ZOEX

TO: FTW, X tion: [redacted]

DATE: 6 9 69

18 October 1950

TO : [redacted]

FROM: [redacted]

SUBJECT: By-product from [redacted]

1. [redacted] walked in on a meeting on 14 October in a small Salzburg Cafe between Edgewater Leslie, former British Intelligence officer and presently detailed as Vice-Consul in Zurich, and Fritz Wärthle, confident of Dr. Gruber and his former deputy in the resistance.

2. Wolfram Bitschnau, Innsbruck Erzherzog Eugenstr. 17, age about 30, native of Voralberg, married and a professional lawyer. Bitschnau was arrested by the Gestapo in 1939 because of his connection with the escape into Switzerland of Max Gennewein, but was released two months later. He was in the German Wehrmacht later and received special training at the Wehrmacht school in Meissen. He was then sent to an interpreter company and later seems to have joined the Abewehr. Source has seen him wear Spanish decorations and believes that he was in Spain during the war. (Source sees Bitschnau three to four times a year but not on arrangement, only accidental meetings or street encounters.) Source met Bitschnau through Source's godfather, a lawyer in Innsbruck called Dr. Polaczek who became Bitschnau's father-in-law in 1946. At about that time Bitschnau was connected with French intelligence and wore a French Lieutenant's uniform. In 1947 he had some differences with Communist elements in the Sureté and was fired. He then started a semi-official information service to supply anti-Russian information to all Allied intelligence services and also to counteract an information group which was working with the Communist elements in the Sureté and which was headed by former Major Sacho who had been in the Abewehr. In order to set up his information service Bitschnau approached Source and asked to be put in contact with Austrian officials. Source obliged and established contact for Bitschnau with the Director of Security (Austrian) in Innsbruck, State Secretary Graf of the Ministry of Interior in Vienna and with officials of the Bundespressedienste of the Austrian Government Press Department. This activity of Bitschnau was well-known to all Allied services at that time. At the founding of the VdU Bitschnau played a leading part in Tyrol but he had to retire from political activities because he was energetically attacked by the Democratic Union for having been a French officer. He resigned from VdU through the means of a very dramatic open letter. At the present time Bitschnau is working in the law office of his father-in-law and is running, on the side, an information service supplying local news to South German and South Tyrolean newspapers." (Source: ~~Wolfgang von Pfaundler~~)

3. On the occasion of S/Sec. Graf's visit to Salzburg (last Saturday?) General Rongo asked Freiherr Karl Karwinsky to intercede with Graf so that Rongo would have access to interrogation reports of arrivals from behind the iron curtain. He seeks material for evaluation of the military capabilities in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. (Source: [redacted]

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