

HOFFMANN, EMIL FRIDOLIN

DISPATCH NO. EGNA- 2637

VIA: (SPECIFY AIR OR SEA ROUTE)

Secret - Security Information
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief of Mission, Frankfurt
FROM : Chief of Base, Bonn
SUBJECT: GENERAL - Operational/CALL/CART
SPECIFIC - Emil Fridolin HOFFMANN

DATE: AUG 17 1953

10/9/53

[Handwritten mark]

1. Following is translation of a BfV letter regarding Subject:

"The investigations initiated by the BfV have not resulted in any concrete indication that Dr. HOFFMANN is engaged in espionage activity.

"The material collected up until this time shows connections to the Federal Ministry for Economics and other offices. These are, however of an economic nature. Here also the spying out of state secrets has not been detected.

"The BfV intends to discontinue its investigation of the HOFFMANN case in the event material cannot be provided by American offices which would strengthen the suspicions which have existed until this time.

"It is intended by the BfV to notify the LfV BERLIN that objections to the furnishing of travel passes to Dr. HOFFMANN no longer exist."

2. In response to this memo, the BfV was asked to provide us with a summary of recent information developed by the BfV in the HOFFMANN case. Attached hereto is BfV summary of the most recent information available. Aside from background information on Subject's activities and interests, the report is of interest in that it indicates that he allegedly secured from French authorities in Berlin an interzonal pass which enabled him to leave Berlin.
3. With regard to the BfV's intention to discontinue investigation of Subject, it is requested that you advise this office whether there exists interest in continued investigation, and whether you are in possession of additional information which would be of interest to the BfV and which might be utilized for investigative leads.
4. CIC is also in receipt of this report.

Attachment:

A. Rpt II/4 d 2 569 dtd 14 Jul 53
Subj: Dr. Emil Hoffmann

[Handwritten signature]

26 August 1953

Distribution:
3 COM w/att A

FORM NO. 51-28A
MAR. 1949

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Action - AC/RALG BJK
CE
1953

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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3020
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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A to EGNA 2637
Translation

II/4 d-2 569/52 geh.

14 July 1953

Memorandum for Mr. H u x h e s

Subject: Dr. Emil H o f f m a n n

Encl.: photostat of an article

As requested, BfV submits the following extract from the report made by an agent:

A visit was paid to F r i d o l i n , according to instruction, after previous notification by telephone. He had returned from a trip at noon; it was not possible to draw him out about it.

The Hotel W i e s e n a u in Bad Godesberg, where Fridolin is at present staying, is a little rural inn, located at a distance of approximately half an hour's walking to the north-west of Godesberg (highway). Fridolin's Volkswagen, license plate KB 07042, was parked in the garden.

The conversation with Fridolin took place in the garden of the inn between 1500 and 1800 hrs. During that time Fridolin had several long distance calls which could not be overheard. He expected to be called from Bremen. He also expected to be visited by business friends from Bremen on that same day. He is in a nervous condition, and seemed to be downcast.

Fridolin said that the Americans had cut his very roots with their measures. The Americans have A, B, C, and D lists carrying all persons under suspicion or not agreeable, he said, and his name is on List D which means the highest degree of suspicion. He does not seem to see a possibility at the moment to improve his situation to any degree. He expects much from the fact that legal conditions are somewhat more reliable in the Federal Republic than in the Four-Sectors Town Berlin.

On that afternoon Fridolin felt particular tension because his wife Helma was supposed to leave Berlin-Schoeneberg, Nymphenburgerstr. 2, at 1600 hrs. for the Federal Republic. Fridolin intended to travel to Helmstedt, after his negotiations with his business friends from Bremen, in order to collect his wife.

