

VIA: (SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. KASA-1176

SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, EE  
FROM : Attention: Z  
Chief of Base, Salzburg  
SUBJECT: GENERAL: Intel/TOPHOLE

DATE: 10 April 1953

SPECIFIC: CIC Interviews of Lois Eder and Baron Heinrich von Mast

1. Attached are draft copies of interviews held by members of CIC Linz with Lois Eder, Amt blank representative in Austria, and Baron Heinrich von Mast, (aka) Harry Mast, former associate of Hoettl's in many of Hoettl's nefarious intelligence schemes. Little new or of specific value relating to the Tophole case is evidenced in the attached. G-2 is now determined to follow down all leads on Hoettl on a "routine basis".

2. On page 2 of the 27 March 1953 interview of Lois Eder, it will be noted that Eder alleges that Hoettl had contact with a Soviet Colonel named Stern and claimed that the intermediary between Hoettl and the Colonel was Borodajewicz, who is identical with the individual (Borodajewycz) reported by Grossbahn source as a mutual friend of Hoettl and CC-2.

3. A further lead which G-2 is following down is that one Rafael Mualla, a reporter in Linz and a casual informant of CIC, has indicated to CIC Linz (S/A Brill) that one Tongel (fnu), a former partner of Hoettl in the Hibelungen Verlag did furnish information on Hoettl. Tongel allegedly has a residence in Alt Aussee and works from Monday until Thursday weekly in the Vaenna Slaughter House, St Warz (sic). Another lead furnished by Mualla is that one Dr. Wuehrer, a former associate of Hoettl in the SS, has accused Hoettl of working with the APoE. Wuehrer is currently the manager of the Linz coal firm PAELSCH.

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Deadline:	
Hq Action Req.	by cable
See para.....	by pouch
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For info and list	
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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JUL 5 1953  
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HOETTL, (Dr.) Willi

27 March 1953

Reference TMX from Hq 430th CIC Operations, dated 1 March 1953.

On 27 March 1953, Baron Heinrich von Mast, aka Harry Mast, born 26 December 1897 in Linz/Donau, residing Linz, Bethlehensstrasse 1d, was interviewed by this Agent at the offices of the Nibelungenverlag, Linz, Bethlehensstrasse 68, and stated in substance as follows:

He met SUBJECT in late 1949 or early 1950 through Dr. Otto Schott.

Both SUBJECT and Mast are historians and, as such, have common interests which brought them together for frequent meetings and discussions. At that time Mast, a close friend of Dr. Schott, was advisor at the Nibelungenverlag. In January 1952, SUBJECT and a former major in the German General Staff, Gerhard Schacht from Munich, approached Mast and asked him to join the German Intelligence Agency Amt Blank. Mast accepted the offer and severed his relations with the German intelligence organization of General/von Gehlen, with whom he had allegedly been working since 1947. After that time, Mast's ties to SUBJECT became closer, not only on an official and business basis, but also personally. In November 1952, Mast was appointed manager, with power of attorney, for the Nibelungenverlag. Mast referred to his relations with SUBJECT during this period as a comradeship, whereby he pointed out that he, as the older one, was frequently consulted by SUBJECT for advice, not only on matters pertaining to the publishing house, but also on matters pertaining to SUBJECT's private business. Mast also stated that SUBJECT has always been very reserved and discreet in dealing with Mast.

During the course of this interview, the undersigned questioned Mast concerning his knowledge of SUBJECT's intelligence activities. Mast pointed out

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HOETTL, Dr. Willi

27 March 1953

that he knows very little about SUBJECT's intelligence contacts, but that SUBJECT worked for CIC from 1948 to 1949 through one Erich Kernmaier, at Gmunden, Upper Austria, and from early 1951 to October 1952 SUBJECT worked for the German Intelligence Service Amt Blank. His chief at that time was Friedrich Wilhelm a Colonel Heinz, who was in charge of the Austrian Desk, Amt Blank, and who was working closely with the chief of the Munich office, Gerhard Schacht, a former major in the German General Staff. Liaison officer between this group and the main office of Amt Blank at that time was a former major in the German General Staff named Oster, Helm.

In November 1952, after SUBJECT lost his job with Amt Blank, HOETTL took up contact with the organization von Gehlen and tried to arrange for an incorporation of HOETTL's intelligence net into the organization of von Gehlen. Mast stated that to the best of his knowledge these negotiations have not been concluded and that SUBJECT is also presently negotiating with an American agency engaged in the observation of East-West Trade. The name of this organization is unknown to Mast.

Concerning SUBJECT's intelligence contacts in Italy, Mast stated that HOETTL took a trip to Rome in May 1952 <sup>to</sup> negotiate connections with Vatican officials. However, SUBJECT never gave the name of his contact man to Vatican Intelligence, only his number, which Mast allegedly forgot. According to Mast, SUBJECT had made plans for the establishment of an intelligence net <sup>in</sup> the Vatican, but he allegedly never received permission from Amt Blank to activate this net, which was to extend deep into the Balkan countries.

