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GEIPEL, Walter alias GRUENERT, Werner

13 July 1951

Re: Suspected Czech Intelligence Agent

VII-4024

1. REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

a. Investigation was initiated in order to determine whether Subject is engaged in activities on behalf of Czech intelligence.

b. Reference is made to paragraph 118k, Part I, Section IV, Consolidated Orientation and Guidance Report, Headquarters 66th CIC Detachment, wherein information concerning suspected agents of Czech intelligence is desired.

2. SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION: None in this area.

3. PRESENT INVESTIGATION:

Name: Walter GEIPEL alias Werner GRUENERT Sex: Male
Birthdate: ~~15 April 1916~~ Birthplace: ~~PLAUEN~~
Nationality: German Occupation: Salesman (unemployed)
Present Address: FASSMANSREUTH (M51/P19), House 81
Height: 5'11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Weight: 160 lbs (est) Build: Slender
Hair: Dark blond Eyes: Blue
Identifying Marks: Scar on right thigh
Marital Status: Married
Identity Documents: Discharge certificate #9-13303, dated 24 December 1947, issued at Hammelsburg (L51/N57); Kennkarte No. B-513923, issued 3 March 1948, in FASSMANSREUTH (Obtained from identity documents and observation)
(See Exhibit "I" - Photo of Subject) (B-2)

4. Subject has presented himself at CIC Selb several times during the course of the last few months, claiming to have been approached by Czech intelligence with offers of employment. GEIPEL denied any activities on behalf of Czech intelligence, however, he stated he wished to work for CIC. Due to Subject's shady reputation, his requests were refused, and he was advised that any activity on his part on behalf of Czech intelligence would lead to his prosecution. (F-6)

5. On 5 July 1951, records of the following German public agencies in Landkreis Rehau (M51/PO9) were checked by the undersigned Agent and no derogatory information was revealed. The information as contained in paragraph 3 above was verified:

- a. Mayor's Office, Rehau
- b. Housing Office, Rehau
- c. Bavarian Border Police, Rehau Station
- d. Labor Office, Rehau
- e. Health Office, Rehau
- f. Inhabitant's Office, Rehau

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- g. County Registrar's Office, Rehau
- h. City and County Police, Rehau

(B-2)

6. On 9 July 1951, records of the Hof HICOG Courts, Hof HICOG Resident Office, and the Rehau HICOG Resident Office were checked by the undersigned Agent and no derogatory information was found. (B-2)

7. On 9 July 1951, Dr. Karl FENZEL, County Registrar, Rehau, was interviewed. He stated that he had occasion to observe and talk to Subject in May 1951, when Subject attempted to secure an increase in the space of his living quarters in Fassmansreuth, House 81. Subject stated that he was presently working for American authorities, and waved papers in front of FENZEL in order to impress FENZEL and to secure approval of his request for increased living space. FENZEL stated that Subject would not allow him to closely examine the papers purportedly substantiating Subject's claim of working for US authorities. FENZEL further stated that Subject bears an unsavory reputation in the Rehau area and is strongly suspected of being a blackmarketeer and smuggler. Subject previously worked as a salesman for a Hof liquor and wine concern, but was believed by FENZEL to have lost his job because he had misused company funds. Subject is said to be feared by his landlady, and gossip has it that he is known to possess a gun. FENZEL was of the opinion that Subject's activities are well known to Bavarian border authorities. (F-3)

8. On 9 July 1951, Arthur LANG, Free (M51/PO9), House 29, an investigator for the Registrar's Office (Housing Section) of Rehau County, was interviewed. He corroborated, substantially, the information given by Dr. FENZEL. In addition, LANG stated that Subject makes frequent trips to Bamberg (M51/024) and Coburg (M51/28) on unknown errands. LANG believes Subject to be a smuggler because he is seen constantly in possession of large sums of money, but has no apparent means of livelihood. (F-6)

