

19 January 1953

Subject: Dr. Kurt KNOLL sr. and jr.

1. There is an intelligence contact between Dr. Kurt WESSELY* and (Dr. Kurt KNOLL sr. and jr.)
2. Dr. Kurt KNOLL sr., dob 29 October 1889, presently residing in Mondsee, was a professor for English language and literature at the Vienna Hochschule fuer Welthandel, where he was rector during Nazi time. An old NSDAP member he worked for the party intelligence already during its illegal time. He was also a member of SD, his last rank was SS-Standartenfuehrer. He specialized in reporting on personalities of the social and economic life in Austria and thereby became very influential within Nazi personnel policy in Austria. During World War II he lived in Vienna, but moved to the west shortly before the end of the war. He then was pardoned by the Bundespräsident on paragraph 27, Verbotsgesetz 47; he abstained from party politics, but became active with "Sudetendeutsche Landsmannschaft", an organization extending over both Austria and Germany. He is believed to be an intimate friend of former Prague senator (Dr. TUDGLAN-AUSEN, an outstanding leader of Sudetendeutsche. Possibly in connection with his activity for "Landsmannschaft", KNOLL sr. frequently travels to Germany, mainly Bonn. **
3. In 1948, Dr. Kurt WESSELY introduced Dr. Kurt KNOLL sr. to Dr. Emerick OFFCZAREK***, dob 15 July 1914 in Vienna, Austrian citizen, Roman Catholic, then living at Unterach, Upper Austria, present address Salzburg, Wüstenrotstrasse 8, c/o GAMSJÄGER. OFFCZAREK employed Dr. Kurt KNOLL with his intelligence group as a reporter on Austrian personalities. Later KNOLL also submitted at regular intervals synopses on Austrian economics and home affairs. In 1949 OFFCZAREK gave rooms of his Mondsee house to KNOLL.

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4. WESSELY also holds contact with Dr. Kurt KNOLL jr., who closely collaborates with his father. Dr. Kurt KNOLL jr., dob 14 June 1919 in Vienna, residing in Linz, Glimpfingerstrasse 163, is an employee of the Linzer Eisenhandels-gesellschaft m.b.H., Figulystrasse 32, a VOEST-affiliated enterprise. Since he is a candidate of the Communist-sponsored "Einheitsliste", he is considered a Communist party member. Close contact exists between Dr. Kurt KNOLL sr. and his son, with whom he discusses all intelligence matters. It has hitherto not been clearly established, whether Dr. Kurt KNOLL jr. is a Communist agent in charge of spying on western intelligence groups, or if he was ordered by his father and OFFCZAREK to join the Communist party in order to report on internal party proceedings. Information submitted by KNOLL jr. is considered by OFFCZAREK allegedly poor and little reliable.

*Comment: (Dr. Kurt WESSELY, dob 29 March 1906 in Linz, Austrian citizen, Roman catholic, married, residing in Linz, Kommunalgasse 5/2, formerly Domgasse 14, is Upper Austrian representative of "Salzburger Nachrichten" and a contributor to "Wiener Kurier". (For communication he uses the Linz U.S. Information Center's teletype-writer.) WESSELY also works for the OFFCZAREK group; he reports on Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Austrian home and economic affairs. For years he has also been suspected of working for Soviet intelligence. For this reason he was formally dismissed by OFFCZAREK in 1951; inofficially he carries on work for OFFCZAREK with KNOLL sr. as liaison. He is known to have held contact with Soviet agents Dr. Otto BEGUS and, possibly, Dr. Friedrich THALER, of Kufstein.

** When returning from Vienna early in 1951, Dr. Kurt KNOLL sr. was arrested by the Soviets at the zonal border near Euns, but was released after a several hours investigation and brought to Euns by automobile.

*** Dr. Emerich OFFCZAREK, a former member of the illegal Austrian SS, was active with Vienna SD prior to 1938. During the war he served with Abwehr first in Bratislava with IIIP affairs, later with the Russian auxiliary volunteer troops. In spring 1947 he became employed with a U.S.-sponsored German indigenous intelligence organization and soon became chief of a group operating in Austria. In July 1951 his group became partly dissolved, but he retained a rest group on a smaller scale.

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