

20 AUG 1959

TO: Mr. Ernest Thoresen  
ACS/Intelligence  
Headquarters, USAF

FROM: Deputy Director, Plans

SUBJECT: HANELT, Gustav

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2001-2008

1. Reference is made to your request dated 1 May 1959, file C-149-59, subject as above, whose name you desired checked against the files of this office. The files contain the following information concerning one Gustav Herman Heinrich HANELT, born 21 September 1914 in Schmachthagen/Kreis Stormarn, Germany, who may or may not be identifiable with Subject.

2. According to a report dated 15 February 1956, information from the Federal High Court of Germany received through an official West German service indicated that, on 22 December 1953, Gustav HANELT was sentenced to one year's imprisonment for intelligence activities against the Federal Republic of Germany in behalf of the Soviet Intelligence Service.

3. According to a report dated 30 June 1952, from the West German Federal Security Group, HANELT stated that he went to a secondary school from 1925 until 1934 and then studied law and constitutional law in Berlin, Jena, Koenigsberg, and Hamburg. According to HANELT, he passed the first government examination for the faculty of law in 1941. He was reportedly appointed "Assessor" in 1943.

4. The report further indicated that he served his military term from 1935 until 1937. At the outbreak of the war in 1939, he was drafted immediately, and was transferred to the Waffen-SS in the fall of 1940. According to HANELT, he served at the front without interruption until the collapse, except for a few minor special missions. Allegedly he was wounded four times, and was blinded for a time. His last rank was SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer in reserve. HANELT was interned until 20 December 1947 then later worked on his father's estate until January 1950. After that,

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he became the secretary to WITTENBURG, the DP (Deutsche Partei) Bundestag delegate in Bonn, Germany. In September 1950, he was employed by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Forestry in Kiel, Germany. Here he was the personal "Referent" of WITTENBURG who was then Minister. HANELT resided at Lange Reihe 10-12, Kiel.

5. In 1950, according to the report, HANELT belonged to the so-called "Bruderschaft" (Brotherhood), an organization founded in 1945 primarily by former members of the SS; HANELT claimed that he was not a member. However, it is known that this organization did not issue membership cards. According to the report, he made the acquaintance of one Uwe WEHLEN at a meeting of the "Bruderschaft". WEHLEN was tried at the same time as HANELT and found guilty of maintenance of treasonable connections and of bribery (i.e. the communication of questionable intelligence information). WEHLEN, being aware that HANELT had given material from his Ministry to another associate to be analyzed by the "Bruderschaft", approached HANELT under the pretext of being employed by the "Platow-Dienst" (Platow Service), and promised HANELT financial assistance if he would, in return, provide him with information. This arrangement began in January 1951 and ended with the arrest of HANELT and WEHLEN. At first HANELT denied all of these charges and he denied ever having received money from WEHLEN for information, even after being confronted with WEHLEN. According to the report, HANELT, after urgent remonstrations, admitted that he had received compensation from WEHLEN in varying amounts from August until the beginning of December 1951.

6. [ ] has no record of a current operational interest in Subject.

CSCI-3/756,138

Encl. 1 name check

RID/CE: WM/LTG/lbc

Based on: 32-6-34  
Part 4  
EGNA-730

32-2-4-248  
EGNA-8096

32-2-4-361  
EGNA-9926 (pg.11)

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