Frau Hoffmann will also stay in Hotel Wiesenau at first, until the house "Am Reichenberg" in Honnef is ready which Fridolin has rented as of 1 July. He hopes to be able to move to another house in August which at present is still requisitioned by the British Occupation Power. Fridolin estimates the value of his household furnishings at DM 40.000. He says that the moving, including the insurances, will cost him 3000 DM. In this connection he mentioned that the lawyer, whom he consulted concerning the passport affair, had received 1500 DM so far while he has not yet done anything

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effective. His Berlin dwelling has not been rented yet, so that he is compelled to continue to pay the rent of 300 or 350 DM.

Fridolin says that he has been living in Godesberg for two months already. Since all attempts failed to get an interzonal pass in the usual manner, he contacted the French "Kommandantur" in Berlin although it has no jurisdiction over his residential quarter (Schöneberg). He obtained an interzonal pass there which he has returned in the meantime to the French Kommandantur as promised. (He said that) he has always completed the police registration forms given him in Hotel Wiesenau and elsewhere during his travels. Fridolin will report his move from Berlin-W to Godesberg to the police in the course of the next few days. He hopes that this will make his stay in the Federal Republic legal.

Fridolin complained about having to start all over with his business. He has been forced to run up debts, but it is not serious. He acts as an agent for a Swedish firm (reporter did not catch the name) and receives a fixed sum of DM 1500, so that every day that he was forced to stay in Berlin after the conclusion of the contract with the Swedish firm cost him DM 50. Besides, the firm of A t l a s in Munich has made him its agent in West Germany, and a firm in Bremen (the name of which is Stueck, or Struenk, or Strunk). The latter firm, he said, has export relations with China, and was so far able to despatch two shiploads to China. He plans to deal in particular with the export to China and Indonesia.

Fridolin states that he has radically broken off all his connections with the DDR and with the Russians. He sees no possibility to assert himself against the pressure exercised by the Americans. The big business deal with Sweden which he had concluded by dint of great exertion (at a previous occasion he spoke of its value as amounting to 180 million DM) was torpedoed by the Americans so that only seven million could be effectuated so far. Allegedly has no connection any more with the firm I m h a u s e n - Witten.

Then Fridolin discussed to some length problems which are also the subject of the typescript "The Maze of the East-West Trade", photostat of which is attached.

That typescript is the draft of an article which Fridolin wrote in November 1952 for the periodical "Spiegel". He also showed me the article after it had been re-edited by the "Spiegel" editors. In an accompanying letter the editors asked for a photo of Fridolin which they intended to publish together with the article. They had stricken out a number of the names mentioned in the draft. The concluding reflections on pages 6 and 7 were put at the beginning, and were supplemented by a letter which Fridolin had addressed to Prof. K e u t e r, head of the Berlin Government, on behalf of his passport affair. In that letter Fridolin explains his political life in a manner which makes him appear almost as a democratic resistance fighter. He establishes a comparison with Prof. Keuter's political career, who is said also to have been temporarily engaged in political activities in the Balkan countries.

In sketching his activities in the Balkan countries during the last

war, Fridolin hints at his good relations with Free Masonry which he has never mentioned before.

Fridolin, commenting on his "Spiegel" article, said to be convinced that Otto ~~S~~chulte-Frohlinde (Gelsenkirchen-Buer) and Fritz ~~B~~rannekampfer are double-agents working for the Russians as well as for the Americans. He terms it significant that Schulte-Frohlinde was not arrested in the "Vulkan" case, and that Brannekampfer is out of prison already. He assumes that Dr. ~~K~~roth is the one who denounced him to the DDR authorities and to the Russians. He presumes that it was Dr. Kroth who passed on to the SSD the so-called "Hoffmann Reports" for the American Intelligence Service. Fridolin asserts that there is a procedure pending against him with the SSD because of that, and it is another reason why he had to leave Berlin under all circumstances.

To his conversation with the US Intelligence Officer Mr. Williams, photostat of which is attached, Fridolin adds what follows:

The conversation took place on 6 or 16 August 1952 in Frankfurt. Williams sometimes calls himself Schultze. He is never available in his office. Williams is usually accompanied by a "shadow" who sits at another table listening to conversations.

