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OPERATIONAL/CAL

Contact Report of 30 October 1952 -- Meeting with
 KIBITZ-15

1. As per prior arrangement, KIBITZ-15 was met at Munich at 11:00 on the morning of 30 October 1952 and subsequently driven in an operational car to our new safehouse at Wessling, 25 miles west of Munich. Over coffee before starting for the safehouse and during almost the entire trip to the safehouse, we discussed the affair RANKE. KIBITZ-15's entire attitude can be expressed briefly by saying that he considers it "such a-~~do~~ about nothing". He emphasized this point by saying that RANKE speeches were very reasonable except for the one sentence, "The Allied flyers were the war criminals....." He went on in this vein mentioning several times that the majority of the people did not read through the entire speech. I expressed my views on the speech by saying that RANKE, in making a public address, was responsible for each word and each sentence in his address, especially when such a speech was given at the first public post war meeting of former SS-men. KIBITZ-15 agreed, but again said that the entire affair was being over-emphasized by the press. I countered by saying that this speech of RANKE's certainly would not help in getting the idea of German Army participation in the EDC accepted abroad. KIBITZ-15 did not quite agree with this, saying in effect, that the German Army could do no wrong and that RANKE was certainly not a true representative of the Wehrmacht. Continuing his defense, KIBITZ-15 called to my attention "the very nice speeches" made by SS Obergruppenfuehrer Gille and ex-SS General Hauser, both of whom, KIBITZ-15 pointed out, castigated RANKE publicly for his utterances.

2. We arrived at Wessling just in time for lunch which gave me my first chance to meet KIBITZ-221, and from the way the discussion went between him and KIBITZ-15, it appeared they also had never met more than for a very few minutes previously. (KIBITZ-15 had told me previously that KIBITZ-221 knew him only as Walter.)

3. KIBITZ-221 gave me the impression of being a very intelligent man, much above the average in the KIBITZ-15 show. Both KIBITZ-15 and I interrogated him on his background (I, in an effort to check on his PBQ). The following interesting points were brought out:

a. KIBITZ-221 had been assigned from 1940 to 1944 to the OKW Liaison Section to the Italian Army where he had a position of interpreter/translator; he had had concentrated courses in Italian under Wehrmacht auspices

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

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at the outbreak of the war, having previously had some schooling in Italian.

b. His military specialty was that of an anti-aircraft officer in which capacity he helped train Italian AA units.

c. In 1944, he was moved from Italy to the Eastern front where he was captured by the Russians at the end of the war and subsequently spent five years as a prisoner-of-war working in the coal mines of central Russia.

d. As was illustrated in discussions with me, his command of the English language is remarkable. When asked where he learned English, he said that as a prisoner-of-war he and a couple of friends acquired a German-English dictionary which they used to pass away the long hours. KIBITZ-221, who had had some English in school, then told me that although he had no chance to speak English he still studied it and listened to AFN and BBC. I might note here that KIBITZ-221's English grammar and vocabulary are excellent.

e. KIBITZ-221 asks many questions about operational matters and/or has a caustic remark to pass on many subjects. For example, when [] returned to the safehouse to spend a Sunday afternoon there so that [] (W/T instructor) could have some free time, KIBITZ-221 remarked in words to the effect: "Now you're going to be the baby sitter".

h. KIBITZ-221, after luncheon, returned to W/T training and KIBITZ-15 and I took up operational problems. In discussing the case of KIBITZ-177, I told KIBITZ-15 his request for our financial support, to the tune of 8,000 DM, was entirely out of the question because I saw no reasonable explanation KIBITZ-177 could give to any inquiries as to his source of such a sum. KIBITZ-15 said he agreed now and that KIBITZ-177 was having some success in securing this amount on a personal note. He asked, however, if we might be able later to give him (KIBITZ-177) a little help, say 1,000 or 2,000 DM. I also said this was out of the question at least for the present. KIBITZ-15 replied that we would let the matter drop for the time being and see what KIBITZ-177 was able to do, on his own, about legally rounding up the required money. (KIBITZ-177 was evidently able to get his option extended on the purchase of the Gasthaus (see EOPA-344 and 345).)

5. The case of KIBITZ-182 was then taken up. I had kidded KIBITZ-15 (see EOPA-345) on the suspicion that KIBITZ-182 had her "eye" on him. KIBITZ-15 reported that he had met her on Sunday, 26 October, and had discussed her operational status vs personal relationships. KIBITZ-15 admitted that KIBITZ-182 had made a small "play" for him, but that he had straightened up the matter by bluntly saying that he was not interested and that their relationship was strictly on an operational basis. KIBITZ-15 is still planning on establishing KIBITZ-182 as a secretary in Wiesbaden or Frankfurt area once she is a trained W/T operator. I told him that she needed at least another month's training and that any plans for sending her to secretarial school (his idea, our expense) and getting her set up in a private apartment (at our expense)

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would have to be held in abeyance until her training was completed. He agreed.

6. We next discussed the case of KIBITZ-171. KIBITZ-15 expressed disappointment that he could not be emigrated immediately. I told him the entire matter was being taken care of best possible and that if we could not emigrate him soon, we would get him a temporary job on the German economy. I also told KIBITZ-15 that he should not contact KIBITZ-171 again and that all future contact would be left up to Mr. Hendricks (← →).

7. KIBITZ-15 then reported that KIBITZ-127 had finished the first sofa with secret compartments for W/T equipment and that he planned to give this sofa to KIBITZ-156 since he had finished training.

8. The old problem of PRQs was then discussed and KIBITZ-15 assured me that PRQs for KIBITZ-120 would be given to me at the next meeting. He then handed me a PRQ for KIBITZ-181 who is now scheduled to be team leader of W/T operator KIBITZ-180. KIBITZ-181 thus takes the place of KIBITZ-128 who does not have the time to be active in the operation at the present. Details of this change will be explained in a separate memo.

9. In compliance with my request of mid-October that KIBITZ-15 furnish me a list of the active members of the Net and those that were dropped, I was given a list entitled "der aktiven Geschaeftsfreunde". The list contained the names of 63 individuals plus two or three tentative ones who are considered active in the KIBITZ-15 Net. We do not have PRQs on all of these. I definitely told KIBITZ-15 that there would be no more recruitment of new individuals or additions to this list, and that PRQs were required of all those on the list. As a placating factor to this reduction in the "Colonel's" regiment, I added that new agents might be considered after the first of the year. I might remark here that this is considered good progress in cutting down KIBITZ-15's expansionist ideas.

10. We then got into a discussion on establishing a salary for various individuals in the operation. KIBITZ-15 stated that he would like to have pay for KIBITZ-156, 161, 177, 182 and 127 (all W/T operators) who have nearly finished training, and for KIBITZ-137 and 132 who are his assistants or leg men. I told him that this was probably a good idea, but needed further discussion. However, I expressed the thought that those W/T operators who finished training should then be given some kind of monthly gratuity or holding pay and KIBITZ-15 agreed. We decided to discuss this further before making any definite proposals. I mentioned that any steady payments would have to be approved by my "Washington headquarters".

11. [] and I then drove KIBITZ-15 and KIBITZ-221 back to Munich where KIBITZ-15 departed on his own, after arranging to meet me in Heidelberg on 6 November. [] and I then took KIBITZ-221 to dinner as I wished to question him privately on what he knew about KIBITZ-15 and our operations. Results of this discussion will be taken up in a separate report.

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