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27 March 1953

A short time after newspaper publicity had been given the Ponger-Verber espionage case, Mast received a letter from SUBJECT in which he asked Mast for his advice and opinion concerning the Ponger affair, since SUBJECT had known Ponger personally and had been in journalistic contact with him. In this letter SUBJECT pointed out that he was in possession of correspondence with Ponger which would always prove his harmless connections with the man, but as SUBJECT stated, at this moment of his negotiations with the von Gehlen organization, it could possibly be embarrassing to be involved in the Ponger-Verber affair. Mast explained to SUBJECT that in his opinion the entire affair was not to be taken seriously at all and he advised HOETTL to hold back all the information concerning the case and not to turn it over to the Americans at this time. When asked by this Agent why he gave HOETTL this advice, Mast explained that in his opinion both Ponger and Verber, as former U.S. Army officers, had probably been assigned by U.S. intelligence to penetrate Soviet intelligence and the U.S. Government probably felt that the time had now come to close this "play" by officially arresting both men and returning them to Washington. Mast said that he never knew that HOETTL had never been in contact with Ponger and that he had never met the man. HOETTL also informed Mast that he has written a memorandum covering his connections with Ponger and has turned this memorandum over to a representative of the organization of von Gehlen to be covered in case an investigation should reveal his connections to Ponger. Mast allegedly did not agree with this type of "back insurance" but there was nothing he could do about it. In closing, Mast told this Agent that Dr. HOETTL has been questioned several times during the past few weeks by CIC

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HOETTL, Dr. Willi

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Agents in Salzburg, that his documents have been examined, and that SUBJECT's wife, ~~Dr. Elisabeth~~ Hoettl, has informed Mast by telephone from Salzburg that everything is going fine and not to worry.

In conclusion, the undersigned briefly questioned Mast concerning his own intelligence activities to the present date and he gave the following information:

In 1917 - Intelligence Officer, Austrian-Hungarian Army

Prior to 1938 - German Abwehr, Military Intelligence

1947 to February 1952 - German Intelligence, Organization von Gehlen - Military and Political Intelligence.

Prior to 30 October 1952 - Worked under Dr. HOETTL as deputy for the Austrian Section of the Amt Blank.

Agent's Notes: It is this Agent's opinion that Mast is in a position and ready to give a lot more information than he has given so far. Mast has made an attempt during the course of this interview to "whitewash" SUBJECT as much as possible in order to cover up his own association with HOETTL and their intelligence activities. Mast has been cooperative, but it has been impossible for this Agent to obtain more information from him without any KHI's whatsoever. It is therefore recommended that detailed KHI's be furnished this Agent to be able to conduct a thorough interrogation of Harry Mast.

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HOETTL, Dr. Willi

27 March 1953

Reference TWX from Hq 430th CIC Operations, dated 26 March 1953.

On 27 March 1953, the undersigned interviewed Jois Eder, born 17 February 1919, St. Florian, near Linz, at his home, Linz, Loewensteinerstrasse 13, in the presence of S/A Richard B. Davis. During the interview Eder stated in substance the following:

He met SUBJECT in July 1952 through Dr. Otto Schott at the Hibelungenverlag, Linz, Bethlehemstrasse 68. Since that time Eder has seen SUBJECT only approximately once a month during the period July 1952 to October 1952 and Eder has had no personal contact with SUBJECT since. He explained the reason for the sudden break and stated that he found out that HOETTL had been spreading slanderous rumors and lies about him. They had a number of arguments over personal matters, and HOETTL accused him of being a radical neo-Nazi, adding a number of personal insults. Since October 1952 he has occasionally corresponded with SUBJECT and Eder explained that if necessary he would be willing to provide this Agent with copies of the letters.

During conversations which Eder had with Dr. Schott, he found out that SUBJECT had been working for a German intelligence agency, presumably Amt Blank. SUBJECT allegedly furnished this agency anti-Soviet intelligence, which he obtained from various sub-sources, including Eder, who has been working as a representative and traveling salesman for a candy firm named Huber & Company. During the course of his travels to the Soviet Zone of Austria, mostly in Lower Austria and the Muehlviertel area of Upper Austria, Eder collected positive intelligence information and turned over to HOETTL CB information concerning Soviet troops in Urfahr, Rohrbach, St. Valentin, and Ennsdorf. SUBJECT previously told Eder that he needed this information for Amt Blank.

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HOETTL, Dr. Willi

27 March 1953

On Sunday, 22 March 1953, Eder had a meeting with an acquaintance whose name he did not wish to divulge. During the course of this conversation, this unnamed Source told him that SUBJECT had been in contact with Ponger, an American who was operating a news agency and photo laboratory in Vienna. HOETTL allegedly met Ponger in Nuremberg during the War Crime trials, where Ponger worked as an interrogator and HOETTL was a witness. This unnamed Source told Eder that material allegedly was found in Ponger's possession which originated with SUBJECT. HOETTL has allegedly given Ponger numerous reports of a political nature which he had compiled for the Amt Blank. He gave copies of these reports to Ponger.