The article was never published in the "Spiegel" because the editors thought it "too hot" even after they had re-edited it.

Since the "Action Vulkan" was started, the Spiegel editors regretted very much not having published the article in November or December. In regard to the "Action Vulkan" Fridolin allowed me to read an article he wrote which is entitled "East Trade on a Volcano", which was already in the possession of this office, and of which a photostat is attached.

Remark:

No photostat of that article is attached because it is contained in your dossier G 21-4-53 L K 460/420 25-4-53.

The article which is signed Olin-Fried (= Fridolin) has appeared in "Volkswirt" as a "letter from a reader" (Fridolin continued). He had, incidentally, given the Federal Ministry of Economics last year a detailed report on the background of the "Ostag", of "Deutsche Handelsgesellschaft West-Ost" etc.

Fridolin, when asked, stated that in his opinion the arrested persons Dr. Kroth, Hilde ~~W~~eissenfels, ~~G~~utgesell and ~~B~~rannekampfer worked for an intelligence service. He thinks it is almost impossible in the case of most of the other arrestees.

Fridolin mentioned, like he did at a previous occasion that an investigating judge of the Landgericht in Frankfurt/Main is a close friend of his.

The well-known Dr. Werner ~~H~~agert (he said) has in the meantime become the right-hand man of Generaldirektor ~~K~~enne of the I.G.

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He complained about Waldemar M u c h l e r , with whom it is impossible to do business. Contrary to his promises he did not give him the Berlin agency for L a n g e n s i e p e n & R u c k e b i e r , in which he has a prominent position. Also he (Fridolin) had at one time been the middle-man for a large-scale Swedish business deal, and was cheated out of his commission.

Fridolin's opinion in regard to the developments in foreign policies is that the Federal Chancellor was right with his idea. Fridolin stressed several times that he had committed no illegal or punishable offenses.

By order:

/s/ illegible

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In the Maze of the East West Trade

Just about a year ago the frozen fronts in the Cold War were called back to life by propaganda as far as the East-West trade is concerned. In order to render their support to the UNO Economic Committee in Geneva, led by the Swede Myrdal, which Committee was in favor of the East-West trade, the Russians sent out another Stalin peace dove by convoking a World Trade Conference in Moscow (1-10 April 1952). On the basis of the idea that no shots will be fired as long as there is still trading going on across the borders, they succeeded in coaxing delegations of merchants and industrialists from almost all countries to come to Moscow, well-prepared by good technical and other propaganda. There were also delegations from the USA and from the Federal Republic.

Only after having overcome great difficulties was the latter delegation able to climb the Russian two-motor planes at the Russian airfield Berlin-Schoenefelde for their gratuitous return flight to Moscow. There were 22 West German participants in Moscow, although Herr Berg, President of the Federal Association of German Industries, had for political reasons advised against attending the World Trade Conference, and although West German economy should be, and always was, greatly interested in the revival of the East trade, because of the scarcity of Dollars in the Federal Republic. At least those of the twenty-two who wished to do business had reinsured themselves beforehand. When they asked high-ranking officials or politicians whether they would get a bad reputation if they would attend the conference, they received the classically wise answer: "If you ask me privately over a glass of wine, I'd tell you: jump at it! But officially I cannot recommend that you do so," which induced the most timid of the little souls among them to consult even the Agency for the Protection of the Constitution, which, after some hesitation, gave its protecting blessings to at least some of the lambs which meant to enter the lion's den.

The Munich lawyer Dr. Alfred Kroth, former communist delegate to the Frankfurt Economic Council, was one of the principal figures in the background who selected the participants in the Moscow Trade Conference, although he was not there himself. Kroth, who had been a prominent Nazi in Munich, had been whitewashed after 1945 by the KP, and was legitimated as an illegal KPD informant. This, of course, gave him full freedom of movement, the more so as for the Americans of the Morgenthau era the communist party -- newly established in 1945 -- and its functionaries were their democratic allies in their struggle against all national impulses of the German people.

