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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT DISPATCH NO. EGLA 20264

DATE 2005

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TO : Chief, EE

DATE: 6 August 1956

FROM : Chief of Base, Pullach

INFO: COS/Germany
COS/Austria

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational/CART/SANITZER

SPECIFIC— Further background: Johann BIRKNER, Victor de LATRY, Ferdinand JOKSCH

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1. UPSWING has passed us the following additional information concerning subjects, who are reportedly friends of Johann SANITZER and are suspected of having had SRIS ties.

a. BIRKNER, Johann. Retired electrical engineer and chief inspector; born 1 January 1903 in Vienna; Austrian citizen; no religious affiliation; married to Klothilde, nee POPPERA, born 25 May 1904 in Vienna; children - Ingrid, Astrid and Sigrid. Has lived in Wien XIII, Veitingerstr. 135/7/10 since 11 May 1954. BIRKNER's name was originally BRYCKA, and was Germanized in 1941. BIRKNER was in the police service before 1934 and transferred to the Vienna Gestapo in 1938, where he was first assigned to Referat II G as Administrative Officer entrusted with the granting of gun and hunting licenses. He took the Police Inspector test and became an SS Obersturmfuehrer assigned by the Gestapo in Vienna to different Referats. Finally he came to the Referat for the "Bekaempfung der politisierenden Kirche" where he received confidential information and associated with secret agents. After successfully passing his examination, he was assigned as a Criminal Commissar in the Exekutivdienst, however, his activity remains as before.

JOHANN

Towards the end of the war, BIRKNER was still an SS Obersturmfuehrer and moved with his office from Vienna to the West. After the war BIRKNER was first interned in Camp M. W. ORR (Glasenbach) and was then sentenced by the Vienna court (Landgericht), and was imprisoned from 11 June 1947 to 22 December 1948. He was allegedly sentenced to 18 months hard labor by the Volksgerichtshof in Vienna. His apartment in Wien XXI and his furniture was expropriated. After he was released he had occupational difficulties, but finally found a position in an electrical appliance firm which he reportedly occupies to date.

BIRKNER is described as a man who is interested in his own personal advantage, however, he is not reported to be unfriendly. Technically, he appears to be a useful and not unclever officer.

His political behavior was subjected to some changes. Until 1934 he was reputed to be a convinced Social Democrat and member of this Party. In

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1938 he became an illegal National Socialist. How much he was actually active for the illegal NSDAP or whether he made up this story is not known. BIRKNER reportedly ^{was} feared by his neighbors in Vienna until 1945 since he threatened denunciation and arrest by the Gestapo on every occasion. Nothing definite is known about his political activity since 1945.

b. de LATRY, Victor. French Swiss, allegedly a journalist, supposed to have been arrested by the Soviets in Germany. He is probably identical with the Victor de LATRY known to us (UPSWING), who was imprisoned in Buchenwald until 1950 and there allegedly belonged to the staff. De LATRY is said to be a known SPIS informant by statements of various Heimkehrers. It was also asserted that he is homo-sexual. De LATRY had, while in the Soviet Union, made contact with the imprisoned secretary of (Dr) Otto BEGUS, Marga RESCHL, and was also in touch with the late returnee (Spaetheimkehrerin) Ernestine BARTALHAUSNER of Vienna who is notorious as a criminal. De LATRY also kept in touch occasionally with a (Countess) Ruediger ADELMANN (also a late returnee) in Adelmansfelden Kreis Aalen/Fed Rep with whom he is reportedly friendly. De LATRY is without doubt an enemy suspect.

c. JOKSCH, Ferdinand. Zollexpeditor, born 20 December 1906 in Vienna, Austria. Austrian citizen, married to Aloisia nee WOHASEK (born 11 January 1921 in Vienna). Has lived in Vienna XVIII, Paulinengasse 18-20/2/2/8 since 10 December 1954. His first wife was Josefine AICNER and he lived with her in Vienna II. This marriage broke up after 1945 for unknown reasons.

JOKSCH was with the Vienna police long before 1938 and transferred to the Gestapo in Vienna after the "Anschluss", where he was assigned for a long time to Referat II A, later IV A, where he dealt with leftist groups (Communists, Socialists). His duties consisted of searching for and arresting illegal Socialists. JOKSCH occasionally worked together with BIRKNER and there is no doubt that they knew each other closely. JOKSCH was entrusted for a short time with the leadership of the Gestapo Aussendienststelle St. Poelten and in connection with this was promoted to Criminal Obersekretaer. He was, however, shortly thereafter ordered back to Vienna.

JOKSCH appears to be an above average intelligence officer and was well evaluated by his superiors. Apparently he was contemplating a career as a leading official, however, this was interrupted by the war. Because of his forthright manner and his comraderie JOKSCH was well liked by his comrades. He was a fanatical Nazi and believed always in the final German victory. He was a holder of the Hitler Youth decoration. It was astonishing, therefore, that JOKSCH remained at large in 1945 and was frequently seen in Vienna. He changed his appearance by growing a pointed beard and wore dark glasses. He was even seen in a Soviet-occupied area in the II. Bezirk and claimed he had a job as an installer (or plumber). The rumor soon spread that JOKSCH was in the service of the Soviets. No concrete evidence for this allegation was established, but it is still doubtful that a man such as JOKSCH could move so freely in the Soviet Zone of Vienna. In later years JOKSCH was taken into custody by the Austrian authorities, because a person who alleged he was a

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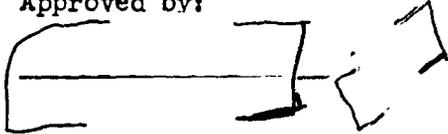
fellow prisoner of JOKSCH had reported that he had been mistreated by JOKSCH. Although JOKSCH swore that he had nothing to do with the charges, he was allegedly sentenced to 5 months in prison. No exact proof concerning this is available. It is noted, however, that JOKSCH was imprisoned in the Landgericht Wien I from 16 March until 22 May 1950 under the Verbots-gesetz and war crimes law.

JOKSCH has been in the position of Zollexpeditior for some time now with the KIRCHNER and Co. Transportunternehmen in the Westbahnhof branch. Thanks to this position he is allegedly free from all economic worries. (i.e. he is engaged in smuggling or permits it).

The suspicion that JOKSCH worked under compulsion for the Soviets after 1945 is confirmed by UPSWING.

2. These traces are forwarded for your information since they provide further background provided by UPSWING of individuals suspected of still having possible connections to the SRIS. Any further information coming to your attention providing positive proof of a Soviet connection would be appreciated by UPSWING.

Approved by:



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