

AIR

ROB 39600

Chief, KB

25 Feb 1957

Chief of Base, Berlin

INFO: COS/G

Operational/INFORM []
Besique Progress Report

Reference: EGB 11997

Introduction:

1. During the period since the last progress report [] has held two meetings with Besique, both of which have been satisfactory from the standpoint of Besique's attitude in general toward the case officer, but neither of which has produced any great amount of worthwhile positive intelligence. This situation, however, should not be blamed on Besique. His business with satellite areas has simply fallen off to the point where there is practically nothing to report. An analysis of CIS intercepts of Besique's correspondence and telephone calls by [] verifies this. As Besique himself expressed it he sees black for the future of his trade with Poland and other satellite areas. Apparently Besique is drying up as a Sedex source and unless there is a drastic change in the East/West trade picture, at least where it concerns Besique, it looks as though his value to Kubark will continue to decrease to the point of no return. Of course it is still too early to make a definite decision in this regard. According to Besique much depends upon whether the Poles obtain a loan from the U.S. and just how this loan, if granted, will effect trade between Poland and West Germany. Besique pointed out that West Berlin is the step-child in West German trade with satellite areas. West Berlin was not taken into consideration in the trade agreements presently existing between the German Federal Republic and Poland, and consequently West Berlin firms get only the overflow, so to speak, from West Germany, when they are lucky enough to get anything at all. The exception to this, according to Besique, is

Attachment: 1 SCA

APPROVED:

Handwritten:
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11997

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Assessment:

20. Up to the present [] has ascertained nothing positive that would cause [] to doubt Besique's intentions vis-a-vis Kubark. Besique has always been very friendly, although [] sometimes gets the impression Besique seems to be avoiding issues rather than bringing them into the open. From telephone intercepts there can be little doubt but that Besique still has some sort of contact with Horst KIRKES of KIRKES kidnap fame, however, the significance of this contact has completely escaped the case officer up to the present. There is no way of knowing from the intercepts whether the contact is direct or indirect, and whether it is social, business, or intelligence, or a combination of all three, in nature. In this connection another point which came to light through telephone intercepts is the fact that Besique is also acquainted with Dr. Emil Fridolin HOFFMANN, who was also somehow involved in the KIRKES kidnap matter. From the telephone intercepts, however, it is clear that Besique does not think very highly of HOFFMANN.

21. Only the future can tell whether Besique will continue to be of value to the Kubark/Sedex program. As [] has already remarked it is much too early to write final to the Besique contact, however, it would appear that the next six months should tell the story one way or the other.

Positive Intelligence:

22. The positive intelligence aspects of this report will be reported separately.

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