It was not difficult for Dr. Kroth, in view of his excellent relations with the prominence of the Soviet zone -- which he still maintains -- to get hold of key positions in the interzonal trade, and his "Deutsche Handelsgesellschaft Ost-West" (German Trade Association East-West) in Dusseldorf did business running up to millions, as it is a trustee of the DWK (the former Deutsche Wirtschaftskommission - German Economic Committee), of Innerdeutscher Handel (All-German Trade), which is now

DIA, Deutscher Innen- und Aussenhandel der DDR (German Internal and Foreign Trade), and of the special associations L.W.V. (formerly DEAG) Chemifa, Meletex and China Corporation GmbH. However, it was surprising that the fuss often made in West Germany about Dr. Kroth's relations with, and business deals in, the East -- which often ended in measures being taken officially against his firm -- usually subsided soon, and that Dr. Kroth was still in a position to travel to Peking as a West German participant in a DDR Committee, despite the passport regulations so strictly enforced by the Americans.

However, as the East-West tension became more discernible in trade, it seemed advisable to withdraw from the limelights of publicity and to resume the former position of influential adviser of dummy, or newly established, associations, or of firms playing a prominent role in interzonal trade. Besides, the World Trade Conference was a welcome opportunity to get in touch with those firms who had long been waiting for the revival of trade with Russia, China, and Rumania. Dr. Kroth extended the invitations to prominent West German foreign trade firms, after having contacted the SED Central Secretariate, with Gregor, then State Secretary in the Ministry for Internal and Foreign Trade -- now Minister of Foreign Trade -- with the Preparatory Committee for the World Trade Conference which met in Copenhagen under the presidency of the Frenchman Chamberion, and with the agency in Berlin which took care of West German participants and whose manager was Ramlow, at the time temporary chief of the China Corporation GmbH in Berlin. After the return of the Moscow travellers, however, this nonobjective activity became highly realistic through the firm of Heise & Co., Munich-Berlin, he presented his bill for his mediation by demanding that that firm in future share in the business with the East and receive a commission for all kinds of transactions.

This demand startled especially those commercialists who, in going to Moscow, had had no intention to support communist groups. They had become aware that this firm which Kroth had newly established, whose economic adviser he was, and which had been well received on DDR and SED top level, was paid greatest attention and was given preference by DDR authorities. For instance, a consortium of highly important Swedish firms which was negotiating with the DDR, was prevailed upon by the Ministry of Foreign Trade -- State Secretary Gregor in this case to use Heise & Co. for the winding up of the transaction. This was the condition for the Ministry's signature to the transit agreement discussed for months, the value of which amounted to 115 million Swedish Crowns for both parties to the contract. The disgusted Swedes, who raised violent objections to such extortion, yielded in the end in view of the immense value of the agreement; they were rather bitter about this strange kind of "tax" which the DDR levied for the sake of a West German firm which had no part at all in the agreement, but was merely being coddled by the SED.

Sly Dr. Kroth had poked his nose also into projects of other big foreign firms by making cunning attacks, in order to procure for Heise the largest possible monopoly in the DDR foreign trade, for instance in the case of the Swiss firm Sandoz A.G., or in the case of the transactions in China of West German firms which at the time were handled by the China Corporation in Berlin.

However, when he, as the Grey Eminence of the West German trade with the East, was about to complete his work in the "Osttag", the battle broke out which unraveled the maze of the East West trade in a sensational manner. Namely, since all attempts of West German economy to do regular business, protected by trade agreements, with Russia, China and Rumania, had for years been frustrated for well-known political reasons, the "Osttag" (a work community of firms doing business with the East) which had been established in Moscow by seven West German firms, came out in public, while the conference was still going on, with the trade agreements which had been concluded by it and which caused an upheaval. The Osttag firms, on the basis of the contracts with Russia and China which already amounted to 400 million DM for both parties, wanted to secure for themselves the monopoly of the entire trade to be reopened with those countries; the Russians and the Chinese, in view of their centrally controlled foreign trade planning, were quick to give their consent through their experts Michin and Lu-hso-chang. That would have deprived all other West German firms of the possibility to do business with those countries; the more deplorable as it is common knowledge that contracts signed by eastern countries are carried out with minute precision.