9. On 9 July 1951, Georg HOFFMANN, Rehau, Sophienstrasse 9a, a clerk in the City Office of Rehau, was interviewed. He corroborated, substantially, information as given by Dr. FENZEL and LANG. HOFFMANN believed Subject to be well known to Bavarian Border Police because of his border activities. He further corroborated information as given regarding Subject's possessing money without visible means of support. Subject's last position was as salesman for a Hof wine concern. Subject's mother, Johanna GEIPEL, Bamberg, Hammerleinstrasse 17, is believed to be employed by US authorities in Bamberg. (B-3)

10. On 9 July 1951, August NAGEL, Oberkommissar, Bavarian Border Police, Rehaus Post, was interviewed. He stated that Subject was personally known to him and that Subject was a person not to be trusted. However, Subject is not known to be in difficulties with the police, nor has he been known to have illegally crossed the border into CSR. NAGEL was of the opinion that while Subject would dabble in blackmarket and smuggling activity, he would not work for the CSR as an agent. LANG stated that Subject was previously employed by an American intelligence unit; he believed that Subject was fired in 1950 for having misused funds entrusted to him. NAGEL could give no further information regarding the circumstances of the incident. NAGEL further stated that Subject was recently fired from his position as salesman for a Hof wine concern on the

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ground that he embezzled or misused company funds. Subject bears an unsavory reputation in the neighborhood, and NAGEL believes that he would bear watching; he based his opinion upon the fact that Subject could be persuaded to "do anything for money."
(B-3)

11. On 9 July 1951, Agent "A" was interviewed. He stated that he had occasion to talk to Subject several months ago, when Subject came to his office to seek work for American intelligence. Subject stated that he had been employed from 1948 to 1950 by another US intelligence organization and claimed that his release had been effected to cover shortages in funds which were the fault of an American member of the organization and Subject had suffered the disgrace of being branded a thief. Subject stated that he had been approached to work for Czech intelligence, but gave no details. Subject was reminded of his delicate position, and cautioned, that engaging in such activities would make him liable to prosecution. Subject promised to be cooperative and further stated that he would make Agent "A" cognizant of any further attempts by the Czechs to recruit him. Subject offered to work for Agent "A" and volunteered to go into CSR on any mission. Subject stated that he had contacts in Prague and that his previous job for American intelligence had been to run and supervise a net for the gathering of intelligence on behalf of the US Forces. Subject was told that his services could not be utilized.
(F-6)

12. Technical coverage has been initiated on Subject.

(B-2)

13. GEIPEL again contacted CIC Selb on 10 July 1951, and stated that he had been again approached by Czech intelligence, but still refused to give details. He repeated that he was innocent of any illegal espionage activity. He was again cautioned against engaging in any activity on behalf of Czech intelligence. (F-6)

14. UNDEVELOPED LEADS AND FUTURE ACTION:

a. Region VI: Investigate Johanna GEIPEL (paragraph 9 above), and determine whether she has any connections with Czech intelligence.

b. Region VII: Observe and report the activities of Subject and his associates.

15. AGENT'S NOTES:

a. Background information:

- (1) Technical coverage was maintained on Subject from 21 April to 1 December 1950, without positive results.
- (2) According to IRS, Hqs 66th CIC Detachment, subject: PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY DETACHMENT, file D-66335; VII-3332, dated 11 August 1950, Subject was a Source of DAD then under investigation by that agency for insecure conduct and alleged smuggling activity.

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- (3) According to Agent Report, Region VII, subject: CLANDESTINE COURIER SERVICE, file VII-2749, dated 26 March 1951, Subject stated to the manager of the Anker Hotel in Coburg that he was going to stop working for the Americans and use his right name of GEIPEL. He was then using the alias "Werner GRUNERT," and was employed as a salesman for a liquor dealer in Bamberg.
- (4) GEIPEL has been from time to time the source of information concerning the police of Plauen and certain individuals in this area involved in intelligence activities.

- b. Comments and opinions: None
- c. Recommendations: None

APPROVED:

JAMES C. BIDDIE
Special Agent CIC
CE Team Commander

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EXHIBIT "I" - Photo of Subject.

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