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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2008

AIR

EGQW-6295

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Chief of Mission, Frankfurt
Attention: Chief of Base/Pullach
Chief, EE

Operational
TOPHOLE/ZIPPER

RKF - FULL 5376, paragraph 4

1. POB's reaction to the first sentence of SALZ 1157 was indeed justified, and was identical with Headquarters' reaction to the same matter. Apparently the general misunderstanding was due to the unfortunate choice of words in the ODIBEX cable. The "recent conference" consisted of a telephone call from the ODIBEX TOPHOLE case officer to the Headquarters TOPHOLE case officer requesting permission for ODIBEX to inform USAREUR of TOPHOLE leads in Germany uncovered through the investigation of Willi HOETTL. During the conversation, no reference was made to any specific individual in Germany, and no reference was made to ZIPPER. Naturally, Headquarters had no objection to briefing USAREUR on pertinent aspects of this case.

2. Headquarters had no indication that this telephone conversation would be described as a "conference on attempts to penetrate ZIPPER" until the arrival of SALZ 1157. Apparently USFA cabled to ODIBEX the contents of the SALZ dispatch forwarded here as an attachment to EASA-961, and the ODIBEX representative was referring to this report when he contacted Headquarters. Since EASA-961 had not arrived here at the time of the telephone call, Headquarters was unaware that USFA had been advised of ZIPPER's involvement in the TOPHOLE case, and there was no reason to discuss ZIPPER at this time.

3. Thus, there was no "conference" here on ZIPPER, and it was not specifically agreed to inform USAREUR on the ZIPPER aspects of this case, although we all concur that this step should be taken. We regret the misunderstanding involved, but, as it may be seen, we were unable to avoid it.

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9 April 1953

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