No doubt people who were in the know wondered how Brannekaemper came to sail before such favorable eastern wind, since he had made first class contacts while he was in Frankfurt (in 1949). In his capacity of chief of the Frankfurt Sales Office of the Imhausen Plant in Witten/Ruhr, he had been introduced by the former nazi leader of lawyers in South Westphalia, Justizrat Dr. Roemer in Hagen, to the New York Lawyer Dr. Albrecht, whom the Imhausen firm had requested -- because of his good connections with Mr. McCloy, then High Commissioner -- to conduct the procedure concerning the so-called JEIA Pat Pot. Dr. Albrecht and the former Intelligence Chief in Mr. McCloy's staff, Ben Shute, were also in close contact with each other. Mr. Albrecht's connections with the nazi lawyer Roemer dated from the times when Roemer, together with the former SA bigshot Von Pfeffer and with State Secretary (ret.) Keppeler, was in touch with the US Delegation for War Debts which in 1936 stayed in Germany for a few weeks, and of which Mr. McCloy was a member; the latter had, prior to his appointment, sent several letters to Dr. Roemer inquiring after Von Pfeffer's health. Through Roemer and Imhausen-Brannekaemper, West German top industrialists gave Dr. Albrecht important commissions concerning decartellization and difficult special missions, and which required Dr. Albrecht's presence in Germany on various occasions. Through the Bonn office of the Imhausen Plant at Moltkestr. 7b, which in the meantime had been taken over by Brannekaemper, he was able to establish various connections; however, he attracted the attention of tax authorities by his all too generous expenditures, and their investigations uncovered the lists, so embarrassing for the Imhausen firm, concerning parcels sent to persons in high positions; and in the course of those investigations two members of the Section Chemistry in the Federal Ministry for Economics toppled from their pedestals. In addition, Brannekaemper was the manager of the Bochumer Chemikalien- und Handelskontor (Office for Chemicals and Trade), which

had been established by sunnies, but was strongly backed by the Imhausen firm; sumptuous banquets were arranged in the Park Hotel in Dahlem or at the Leipzig Fair to which Herr Freund of the West Berlin Greif firm was invited who exerts great influence over Orlopp, and after the banquets the Bochumer Chemikalien- und Handelskontor became the leading interzonal enterprise and offered Brannekaemper a basis for his activities in the East.

The protocol of the foundation in Moscow of the Ostag, dated 7 April 1952, stated that it consists solely of firms which are not politically tied to the eastern partners either on their own behalf or through their representatives. However, both Dr. Kroth's friends Otto Schulte-Frohlinde (of Rex Handelsgesellschaft, Golsenkirchen-Bochum), and Fritz Brannekaemper (Bochumer Chemikalien und Handelskontor, and Imhausen-Werke, Witten), were prominent managers of leading interzonal firms. And they were the ones who tried to exert influence over the course taken by the "Ostag", after having discussed the matter with their "Friend Alfred" (Kroth), thus trying to seize the reins. After an agitated meeting in Berlin, at which the Frankfurt importer Van Hasebrouck joined forces with them, they succeeded in having a resolution adopted saying that cooperation with the West-East specialist Dr. Kroth was considered desirable as he is indispensable because of his excellent connections with BDR and Kominform countries. While the independent Ostag members were still holding counsel about how to escape from the political ties with the East which Dr. Kroth and his followers had imposed upon their business dealings, their opposite numbers began displaying their eastern power. They categorically prevented BIA-Chemicals from offering mineral oils, which were needed at the time, to firms which were not desirous to follow Kroth's course. Freund, Orlopp's prominent delegate for interzonal trade declared: "Go and see Herr Brannekaemper, he is the one to distribute chemical contingents!" In addition, the new director of the China Corporation, "BVG-Knapp", stopped all negotiations on the China trade not conducted through Ostag or in the presence of Dr. Kroth or his deputy, Fraulein Heise. Despite this display of power, the proprietors of the firms Georg Hoovermann, Hamburg; Ludwig Krume AG, Offenbach; and Atlas GmbH, Munich -- all three of them belonging to the founders of the Ostag in Moscow -- decided that they would rather abstain from dealings with the East altogether than to sit down in a bus with remote control system worked by the East, which would make them lose face in the West as independent and politically neutral businessmen. Besides, anybody could easily visualize that trade with the East, tainted by propaganda and tabooed as it would be if such heavy political obligations to the East should be imposed upon it as demonstrated by Kroth and Brannekaemper, would be even more closely watched by the Americans, and might even be prevented altogether. However, in order to fill the dollar gap of which West German economy is suffering since 1945 without a hope for definite recovery (although lately there have been indications of improving health), it was necessary to treat the new trade with the East carefully as it had blossomed a little too soon due to the Ostag agreements concluded in Moscow; dangers must be averted, the more so as the competition is not very happy about it.

