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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2006

YT-1272

16 February 1962

SUBJECT : Kurt \*BILLMAIER ( [ ] )  
UB Cryptonym "Hopkalit"

SOURCE : [ ]

DATE OF DEBRIEFING : 9 February 1962

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1. When shown Subject's <sup>and</sup> photograph [ ] stated that it was Subject, who is a chemical engineer, well known to Source. His UB cryptonym is "HOPKALIT." He readily identified the photograph shown him. According to Source, Subject lives in Berlin-Dahlem and his telephone number is in the West Berlin phone book. He was last known to be working as chief of the laboratory in the chemical pharmaceutical firm Schering A. G. in West Berlin.

2. In June 1958, Subject came to the Poznan Fair. He was then out of a job and had not been employed as yet by the Schering firm. He went on his own initiative to Ciech (Polish state trade monopoly dealing with chemical trade) in Poznan and let it be known that he wanted to sell, somewhat irregularly, a certain technical "know-how." Source, at that time, headed an intelligence group, especially assembled for the Fair, in which there was a certain Captain Leon BIESIEKIERSKI ( [ ] ), now assigned in the Commercial Attache's office at the Polish Embassy in Vienna. In view of Subject's approach on his own initiative, BIESIEKIERSKI became interested in him. He learned that Subject was a gifted chemist, maintained a residence in West Berlin and was not against earning a few marks illegally. Above all Subject offered to sell technical data and plans about a chemical salt which is used as a preservative (Huettenwesen). This product bears the trade name "Hopkalit" from which is derived Subject's UB cryptonym. Subject was at the fair for roughly two weeks during which time he consumed an abnormal amount of alcohol and had several affairs with women. BIESIEKIERSKI maintained contact with Subject and eventually suggested to Source that since Subject offered to sell the formula for this product and was a good candidate for recruitment, Source himself should meet Subject. In addition, BIESIEKIERSKI spoke poor German. Source told him to arrange a meeting. Later Source took Subject and BIESIEKIERSKI to lunch in an apartment in the BAZAR Hotel in Poznan. During a discussion it developed that Subject wanted 84,000 DMW for the HOPKALIT formula. Source gave him a non-committal answer, but arranged for further contact between Subject and BIESIEKIERSKI. He gave Subject 1000 DMW.

3. Thereafter, BIESIEKIERSKI met Subject two or three times in East Berlin. During the course of these meetings, Subject did not deliver the formula and information on HOPKALIT but did provide a certain amount of

*field of metallurgy -  
probably refers to a  
catalyst*

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technical information. Source describes these meetings as a developmental period in the recruitment of Subject.

4. About this time BIESIEKERSKI was getting ready to go to Vienna which meant that Subject would have to be transferred to another case officer for handling. Because, until this point, the UB did not consider Subject a trusted agent, they were reluctant to expose another case officer to him. Accordingly, Colonel Henryk SOKOLAK [redacted], then Vice Director of Department I, UB, decided that eventually Witold STASINOWSKI [redacted] would take over the case; but until Subject's status was quite clear, Source himself should take up the contact. Toward the end of 1958, Source and BIESIEKERSKI met Subject in Warsaw and Berlin. Subject drove to these meetings in his own automobile, a new DKW. During these discussions it was made known to Subject that BIESIEKERSKI was about to be transferred to South America and that, thereafter, Source would meet Subject personally. It also became evident, that in the interval since their first meeting, Subject had obtained a most interesting position as head of the Schering A. G. laboratory in West Berlin.

5. At the beginning of 1959 either in January or March, Source again met Subject at the Leipzig Fair. During this time Subject delivered nothing of particular interest other than additional general technical information. At various times during this Fair, Source gave Subject 500 to 800 DMW without requiring receipts.

6. In the meantime, however, there ensued a discussion between the then Chief of Department I, Colonel Witold SIENKIEWICZ [redacted] and the then KGB representative in Warsaw, (Colonel) Georgi Stepanovich YEVDOKIMIENKO [redacted] during which SIENKIEWICZ told YEVDOKIMIENKO about Subject and, quoting Source, "thereafter, the devil went loose." At that time the Russians were most interested in the chemical production in West Germany and particularly of the Schering A. G. It seemed, however, that Subject did not want to deliver any information originating from his own firm; but, through his wide acquaintance among chemists employed in other similar firms, he was able to provide a continual flow of general technical information in the chemical field. It seems, further, that at that time the KGB had put a high priority on obtaining information on the production of a product known as "Monomeran" (Monomers) and a by-product thereof called "Moltopren" which are used in the production of foam rubber. According to Source, the KGB were interested in these products because they wanted to use foam rubber in place of cotton in insulating military clothing for personnel stationed in Siberia. In view of the Russian interest in these products, the Poles also became interested in them in order that their capability in this field might parallel the Russian. These two products were made out of "phosgene" (fosgen), a highly poisonous gas. The process of producing a non-poisonous variety of this gas was developed by the Germans during World War II. In the course of the necessary experiments carried out by the I. G. FARBEN in developing it, some 15,000 inmates of various concentration camps were murdered. Source states that today only four firms have the patent for this gas:

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Bayer and Hoechst in Germany, one in America (the name of which he does not know) and one in Japan.

