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1047 CFCWU

JUN 15 1951

SUBJECT: Results of Field Check - LCHOMELY - Subject of 719-CFCWU

TO: Chief, BGRHYTHM
Washington, D. C.

INFO: Chief []
Att: []

Att: []

Reference: 719-CFCWU

Forwarded, under separate cover, are three copies of the
results of a field check conducted on subject.

[]

Encl (S.C.)
Report (3)

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3028
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

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Aleksel KURGVEL

A records check was conducted on above named subject individual by the Security Section in accordance with Security Memorandum No. 7. Results of these checks are given below:

1. A search of the CIC central and local files, KPD and subversive files revealed no information.
2. A search of the EUCOM Intelligence Division files revealed no information.
3. The EUCOM CID criminal and fingerprint files were checked and revealed no information.
4. The DAD files were searched and contained the following (MGKA-29498, 22 May 1951)

"A professional Estonian staff officer with a knowledge of wireless and signals who has had five years experience during the war with the German and Finnish Intelligence. He worked as a w/f specialist for NEUMANN and trained agents to be dropped in Estonia and Latvia. He has not been enlisted for operational work because of doubts about the security of his war-time associate, NEUMANN, who is probably known to Soviet authorities.

"Former Estonian Military Intelligence officer, in charge of contacts with foreign Military Attaches in pre-war Estonia, among them the Military Attache in the U.S. legation. He worked for the Abwehr in Finland from 1941 to 1943 and with NEUMANN in 1944 and 1945 mounting plane and boat expeditions to Estonia and Latvia. KURGVEL recruited personnel and was in charge of the w/t. He now lives in Estonian DP Camp Linger. KURGVEL offered his services to the U.S. through an army officer (U.S.) known to him before the war.

"Following is information from our files on Col. W. SAARSEN, also listed as a friend and associate of subject:

"a. A report (X-9344-MGH-003-124), dated 14 February 1947, stated that Colonel Saarsen was one of ONODERA's closest collaborators in 1938 in a joint undertaking between the Japanese and the Estonian Intelligence Services to obtain information about Russia. This was at the time ONODERA was Military Attache in Riga. Saarsen succeeded Colonel Maasing as head of the Estonian I.S. and had sources in Russia. After the invasion of Estonia by the Russians (June 1940), Saarsen went to Germany and worked in the Abwehr. When the Estonian Legion was formed in Finland, he was offered its command, but refused because of a disagreement over Estonian freedom of decision and action. In the winter of 1944, the German placed him in command of a Baltic unit which was being formed to fight the Russians in Poland. During all this time he kept in touch with ONODERA, who furnished him with money from the Japanese I.S.

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Intelligence Fund in Sweden. Because of Saarsen's excellent contacts with the Poles (his wife is Polish), ONODERA had hoped to bring him to Stockholm to replace a Polish I.S. officer who worked for ONODERA as his "Chief of Staff" until spring 1944. However, Saarsen never got to Sweden. A Alexander CELLARIUS (see information on him below) in 1942 tried unsuccessfully to persuade him to work for the German I.S. against the Poles. ONODERA stated that although Saarsen is too old for active work, he still enjoys great prestige among Estonian Army officers.

"b. A report, dated 6 July 1946, stated that one of the most important officers in the Abwehr was Colonel. W. Saarsen, who until 1940 was Chief of Abt. II of the Estonian General Staff. At the time of the report, he was in a camp at Luebeck. He was one of the best Estonian officers and was formerly Estonian Military Attache in Riga. He had a great district, namely the Dorpat to the Peipus Lake and along it, and at the same time was leading National Defense officer. This district had, particularly on the Peipus Lake, a strong Russian population and was therefore covered with partisans, Communists, and parachute agents by the Russians.

"c. MGKW-5347, dated 28 June 1950, reported that Col. Wilhelm Saarsen was former Military Attache in Riga where he was a close collaborator of ONODERA. He succeeded Col. Richard MASSING as head of the Estonian I.S. in October 1939. He also worked for the Germans and has excellent connections with the Poles. According to ONODERA. Although too old for active work, he still enjoys great prestige among Estonian Army officers.

"Following is information from our files on Alexander CELLARIUS, listed as an associate of subject: (WPPA-7049, 12 Feb 1951)

CELLARIUS, who has established himself as the Bonn representative of KUEHNE and NAGEL (an important German transportation firm) has been receiving special favors from the German authorities. An attractive apartment was found for him in Bonn immediately, which is almost an impossibility for a German, and he obtained delivery within 24 hours of a teletype, for which other Germans had to wait eight months.

"All this confirms source's opinion that CELLARIUS has been chose by ADENAUER and General Hans SPEIDEL (who is a good friend of CELLARIUS) as one of the chiefs of the German secret intelligence.

"On 7 February, in Paris, we asked [] if he had known subject during subject's visits to Finland during the war. Source stated that though he had never met him personally, he has heard of him at great length and holds the highest opinion of his intelligence potentialities, considering him one of the fifteen or twenty top intelligence men in Europe.

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"In this connection, he told us that in 1942, subject organized a joint German-Finish operation -- "OPERATION ERNA" -- which consisted of establishing a clandestine radio station and propaganda center in Finland. From this base, not only propaganda broadcasts were aimed at Estonia, but also infiltration groups were trained and briefed.

"Source furthermore told us that in 1944-1945, when Finland had come to terms with Russia, on special orders of Marshal MANNERHEIM and with the assistance of CELLARIUS all the secret archives of the Finish SI were clandestinely transferred to Sweden, and buried there secretly; to source's knowledge, they are still there. This was the "STELLA POLARIS" operation, q.f., and CELLARIUS was one of the advisers. Source claims that these Finnish archives contained not only military information but also tremendous amounts of information on Russian industrial and armament potentialities, and secret intelligence on England and the United States which the Finns wished to prevent from falling into Russian hands.

"In conversation with Mrs. EUBLEME on 9 February in Paris, we also brought up subject's name because she had taken an active part in the preparation of the 1944 July Putsch against Hitler. She remembered him immediately as one of the men who played a role in this Putsch, and spoke with great respect of his outstanding personality. She also volunteered the information that he is now in Bonn as a friend of ADENAUER."

COMMENTS:

Based on information received, subject appears to be an old hand in the intelligence field and quite closely connected with influential intelligence operators such as Cellarius and Saarsen. From all indications, Cellarius appears to have been chosen by Adenauer and Spiedel for an important post in the West German intelligence service now being formed.

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