Therefore, the point was to find out whether the eastern nations, especially China and Russia, adhere to the principle applied in the DDR of giving priority to political groups, or politically tainted groups, in trade. If so, the Ostag group steered by Kroth would doubtlessly have been able to set up a monopoly, and that was what they were after. While the Chinese played that game for several months, and tried seriously to intercalate their East German representation, the China Export Corporation, as a turntable for all West German Ostag dealings, the Russians stuck to their usual impenetrable practice. They received, in the Russian Trade Mission in Brunnenstrasse, not only Ostag representatives but all kinds of other West German businessmen as well.

Among them was Dr. Emil Hoffmann, Berlin-Schoeneberg, representative of prominent Foreign Trade enterprises in Sweden and West Germany; he explained to Martinow, President of the Russian Trade Mission that trade between Russia and West Germany has a chance to be put into practice only if political obligations are not made a condition. A few days afterwards, Martinow authorized him to inform his friends of the opinion of Michin, the President of the Ministry for Foreign Trade in Moscow, that the USSR wishes to enter into business dealings with West Germany on a completely unpolitical basis. That made an end, at least as far as the Russians are concerned, to the monopoly plans of Kroth's Ostag friends; the Russians, despite the Ostag agreements concluded in Moscow, started on separate barter arrangements in which priority questions of Ostag test cases, or political imponderables, do not come up.

This attitude helped considerably to explain to West Germany the situation concerning the East trade. There the remaining friends of Kroth in the Ostag group, especially Brannekaemper, Van Hasebrouck, and Brecht (the latter is a protégé of Ambassador Dr. Kroll, head of the East-West section in Department V of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs, now Ambassador in Belgrad) had made an attempt to induce the most important West German East trade firms to cooperate. On the other hand, those of the firms which disliked the eastern ties of that group, aside from considering other business aspects, had enough experience to refuse to place their interests into the hands of the "Ostag" which had suddenly dropped from the sky. Dr. Emil Hoffmann, one of the speakers of that group, stirred up the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Association for East Asia, and prominent economists and journalists in West Germany, with the idea to reduce the lack of dollars in West Germany by an increase of trade with the East, and to make it impossible for anti-East trade groups of Germans and Allies to prevent trade with Russia and China by placing politically independent firms. The manifold proof on hand that the Ostag is the Trojan Horse of German East trade caused even men like Dr. Kroll to surrender. Therefore, it was no surprise that the China agreements of the Ostag were also rejected by authorities, so that the road was cleared for the direct dealings already on the way. The principles for those dealings with Russia, China, and Rumania had already been worked out in negotiations conducted for months between the Federal

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Ministry for Economic Affairs, Federal Association of German Industry, Congress of Industry and Trade, East Asiatic Association. To this end, the East Committee of West German Economy, presided over by Dr. Reuter (DEMAG) was established as a mediator, replacing the Ostag idea of monopolization.