7. (Colonel) W. VLADYKIN ( [ ] on behalf of the KGB, representing Colonel YEVDOKIMLENKO, got in touch with Source and urged him to do everything possible to make Subject deliver the type of information wanted. Accordingly, Source, on behalf of the KGB invited Subject to the Poznan Fair in June 1959. Subject came in his private car on 14 June 1959. He made the trip as a private citizen and not on behalf of his firm. Source paid for all of his expenses including travel. An agreement between Subject and Source was reached whereby Subject would turn over the technical "Know-how" on the production of Monomeran and Moltopren, the basic materials for the production of the phosgen gas, in return for which he would be paid 1000 DMW per month net based on his future production. During this visit Source gave Subject 1000 DMW plus about 800 DMW to purchase a Minox camera and accessories.

8. During this time Source also learned that Subject was romantically involved and about ready to marry the daughter of a factory owner in the Rhine. His fiancée was an art student. Source mentioned this to the KGB who recommended that every effort be made and no expense spared to compromise Subject in his private life in order that, should Subject later experience a change of heart and refuse to continue to collaborate, the KGB and PIS would have the means of forcing him to continue working with them. Accordingly, Source introduced an attractive and curvacious girl in the employ of the independent CE Section in Poznan to Subject, and together with an attractive girlfriend of his, they all went in Source's Mercedes to Bromberg. There Subject got thoroughly drunk and had an affair with the UB girl (whose name incidentally Source could not recall). All of this escapade was photographed and recorded. Source, additionally, gave Subject 200 or 300 DMW in order to buy his girlfriend some gifts. Subject accepted this and did as Source suggested. Subject knew Source as TARNOWSKI, and he knew BIESIEKIERSKI under his real name because of BIESIEKIERSKI's association with CIECH. Subject was never told that he was dealing with the PIS but Source states that it is inconceivable that he was not aware of this because of the modus operandi used.

9. When Subject returned to Berlin, the collaboration started. In the meantime, however, the KGB got even more interested in Subject because between July and August 1959, Schering A. G. was building some sort of a plant in Spain. Subject himself was to take part in this expansion of the firm. Some time in 1959, Subject married the art student.

10. Reading from his calendar Source listed the following meetings he held with Subject:

Date	Hour	Place
5 December 1959	1400	Restaurant Warsaw, East Berlin

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Date	Hour	Place
28 November 1959	11:00	Restaurant Warsaw, East Berlin
29 December 1959	11:00	Restaurant Budapest, East Berlin
1 February 1960	11:00	Restaurant Warsaw, East Berlin
8 March 1960	11:00	Restaurant Warsaw, East Berlin
10 April 1960	12:00	Restaurant Warsaw, East Berlin

During these meetings Subject delivered a considerable number of papers dealing with the patent rights of the Monomeran and Moltopren products. Although all of them were not of prime importance, a great number of them were interesting. They contained among other things:

a. Initial technical information on the production of monomers and moltopren from phosgen as initial raw material. (This data was transferred to the Ministry of the Chemical Industry.)

b. Information covering foam materials (polyrethanes) (poliueretan). (This material was transferred to the Ministry of Chemical Industry - The Institute of Plastics.)

Copies of all this information went, via the KGB representative in Warsaw to Moscow. The Case became more and more interesting and at every meeting Subject collected 1000 DMW. Both the KGB and PIS felt that while not every meeting was worth 1000 DMW, the overall cost was cheap when compared to the value of the information furnished.

11. In May 1960 Subject did not show up for a scheduled meeting. The UB coopted worker Witold STASINOWSKI was given the task of attempting to ascertain what happened to him. STASINOWSKI telephoned Subject at home, but since Subject was not there, he spoke with the latter's wife. He learned that Subject had been in Spain for some time on behalf of his firm. Accordingly, a letter was sent to Subject in Spain (the address having been obtained from his wife) instructing Subject to get in touch with Source on his return. During May, June, July and August nothing was heard from Subject. Towards the end of August, STASINOWSKI again telephoned the home of Subject and this time spoke personally to Subject. At this time there was a closer document check of persons traveling between East and West Berlin. Subject refused to come to East Berlin using the excuse that he did not want to have trouble during the document check, but that he would be happy to meet Source in West Berlin. Actually Subject was away much of the time in Spain and therefore was hard to contact. In October 1960, STASINOWSKI, without prior notice, dropped in at Subject's home in West Berlin. Subject was not there but STASINOWSKI spoke to the wife who said that Subject was in Spain but left the message that he would be happy to meet Source in West Berlin.

12. As the result of the WLADYSLAW MROZ murder in France, it was decided between the KGB and PIS to let the matter rest. When the dust settles, the smog clears and everything quiet, the KGB and the UB jointly

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would drag out the compromising photographs and the recordings and threaten to expose Subject's escapades in an effort to again make him a producing Source.

This is the full extent of Source's knowledge of Subject's Case. He does not know whether Subject was recontacted again.

[ ]

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