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SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2005

DISPATCH		CLASSIFICATION		PROCESSING ACTION	
		SECRET			
TO	Chief, EUR				MARKED FOR INDEXING
INFO.	Chief, Munich Liaison Base, Chief of Station, Germany			XXX	NO INDEXING REQUIRED
FROM	Chief []				ONLY QUALIFIED DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING
SUBJECT	CATUSK/Comments by and on UTILITY's Brother []				
ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES					
REFERENCE: EGMT-14105, 1 June 1966					
<p>1. The writer has seen UTILITY's brother on infrequent occasions, having entertained him at dinner some months ago, and most recently, was invited to the brother's home on 11 November 1966.</p> <p>2. In the course of a long and relaxed evening, during which no other guests were present, UTILITY's brother made a number of comments which may be of some passing interest. A summation of his observations follows:</p> <p>a. Asked about the political situation in Germany, UTILITY's brother said he found the twin developments of the <u>Nationaldemokratische Partel</u> vote in the Hesse state elections and the elevation of Kurt Georg KIESINGER (with his acknowledged NSDAP membership dating from 1933) to the position of heir apparent to Chancellor Ludwig ERHARD to be distressing in the extreme. His reasoning is based not so much on any serious concern about a resurgence of Nazism in the Federal Republic, which he dismisses out-of-hand, but rather with the unfortunate impression these two events will create abroad, particularly in England and the USSR, where Kiesinger's NSDAP membership will add fuel to the flames and render any accommodation with the Soviet Bloc infinitely more problematical. UTILITY's brother expressed a personal preference for Eugen GERSTENMAIER, and said he was not at all sure why GERSTENMAIER had withdrawn his candidacy, unless he had been persuaded by Franz Josef STRAUSS that it was wiser to withdraw in view of the hopelessness of his situation, rather than suffer an embarrassing defeat within the CDU/CSU Party caucus. UTILITY's brother in any case believes that the power behind the throne is Franz Josef Strauss, whose political ambitions have never waned, and who may have exacted a substantial price in return for throwing his CSU block behind Kiesinger.</p> <p>b. On the subject of Erhard, UTILITY's brother indicated that it had been CATUSK (and others') experience that ERHARD of late has been preoccupied and apparently unable to make decisions on even relatively simple matters. CATUSK officers have made presentations to ERHARD in</p>					
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CROSS REFERENCE TO	DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER	DATE	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification </div>		
CE/MAB	OIRA-156156	NOV 16 1966 4 November 1966			
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search of decisions, only to find that Erhard would sit quietly by, puffing on a long cigar, and declining to make a decision. UTILITY's brother says that the story is going around that ERHARD's physical condition has deteriorated substantially over the last twelve to eighteen months, the accepted diagnosis being rapidly worsening arteriosclerosis.

c. UTILITY's brother said that he had just returned from a visit to his brother, whom he found to be particularly enigmatic. UTILITY had introduced his successor (a general whose name the brother did not volunteer), but according to our host in Rome, it does not appear likely that UTILITY will retire on schedule and will be extended by special legislation (viz. reference). UTILITY's brother also commented that all other things being equal, he may himself remain on duty for some additional unspecified period of time.

d. In response to a query on the extent and nature of his local contacts with Soviet Bloc personalities, UTILITY's brother pointed out that he has no official or diplomatic standing, being widely known as the "unofficial CATUSK representative" or the "personal representative of his brother in Rome." By virtue of this anomalous situation, UTILITY's brother is able to avoid the diplomatic social whirl, which he said he abhors, and select only those occasions, usually of a semi-official nature, in which he participates. He indicated he was close to, and had considerable respect for, the West German ambassador in Rome. His other major range of contacts is to be found in the Vatican, where he is a prominent member of various unofficial study groups and the like, although he did not expound at any length on this subject.

