

DISPATCH

SECRET

PROCESSING

PROPOSED	ACTION	ACCOMPLISHED
	MARKED FOR INDEXING	
XXX	NO INDEXING REQUIRED	
	ONLY QUALIFIED HEADQUARTERS DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING	
	ABSTRACT	
	MICROFILM	

TO Chief, EE

INFO. COS, Germany; COB, Bonn

FROM Chief, Frankfurt Operations Base

SUBJECT: ~~SECRET~~/CALL/CAWEEFOOT - Information Developed by World War II Activities

in CASPHERE's

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

FYI

- REFS: A. EGFA-39847, 11 July 1963
- B. EGFV-15321, 10 June 1963

1. [redacted] interviewed CASPHERE on 13 July 1963 for the purpose of clearing up questions which had arisen in the process of writing CASPHERE's biography. In order to question CASPHERE along lines relevant to the allegations contained in Reference B, [redacted] made use of an article among his research material which was taken from a November 1962 edition of a Soviet newspaper. In this article, CASPHERE was charged with having provided economic advice to state organs and monopolies of the Third Reich. The article further stated that CASPHERE had been called into the staff of Gauleiter Josef BUEKEL in 1943 as economic advisor.

2. CASPHERE's response to these charges is contained in an excerpt from [redacted] draft biography which is forwarded under separate cover as Attachment A. As we noted in Paragraph 5.b. of Reference A, CASPHERE's private secretary once mentioned to [redacted] that CASPHERE had been in Warsaw on one occasion during World War II. During the 13 July interview [redacted] asked CASPHERE directly whether he had ever been to Warsaw. CASPHERE did not answer the question but responded by saying, "You know, Mr. [redacted] I find it ridiculous that I, of all people, must answer to such charges." [redacted] did not mention his conversation with CASPHERE's secretary to CASPHERE.

3. On 14 July Identity [redacted] called [redacted] and during the course of the conversation asked [redacted] what CASPHERE had said about Warsaw. When [redacted] told Identity I that CASPHERE had avoided the issue, [redacted] said that CASPHERE had acted wisely. Identity [redacted] stated that it neither added to nor detracted from the story (CASPHERE's biography) and said, "Why should one call special attention to these facts?"

/ continued /

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Excerpt from CASPHERE biography, S/C
- B. Identity List, S/C

DISTRIBUTION:

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
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DATE TYPED DATE DISPATCHED

29 July 1963

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER

EGFA-39937

HEADQUARTERS FILE NUMBER

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

ORIGINATING

OFFICE OFFICER TYPIST EXT.

COORDINATING

OFFICE SYMBOL DATE OFFICER'S NAME

RELEASING

OFFICE SYMBOL DATE OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

4. [] feels that he has gone about as far as he can in questioning CASPERE and his associates on this matter. Any further probing on his part might lead CASPERE or his advisors to the conclusion that [] is preparing to deal a bit too critically with CASPERE's past, thus damaging the good will which [] has built up with them so far.

5. We have initiated an Einwohnermeldeamt check on Identity 2 in order to obtain biographic data for further tracing. (Please note the correct spelling of Identity 2's last name, as taken from the Wetzlar address book.) We will forward the biographic data on Identity 2 as it becomes available in the next few weeks. Also, we will discuss with [] the feasibility of his arranging an interview with Identity 2, as part of his research for the biography. The only difficulty in this at the moment is that [] has thus far uncovered no overt material which would lead him to Identity 2.

APPROVED []

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S/C ATT A
TO EGFA-39937
29 July 63

Erhard laughs at those reprehensible charges. But he is also repulsed and revolted by the dastardly attempts to soil his record during the Nazi era, a record of which he is proud and which he believes speaks for itself.

He never felt the slightest pang of his very sensitive conscience nor any need to apologize for being "a Nazi collaborator" because during his days at the Nuernberg Institute he worked on several economic studies for various governmental agencies or state owned enterprises.

Economic research was his job and he did it well.

In 1938-1939 Josef Buerkel, the Nazi Gauleiter of Austria, asked the Institute to make an extensive study of the Austrian economy, production cost structure, output capacity, its foreign trade. Erhard and a team of his researchers were assigned to do the job and Buerkel was so impressed by the professional excellence of the study that he told Erhard he would never ask anyone else if he needed an economists' advice.

Four years later Buerkel, now Gauleiter of Alsace-Lorraine, was faced with the problem of improving the productive potential of the depopulated Palatinate area and arresting the deterioration of glass and ceramic industry production in Alsace-Lorraine.

Naturally Erhard was given the contract to study the problem and propose corrective measures. He spent several weeks in Lorraine for on the spot study as an independent economic consultant. During his work there he made many friends, among them Paul Schweitzer, brother of Albert the "great white doctor" of Lambarens, and owner of a large glass works.

The thorough investigation of Erhard's past by the Allied Authorities prior to his appointment as the Bavarian Minister for economics gave him a clean bill of health.

The French inhabitants of Lorraine with whom Erhard had contact, questioned by the US investigators, gave him a glowing testimonial of conduct beyond reproach.

Erhard's tremendous popularity in the Soviet Zone is apparently forcing the communist propaganda to tailor his image to Walter Ulbricht's requirements, that the Federal Republic of Germany is led by "former Nazi lackeys, servants of American imperialism, and militarists."

But to paint Erhard in those terms will be even more difficult than keeping the German people fleeing from East Germany where according to the same propaganda "true democracy reigns supreme."

IDENTITY LIST

Identity 1 - Dankmar GRIET, Personal assistant to Ludwig ERHARD.

Identity 2 - Dr. Elsie KUEHN-LEITZ
ADD: Wetzlar, Laufdorferweg 6
OCC: Juristin

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per CSN 43-43