

SECRET

MSB-1033  
(MSC/MS/104)  
8 September 1947

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REFERENCE: MSB-1040, MGH-827, MSB-1033

SUBJECT: EQUAL: Dr. Herbert ENGELSING and *Libertas*

1. The first mention of Dr. Herbert ENGELSING in connection with EQUAL, as far as Heidelberg files show, is in MSB-1040. If Dr. ENGELSING's claim that he brought SCHULZE-BOYSEN into touch with theatrical people who had access to important information through acquaintance with leading officials is considered true, it appears strange that he did not come to the attention of the Gestapo and even stranger that PANSINGER (who was one of the Amt VI officials investigating the EQUAL case) told him that he was of no interest in the affair. In the same connection, ENGELSING's application to the Gestapo as to whether he was involved is little short of insane in a case of high treason and espionage which was obviously very serious.

2. ENGELSING's testimony on Libertas SCHULZE-BOYSEN varies from the accounts received from other sources. The German prosecutor in the EQUAL case, Oberst-Richter ROEDER, during his interrogation confirmed that the entire SCHULZE-BOYSEN group, including Libertas, had very loose moral and sexual standards and that Libertas had been the mistress of GRAUBENZ, SCHULACKER, and HEILMAN. He insisted, however, that she had been a firm and loyal Communist and that after her own and her husband's arrest she had attempted to protect and warn other members of their group. This statement was confirmed by Vice Admiral ARPS, a member of the EQUAL jury. It may be possible to investigate this point further, through SCHULZE-BOYSEN's parents, who are on good terms with CALPER, and through Dr. PAUL, who, according to ENGELSING, performed the abortion and who is now living in Berlin (BSC-642).

3. ENGELSING claimed that he arranged for passing information to SCHULZE-BOYSEN for forwarding to Count DOUGLAS, the Swedish military attache in Berlin. ROEDER's account of the incident to which ENGELSING apparently refers is approximately the following: After his arrest, SCHULZE-BOYSEN claimed that he had sent certain important documents to Sweden through the Swedish military attache in Berlin. If he did not also send a pre-arranged signal, the documents were to be published by February 1943. ROEDER believed that, since SCHULZE-BOYSEN was sure of Germany's collapse early in 1943, he was only trying to delay the execution of his group. The only evidence discovered to support SCHULZE-BOYSEN's story, according to ROEDER, was his social contact

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ENGELSING, HERBERT DR ROEDER

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with a Swedish colonel, name unknown, who lived in the house of the actress Marie BARD. She committed suicide at the time of the EQUAL trial, and her husband, the actor Hannes RIEBANN (?), claimed complete ignorance of his wife's motives.

4. SCHULZE-BOYSEN and Dr. PAUL, according to MGHa-1218 (FAC-77) made a trip to Switzerland in 1938, contacting, among others, Wolfgang LANGHOFF, who was prominent in the Free Germany movement during his exile and is today a leading figure in the Berlin theatrical world, known for his completely Communist sympathies. It is believed that LANGHOFF was also active at the Zürich Schauspielhaus during his Swiss sojourn. The point is interesting in relation to the fact that ENGELSING made arrangements through Kurt HIRSCHFELD of the same theatre to get WEISEBORN into Switzerland. Moreover, ENGELSING's denial that WEISEBORN is a Communist is controverted by several sources who have known WEISEBORN at various times and in various situations. WEISEBORN, at present in Berlin, is known as a Communist, is persona grata with the Russians, has had two of his plays presented by the Russian-sponsored Deutsches Theater, which also plans to put on his new play in the fall of 1947.

5. ENGELSING's insistence that there were no connections between the German and Swiss EQUAL networks raises the question of how he gained his information on the codes of the two branches. It is not clear how he could know that the Swiss used a different book from the German Til Eulenspiegel code, if he was a member of the German group and had no connection with the Swiss. Unless he gained the information from his contact in the Swiss Federal Police, he could have learned it only from WEISEBORN (who probably did not know the Swiss code) or some other equally well-informed member of the inner circle. Although a certain amount of material has been published on the German EQUAL affair, none of the publications mentioned codes; no publications on the Swiss group are known.

6. There are apparently two possible explanations of ENGELSING's claims. He may actually be one of the hitherto unknown links between SCHULZE-BOYSEN and RADO or DUEBENDORFER of the Swiss group, or, and this is considered more likely, he is one of the persons who had very distant connections with the EQUAL case and now finds it useful to appear as an important member of a resistance group, relying upon published material for his information.

7. CAMPER will be questioned as soon as possible on the code-books and on which members of the German EQUAL group might have known about the Swiss codes. A copy of ENGELSING's report to the Swiss police would probably be of value in determining the truth of his assertions, if only as a basis for questioning CAMPER.

8. Heidelberg has no traces on BUSCKAMM, unless he can be identified with the ex-president of the Central Administration for Trade and Supply in the Russian Zone.

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