e. UTILITY's brother also proudly displayed his orders and decorations, along with a series of autographed photos of a range of dignitaries, including Umberto, former King of Italy, Adenauer, the Chief of Staff of the Italian Army, Prince Ferdinand of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, and (which he indicated various French officials have asked him to intercede on their behalf for the award of this prized decoration), a Savoy order presented to him by Umberto, and the Italian Commander of the Italian Republic.

f. UTILITY's brother said that his relations with [] were excellent, and he enjoyed thoroughly the confidence and support of his hosts. He dropped one or two mildly derogatory comments about some of the lower-level [] officials (notably [], but said that the normal exchange of paper proceeds smoothly. Among the military, he numbers [] as a close, personal friend, and expressed some lack of enthusiasm for [], whom he considers to be the less effective of the two.

3. The undersigned accepted UTILITY's brother's offer to inspect the impressive, top-floor apartment which he purchased in 1957; he showed his bookcase-lined study, which also contains two large metal safes (key locks), and then displayed the adjacent room in which his long-time secretary works. This room contained a teletype machine (which he said connects directly to his brother's office), and next to it what he referred to as an "off-line cipher machine", which was, however, covered and could not be more closely inspected. In this connection, he showed the writer a deciphered message he had received on 7 November from the outgoing chief of the Verbindungsdienst (cryptonym: "Viktor") thanking his colleagues for their support. The message was addressed personally to "Gustav" (clearly the cryptonym for UTILITY's brother), and was also signed by "Roerendorf", the incoming Chief of the Verbindungsdienst. UTILITY's brother asked that the writer not indicate he had seen the cipher equipment nor a deciphered message, and said that it was not necessary to bother with the cryptonyms involved, since they were not pertinent to the body of the message, a torturous and labored German military text which he said impressed him more and more with the inflexibility and stereotyped mentality of the typical German military officer, since both "Viktor" and "Roerendorf" are full colonels of the German General Staff.

4. In describing his functions, UTILITY's brother said that he is first and foremost a mailman ("Brieftraeger"), which he vastly prefers, since this role does not require him to engage in the minutiae of intelligence operations. He does not enjoy reading files, and has little interest in CE/CS operations. He primarily passed reports to [] from CATUSK and receives material in the opposite direction; he maintains on his staff, in addition to the secretary, a full-time translator for German to Italian and vice-versa, an elderly man who has apparently been employed by UTILITY's brother for a number of years. Working out of the German Embassy, UTILITY's brother also has under his supervision a Lt. Col. or Col. VON SELDTE, son of Franz VON SELDTE, author of the World War I trilogy and one of the founders of the Stahlhelm. It is not entirely clear what the relationship, in the command sense, is between UTILITY's brother and Col. VON SELDTE, although the latter is clearly to some extent at his beck and call.

5. On the subject of mail, UTILITY's brother said that he relies heavily on couriers between Rome and Munich who travel twice a week (once each way) by air. He also travels himself (usually by train) to Germany, and has a German chauffeur, apparently connected with the local Embassy, although the name was not mentioned.

6. UTILITY's brother's wife is a delightful Swedish woman in her middle 60's, and they have one daughter (at least), who is on the verge of marrying an ne'er-do-well, which is causing them both considerable anguish. UTILITY's brother has threatened to disown his daughter, and the mother is very much upset over this familial crisis, the outcome of which is not currently known.

7. UTILITY's brother maintains a very large apartment, decorated with many valuable antiques, which he picks up on regular visits to antique shows in Germany and Austria. He displayed with great pride his 18th century clocks and various items of Biedermeier furniture, complete with detailed accounts of where and how he found them, accompanied by the display of numerous catalogues of antique shows. He also appears to be a real connoisseur of 18th and 19th century German painters, and has several fine originals on his walls.

8. The foregoing conveys nothing new or startling, but is reported for the record only, to convey some impressions of the nature and scope of the activities of UTILITY's brother in Rome. Such other information as may be developed in the future will be recorded; on the substantive side, it might be added only that meaningful dealings on a professional basis with UTILITY's brother do not appear warranted, although it is recognized that there may be an exceptional case where local discussion might be useful.

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