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A U S T R I A

May 30, 1951 (P/03005)

SUBJECT: Present Situation of Dr. Wilhelm HÖTTL

Time : End of May 1951  
Received: May 30, 1951

CC 2

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1. The following information is based on a conversation between CC 2 and Dr. Wilhelm HÖTTL.
2. According to HÖTTL's own opinion, his 'Nibelungen-Verlag' is presently in severe financial troubles caused by difficulties in selling his book 'Die Geheime Front' in Germany. The German 'Athenäum Verlag' of BONN had signed an agreement, whereby it undertook to sell 10,000 copies of the book in Germany on a commission basis. In fall 1950, such number had therefore been printed in Austria, 3,000 copies of which were delivered to Athenäum Verlag shortly before Christmas. However, only a few hundred copies were distributed. As to HÖTTL's opinion, the Athenäum Verlag has deliberately held these books back, allegedly to exclude competition with its own, especially Paul SCHMIDT's 'Statist auf diplomatischer Bühne'. HÖTTL however believes that there are also other reasons, i.e. an intrigue of GEHLEN Organization, because the managers of Athenäum Verlag are in connection with G-Organization.
3. Because of such troubles the issue of HÖTTL's planned new book 'Die Fünfte Kolonne' has to be postponed until next year; It is impossible for Dr. HÖTTL to collect the necessary sum for buying the printing paper. In the meantime he will complete the material especially on the German 5th column's activities in South America and on secret radio lines of German SD.
4. For lack of sufficient income from his publishing house HÖTTL is now trying to make some side money from trade. Searching for partners, he also applied to his old friend Dr. ~~Karl WINKLER~~ residing at Salzburg, Markus Sitticusstrasse 5. Such business negotiations failed, but WINKLER in turn asked HÖTTL, if he would be willing to work together with him for a new Austrian intelligence service. HÖTTL, from courtesy, did not formally refuse, but answered evasively. WINKLER did not insist; HÖTTL believes that the alleged new organization is an OeVP party intelligence and in an early stage of formation.

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