei in Gmünden.

2. Inasmuch as Dr. Höttil constitutes a potential security threat hanging over CAMISE, we would appreciate being kept informed about his activities. If he is slated for a political role in Austria-- and from my intimate knowledge of the man, I wouldn't put it past him-- such development would have to be viewed with gravest concern, not only in the interests of CAMISE. Höttil, as you know, is a born intriguer and a dyed in the wool Austrian Nazi with a veneer of "Wienerische Grazie-sität". That shouldn't fool anybody. By virtue of his superior intelligence and his knack for conspiratorial work (he once told me that he would engage in intelligence work until his dying day) he is bound to attract desperados of the type that surrounded Kaltenbrunner. Their political program can be summed up as the re-establishment of Austrian ascendancy in the Balkans with Vienna the capital. Yet, I wouldn't rule out that Dr. Höttil, on purely opportunistic grounds, might decide to play ball with the Russians. All this may be conjectural, but the above mentioned report, if true, certainly flashes the danger signal.

3. For the record I should like to mention that Dr. Höttil has delivered a sufficient number of Nazi war criminals to the gallows, unbeknownst to his former associates, to afford us a strong hold over him. Should you decide that he had better be removed from the political scene, I am sure something could be done to hasten that process.

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