

DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

SYMBOL AND NO.

EGMA-54175

TO Chief of Base, Frankfurt
INFO Chief of Station, Germany; Chief, ER; Chief, SR;
Chief of Base, Berlin; Chief of Base, Bonn

HEADQUARTERS FILE NO.

32W-6-40/3

FROM Chief, Munich Liaison Base

DATE

23 March 1961

SUBJECT UPHILL/REDCAP/LCIDPROVE/Operations
UPHILL Interest in Robert Adolf KOCH

RE "43-9" - CHECK "T ONE"

MARKED FOR INDEXING

NO INDEXES REQUIRED

ACTION REQUIRED
FOB: Please see paragraph 7

INDEXING CAN BE JUDGED
BY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL RELEASED BY

- A) EGFW-11804, 2 February 1961
- B) MUNI-4723, 7 March 1961 (not to BOB or Bonn)
- C) PROB-8905, 13 March 1961 (not to BOB or Bonn)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B26
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2005

1. On 16 March 1961 in accordance with References B and C, KUBARK traces on

Robert Adolf *KOCH aka Robert Karlovich *KOCH
Born 24 December 1895 in Moscow, USSR

and on his wife, Anna Elisabeth KOCH nee KLEIN [] were passed to UPHILL along with a statement of our security interest based upon his wife's employment. @FRIESEN, who is personally acquainted with KOCH states that there are no grounds for suspecting KOCH is an RIS agent and that there is ample reason to believe that KOCH's outward show of affection for the Soviets is nothing more than skillful acting intended mainly for achieving business advantages. UPHILL is interested in recruiting him as a source.

2. According to @FRIESEN, speaking from memory, KOCH's father was a prosperous businessman who lived in Russia before World War I and KOCH was raised in Imperial Russia. Until the revolution when the family escaped from St. Petersburg leaving behind much of their property, KOCH's father had been successful as a trader in Russian wool, etc. At some time well before World War II, KOCH established himself in business in Holland in either Amsterdam or Schiedamschen. During the war, however, the Dutch authorities, as a matter of routine, confiscated his property and interned him as a German alien. At the end of the war, when KOCH was transferred to the island prison camp in which @FRIESEN was being held, he became the official spokesman representing all the prisoners in the camp. As a result of his efforts conditions in the camp improved markedly. He was active also in organizing recreational activities, and @FRIESEN recalls KOCH's presenting some entertaining talks on Russia which bespoke both love of the country and hatred of the Communists. @FRIESEN characterizes KOCH as especially well suited for the kind of business he is in--intelligent, self-assured, versatile, energetic, and affable. KOCH reportedly was released from internment in 1948 and thereafter he lived for a number of years in Wiesbaden. He divorced his first wife there. Commenting on the basis of the traces in EGMA-9322 and EGFA-52920, it probably was there that he met his present wife. From Wiesbaden he moved to Bonn. He applied for employment as an interpreter with the Sicherungsgruppe but was rejected. However, KOCH who supposedly speaks English as well as German, Russian and Dutch, was reportedly employed by the U. S. Embassy in Mehlem until about 1958. (No official record of this employment has been found but there is a record that his wife was employed as a translator in the OCA office of the U. S. Embassy in 1957 for six months and incidentally, that there were no security implications involved in her resignation--KOF-9484.) After working at the U. S. Embassy he became an interpreter with the firm Bochumer Chemie und Handels Kontor GmbH (BOCHAKO) of Witten-Ruhr which does a great deal of business with the Soviets. @FRIESEN allows that by now KOCH probably has attained the status of a full-fledged representative

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CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

CONTINUED

PAGE NO.

1

of the firm and probably collects commissions on the business he negotiates. The close relationships prevailing between KOCH and the SMIRNOV's and between KOCH and GLOBKE as indicated in UJDROVER reports are described by @FRIESEN as indicative of the self-assertiveness of a very aggressive businessman.

3. @FRIESEN says this is the most interesting lead he has at this time. KOCH's talents which have enabled him to develop such highly placed contacts would serve him extremely well as an agent. The main problem in @FRIESEN's view is in inducing such a person to take an intelligence recruitment approach seriously. Alluding to the fact that GLOBKE is on the chain of command between UTILITY and Chancellor ADENAUER, @FRIESEN points out that KOCH could be expected to reject a conventional approach and to tell GLOBKE about it. @FRIESEN also notes that it would be undesirable as far as UPHILL is concerned if KOCH were to reveal being approached to his employer,

Dr. Karl Heins @IMHAUSEN
Born 11 July 1911 in Gelsenkirchen.

