

SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION

SLZ-7069

Chief of Station, Vienna  
Attention:   
Walter Salsburg Base  
GROSSBAHN's Austrian Citizenship  
EASA-196, 1041-112

14 November 1952

1. The time has apparently come when we will have to resolve the question of GROSSBAHN's Austrian Citizenship. We have discussed the question with him on numerous occasions and in considerable detail. All agree the question of citizenship, as far as his value to us is fairly academic. He, at the same time, does not wish to take a step which might eventually interfere with his hope of eventually acquiring U.S. citizenship. We fail to see where citizenship status will have much bearing on this latter question as he will have to be admitted to the U.S. under special provisions in any event.

2. There are some personal and operational reasons why we feel it would be a good idea for him to acquire Austrian citizenship. Firstly, his son, being under documentation age, has been able to register himself in school as the son of an Austrian citizen. The son's 14th birthday is coming up in about three months time, when he will be required to secure his own identity document. As you can see, the problem is going to become somewhat complex and embarrassing, and the son will, unless GROSSBAHN gets Austrian citizenship in the meantime, probably be declared a German citizen--for GROSSBAHN an odious thought.

3. Operationally, having Austrian citizenship will facilitate GROSSBAHN's travel and permit him to move around more freely with less suspicion. At the present he travels with a TED. These documents have become so well known that they are practically a flag indicator of an intelligence personnel. An Austrian passport with necessary visas will render him considerably less conspicuous, and it will also simplify some of his residence problems.

4. As stated in attachment to EASA-196, GROSSBAHN claims  has put the "fix" in on his citizenship application because of the described fiasco dating back several years. The problem

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is how to get [ ]'s disapproval removed without endangering GROSSEBACH's security. We are at a loss to guess how this could be accomplished and ask that Vienna look into the matter and advise what, if anything, can be done. We wish to caution against any premature overtures to [ ] displaying undue DULIAN interest in the GROSSEBACH case, without due consideration of the security problems involved. We thus ask that Vienna advise us of possibilities before taking any action.

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