

Telegram No.

Dated: April 20, 1945.

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ALPOLAD

CASERTA

SKAFU. Repeated to Paris and Washington.

Report B-2551. From 110.

Obersturmbandfuehrer Dr Wilhelm HOETTL and von WINKLER (latter represented to us as member of Austrian right wing resistance) have supplied following info thru cutouts. Full report being mailed via Paris. See previous ALPBERG reports Snafu 677 Watch 861 Lummy 976.

Hoettl's record as SD man and collaborator HALTENBRUNNER is of course bad and info supplied by him to be viewed with caution but I believe he desires save his skin and therefore may be useful. Von Winkler makes good impression but his statements to be accepted with reserve pending further check.

(1) Winkler resistance group includes:

Dr Theodor VEITZ, Christian Socialist

Dr Roman HAELDMAYR, Socialist, reformed Nazi, five years in concentration camp

Prof SCHREYVOBEL, Left wing Christian Socialist

Dr Rafael SPANN, Nazi prior 1934, subsequently arrested for anti-Nazi activities

Dr Walter HEINRICH, National Democrat, Nazi prior 1934, subsequently arrested for anti-Nazi activities

Obersturmbandfuehrer GOETSCH, Nazi until 1938 but reformed SD allegedly to assist anti-Nazi movement

Gesandtschaftsrat Dr Theodor BLAMUT, Conservative, in contact with group

Members of foregoing group are individually in touch with various

(Alpberg) Bern-51-Int-73 13071

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Date 05 JAN 1989

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other resistance groups particularly leading men among clandestine Socialist, Social Democrat, National Democrat, Communist and military circles. Thus Winkler himself works with LOEHR, LOOS, RESSEGUER, while Goettsch and Hoettl are in touch with GLAISE-HORSTENAU, NEUBACHER and KALTENBRUNNER. Goettsch has secured safe house to shelter resistance leaders which called "RODELNUETTE" located on VOMPERBERG opposite SCHWAZ in INN valley.

Group also worked with Cardinal INNITZER who remained Vienna and Prelat RUDOLF, with economic circles including MEINDL of SEYR Werke which transferred to underground Réduit factories. It is planned bring Meindl to Switzerland. Other important economic contacts are Werner SCHICHT of German Unilever, URBAN, SCHOELLER.

(2) Hoettl claims his chief concern now is to undermine Réduit by:

- a) Coordinating resistance groups Austria
- b) Contacting Western Allies thru Switzerland
- c) Placing trusted agents in each Gau
- d) Securing military info from Glaise-Horstenau
- e) Establishing radio contact between Réduit and Switzerland (From llo. Arrangements already completed for this).
- f) Sending liaison man to Ger. LOEHR with radio
- g) Sending liaison man to Adriatic zone
- h) Organizing propaganda to undermine Réduit
- i) Winning over staff of Army Group WEICHS.

(3) Nazi Party is taking over power even from SS. This facilitated by fact that SS sent fighting front. GAULEITERS under recent law become "REICHSVERTeidIGUNGS-KOMMISSAERE" and hence take over from WEHRWEIS commanders.

BORMANN becoming ever more powerful than Himmler. Gauleiters arranging for Party members to take over arms from Wehrmacht, Waffen SS and police troops for use in réduit. Winkler remarked that his papers bearing signature of high SS official were treated with contempt by Gauleiters' men. Hence Réduit will be controlled by Party not by SS. This likely to lead to conflict between Wehrmacht and SS on one hand and Gauleiters and Party on other but fact that Gauleiters are also Reichsverteidigungskommissaere means that average SS accept their orders.

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(4) WEREWOLF organization for reduit based upon SS Jagddivision Brandenburg and other SS Jagdverbände. Chief of organization PRUTZMANN, military chief SCORCENI who rescued Musso, aided by Major BENES. ScorcenI has some 100,000 SS and reliable Wehrmacht men under his command and Hitler has ordered ScorcenI take them into Reduit.

Political organization of Werewolf includes NEUBACHER now at KITZBUHEL, VESSENMEYER and ALTENBURG, all of FO, plus various exile Quislings DEGRELLE, DE BRIKON, MUSSERT, VLASSOW.

(5) Social Democrats constitute best organized resistance movement Austria and out of this grew "O5" program but did not have time to get really organized and riddled with Gestapo agents.

Catholic opposition group second most important which is growing as result of marked revival of religious feeling.

Communists were unimportant but gaining greatly in prestige as result of Russians arriving first. Austrian masses entirely apathetic want only peace and food and will support any regime assuring these.

(6) Reduit is to be taken seriously but will contain so many unreliable elements that will not hold out for long and original Nazi plan entirely upset by rapid military developments. According original plan only reliable SS, police troops and Party leaders were to go to reduit. This plan abandoned and strong military reduit now planned including Wehrmacht units, particularly troops North Italy although doubtful if they can ever get there. Gen Loehr's men Croatia are more likely to get there plus certain Balkan groups with strong anti-Bolshevist tendencies (Mihailowitch et al) but haste such that large number of unreliable elements will get in. In general military preparations within Reduit feverishly but ineffectively prepared with food supplies not well organized. Once Reduit established valley accesses to outside world will be blown up.

High Wehrmacht officers originally destined for Reduit include: KEITEL, SCHOENER, KESSELRING, MODEL, LOEHR, RENDULIC (Loehr and Rendulic are potential oppositional elements).

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Réduit Gauleiters are: AIGRUBER (Upper Austria), HOFER (TIROL), UIBERREITER (Styria), GISSLER (Bavaria), SCHAEFER (Salzbug), RAENER (Carinthia). First four radical Nazi fanatics, last two more reasonable.

King Leopold near Salzburg and Petain on his way there.

(7) Winkler reports that Army Group under Loehr viz 12 to 15 divs and situated in triangle Agram-Essek-Sarajevo are looking for directives from Allies as to best way to bring war to speedy conclusion. Panzer divs this Army not serious view lack of fuel. Cossack divs under Gen PANWITZ are hodge-podge of refugee Russians and recruited war prisoners. Average strength of divs not above 7-8,000. German speaking divs 70 percent Austrian. Loehr realizes subversive movement in his army group but is ignoring it and believed to be open to persuasion. Main preoccupation of Army is not to fall into hands of Tito and would prefer to fall into Anglo-Saxon hands but may have no alternative to giving up to Russians.

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 982(9)/20 = F
 909(9)/20 = W