Dr. Kroth and Brannekaemper threatened publicly that they would see to it that Dr. Hoffmann would disappear from Berlin, because they considered him to be one of the principal wirepullers who induced the Russian and West German governments to decide against the Ostag. A few days after the efforts of the Ostag had collapsed, and after the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs had rejected the Ostag China deal, Dr. Hoffmann was prevented by the German police (on 31 July 1952) from flying to Frankfurt from Tempelhof Airfield. Despite his violent protests, his passport, his interzonal pass, and even his Berlin Identification Card were taken from him by order of the Americans. Upon intervention of Hoffmann's lawyer Yersin, his Identification Card was returned to him the next day by Section II of the Polizeipraesidium; but passport and interzonal pass were retained. The lawyer, who had much trouble in getting as far as the Combined Travel Board, was not informed of the reason for that measure; he was merely informed that it was an instruction issued by their highest authority.

Only when Hoffmann's Frankfurt friends, using all their connections, succeeded in contacting American counterintelligence agencies, did some of the truth come out in regard to this gross violation of constitutional liberties. There was talk of Hoffmann having put his foot in and having impeded American highest level interests. After several attempts US CIC official Williams (a cover name), was found willing to hear Hoffmann so that the interzonal pass was issued for which he had applied at the District Office in Schmoeberg. In this conference, to which Dr. Kuehle from Frankfurt accompanied Hoffmann as a witness, Mr. Williams said that Hoffmann had found the bomb which they had placed in the house which they had erected with so much trouble, and that, by sounding an alarm, he had rendered the bomb useless. When Hoffmann asked how he was supposed to have known, Mr. Williams answered that in the long run there would be no more uncontrolled and unpolitical trade with the eastern countries. "If there should be somebody in future who is unwilling to cooperate with us in such dealings, we shall know how to deal with him. That applies to you too; or we shall see to it that you disappear from Berlin!"

Hoffmann's negative reaction to this advice had the result that the interzonal pass was again retained. This restriction of his personal freedom of movement and of his work was hardly sufficient to paralyze the transactions of a businessman in the East-West trade; all his West German or foreign customers or business friends would have to do is to travel to Berlin to discuss matters with him there -- which would be to the benefit of the hotels. However, a few weeks later he was almost knocked out by an unexpected low hit dealt him by an unknown fist. Photostats of reports allegedly made by Hoffmann, addressed to US agencies, and concerning highly secret events in the DDR Foreign Trade had been made and played into the hands of the DDR State Security Service. An impartial person informed Hoffmann of

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this dangerous manipulation and convinced the umpires that quite obviously there was foul play and that false accusations must have been made; otherwise it would surely have taken a long time for him to get up from the floors of the Red Cellars.

During the American blockade against him, Dr. Hoffmann, who lives in the immediate vicinity of the Berlin Liberty Bell at present, fills his hours, accompanied by the tinkling of the Clay Bell, with the collecting of Censorship stamps on his mail (even on obituary notices) and with collecting soiled and half-torn, or otherwise damaged, envelopes without Censorship stamps; and with listening to the noise the steel tape makes in his telephone which is being watched according to the provisions of Art. 7(e) of the Occupation Statute. It is a comfort to him to know that the Polizeipraesidium in Berlin (Section II) -- although covered by telegraphic instruction from the Federal Ministry of Interior in Bonn -- was forced by order of the Combined Travel Board to deprive Dr. Hoffmann once more of his passport which had also been issued in Berlin; and that the Legal Office of the Berlin Senate received no answer from the Americans upon their inquiry why a German citizen, good taxpayer, with no previous convictions, with a stainless record, and not participating in political or party activities, should, in the maze of their East-West Cold War, be deprived of the most simple civic rights.

(Dr.H.)

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