Eder further told this Agent that SUBJECT has been in contact with a Soviet colonel named Stern, a staff officer of the Historical Section of Soviet Headquarters in Vienna. The intermediary between HOETTL and Colonel Stern allegedly was one Borodajevics (phonetic). According to Eder, Colonel Stern is now allegedly in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

In October 1952, SUBJECT tried to establish a contact between G-2 (Salzburg) and the Amt Blank. According to Eder, a representative of GIK Salzburg allegedly turned down SUBJECT's offer, stating "that the Bonn Intelligence Service is nothing but a big bluff". HOETTL himself told this to Eder, stating that the Amt Blank had informed SUBJECT that his services were no longer needed. Just about during this time, Eder had returned from a three-week course at the Institute for Political Education under Professor Dr. Berkman, located at Hoechst/Odenwald, near Frankfurt/Main, Germany. Upon his return SUBJECT accused Eder of having denounced him to the German Intelligence Service while in Frankfurt.

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HGHTL, Dr. Willi

27 March 1953

According to Eder, SUBJECT has also been in contact with the Vatican Intelligence Service. SUBJECT allegedly received monthly situation reports on the world situation from the Vatican and has been in touch with a Catholic priest, name unknown, whom SUBJECT has known from his work with the SD during World War II.

In addition, Eder told this Agent that SUBJECT worked with a Dr. Boehm, of Salzburg, residing Altmunster, District Garmden, Upper Austria, who has been writing situation reports for SUBJECT on the economic and political situation in Austria. SUBJECT allegedly received these reports once a month.

In conclusion, this Agent briefly questioned Eder concerning his connections with any U.S. intelligence agencies and was told that he, Eder, is "indirectly" working for an unnamed U.S. intelligence agency, explaining further that all this information is channeled to NATO Headquarters, near Paris, for dissemination and evaluation.

Agent's Note: It is the opinion of the undersigned that Eder is possibly in touch with an operative of the German Intelligence Agency of General von Gehlen and that Eder is reporting to this agency on political, primarily neo-Nazi, activities in Austria. Eder was very cooperative during this interview and promised to furnish additional information only after he has consulted with what is believed to be his control agent.

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HOETTL, Dr. Willi

31 March 1953

Reference TWX from Hq 430th CIC Operations, dated 26 March 1953.

On 30 March 1953, Lois Eder was interviewed by this Agent in the presence of S/A Richard B. Davis at Eder's home, Lins, Keferfeld, Losensteinerstrasse 13. Eder stated in substance the following:

Eder is presently in contact with a representative of the Amt fuer Verfassungsschutz in Bonn whose name he did not reveal. According to Eder, this man has excellent connections with a U.S. intelligence agency, name unknown. Eder has meetings with this man once a month. His next meeting has been set for on or about 20 April 1953. According to Eder, he was told by this man on Sunday, 22 March 1953, that material containing information of a political nature was found in connection with a search of Ponger's belongings. This material allegedly originated with Dr. HOETTL. In addition, the unnamed man asked Eder at his last meeting to try and obtain additional information concerning Ponger and HOETTL in Vienna and also names of possible contacts between the two men.

According to Eder, HOETTL not only worked for German, U.S. and Vatican intelligence agencies, but also for a Swiss intelligence agency. Approximately two years ago, a former German Army officer, named Raimund Strangl, was arrested by Soviet authorities in Wiener/Neustadt. Eder did some checking on his own and later also talked to SUBJECT, who told him that Strangl worked for the Swiss, and it is Eder's opinion that Strangl has given HOETTL copies of his reports, which Strangl submitted to Swiss Intelligence.

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HCHETTL, Dr. Willi

31 March 1953

Eder also told this Agent that HCHETTL has been working for some time for the Surets. His contact to FIS allegedly was an Austrian, whose name he does not know. HCHETTL himself told Eder at one time that he was in contact with French Intelligence.

In conclusion, Eder told this Agent that HCHETTL never trusted him, even before he had accused Eder of having denounced him to German Intelligence. Baron von Mast and Eder have been enemies since January 1953, when Mast allegedly tried to denounce Eder to French authorities in connection with his publication "Furchtlose Stammen". Eder stated that both HCHETTL and Mast were desperately trying to have the "Stimmen" banned by French authorities. In the opinion of Eder, HCHETTL did not trust Mast in the Ponger affair and Eder believed that Mast does not have any detailed knowledge of HCHETTL's connections with Ponger.

Agent's Notes: In this interview, as well as in the previous one, Eder has been most cooperative and has volunteered other information which does not pertain to this case. It is the opinion of this Agent that Eder is fully aware of the fact that the representative from the "Amt fuer Verfassungsschutz" in Bonn is a cutout working under this cover for a U.S. intelligence agency in Germany. During the interview, Eder stated repeatedly that he does not desire to work directly with U.S. Intelligence, but at the same time he offered his services to this Agent.

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