(MLB Comment: SPROB-6151, 2 February 1955, which requested U. S. file traces on IMHAUSEN gave his address as Witten-Buhr, Ruhrstrasse 70, and stated that he was associated with BOCHAKO. The same cable, slugged REDSKIN, requested traces on this firm and its manager, Friedrich Heinrich BRANNKARTER. The only subsequent trace in Munich files came from UPHILL. [] reported that (fnu) GROTHE of the Amsterdam shipping agency PAKHUISMEESTEREN, called Dr. IMHAUSEN an unusually clever businessman who was doing millions of marks of business with the East Bloc by circumventing the embargo--ECMA-50372, 9 August 1960.)

thing for S... this would be a great should... [unclear]

4. @FRIESEN hopes to arrange to have GLOBKE raise the idea of cooperating with UPHILL. KOCH, who must value his "contacts" highly, could hardly refuse GLOBKE's serious suggestion that he accept an interview with representatives of UPHILL. Given such an introduction @FRIESEN feels KOCH would be induced to accept recruitment. UTILITY could be expected to approach GLOBKE with such a scheme only if exceptionally favorable prospects for success as well as valuable potential return were evident. @FRIESEN's proposal has not yet been submitted to UTILITY. He wants to have more information including responses to inquiries he has sent to the Dutch and to the Cologne police, etc., in order to present as detailed as possible a description of the agent candidate. FOB: In this regard he asked if we could obtain an assessment of Frau KOCH, a statement of the circumstances of her leaving employment with OSI, and a photograph of her.

5. @FRIESEN expressed gratitude for the KUBARK traces as well as appreciation of our concern from a security standpoint. However, he made it clear on two occasions that UPHILL has no suspicions about KOCH having any ties with the RIS. @FRIESEN did not mention @HOLGERS' discussions with his FOB contact in February 1960. (PROB-6338 and ECMA-53381) It would appear that @HOLGERS had no authority to discuss the matter and did not report having done so. In any event, the suspicion @HOLGERS referred to apparently evaporated entirely during the past year.

6. The following items of information on KOCH which were noticed among UJDROVER reports transmitted via MLB to G-2 USAREUR are noted for information addressees. On 14 February KOCH talked with the Soviet Ambassador's wife about Karnival, his trip to London, and his sister and then declared that his niece would like to give a concert in Moscow. He told about his niece going to the Soviet Embassy in Bern and being referred to GOSCONCERT in Moscow and he asked if he could send a

SECRET

KOMA-54175

recording in Russian or else have his niece come and sing at the embassy in Bonn so that Mrs. SMIRNOVA might recommend her. Three days later when the receptionist told him Ambassador SMIRNOV would be busy all day, KOCH said he already knew that the Ambassador had a meeting with Chancellor ADENAUER that afternoon. He added that he had learned of this from GLOMKE and said he would like to talk to the Ambassador on the phone beforehand. On 27 February KOCH demanded that he be put in touch with PAVLOV of the trade mission who supposedly was in the embassy at that time. KOCH complained that he had just returned from London where he also waited the whole day in the trade mission. When PAVLOV could not be located, it was suggested that KOCH try to reach him at the trade mission. KOCH responded sharply that he would prefer to have PAVLOV call him at Bonn 37673. On 28 February KOCH arranged with Ambassador SMIRNOV for a meeting in the embassy at 0900 the next morning. On 2 March KOCH told FOROKIN of the Consular Section that he had just received a telegram from SALZGITTER asking him to check on the status of ten visa applications.

7. FOB: Although the only direct request SPRINSE made was the modest one in paragraph 4, it is suggested that consideration be given to obtaining and passing UPHILL as full as possible a report on Frau KOCH.

Approved: []

Distributions:

- 2 - Chief, FOB
- 2 - COS, Germany
- 1 - Chief, ER
- 2 - Chief, ER
- 2 - COB, Berlin
- 2 - COB, Bonn
- 1 - 324-6-40/3

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