

S E C R E T

Station: Berlin Registry No: MGB-1342
Reference: AB 57 Operation's No: BSC/Ops/008
Source: Gull Report Date: 24 December 1946
Subsource: Frau FECHNER Information Date: Current
Evaluation: B Date Info Received: 30 Nov 46
SUBJECT: SPHINK PROJECT: INTERVIEW WITH FRAU FECHNER (FNU).

1. This is the sixth of a series of reports dealing with the project wherein source will attempt a comprehensive survey of all dissident Slav elements in Berlin. Previous reports include BSC/Ops/003 dated 2 December, Report No. 626/MGB-911 dated 3 December, Report No. 633, MGB-919 dated 17 December, Report No. 634, MGB-920, dated 17 December, and Report No. 635, MGB-1262 dated 17 December 1946.

2. On 29 November 1946, source visited Frau FECHNER (fnu) Georgstrasse 5, Wilmersdorf. Frau FECHNER is the mother-in-law of W. DESPOTULI, the editor of "Neus Wort", a Russian language newspaper formerly published in Berlin. Her daughter, Elfrida Fechner DESPOTULI was a scientist interested in physical research.

3. Frau FECHNER told source that her daughter was arrested on 1 May 1945 by the Russians. At the time of the arrest she had already worked for two years as an assistant to a famous German professor in the field of cosmic rays. The NKVD came with a truck to the residence on Georgstrasse and carted away all books, documents, and household valuables. She has not been heard of since, and written appeals by the mother to the whereabouts of her daughter directed to Marshal SOKOLOWSKI have remained unanswered.

4. W. DESPOTULI was arrested by the Russians in Spandau sometime in May 1945. He wrote a post card from Moscow in December 1945 wherein he stated that he had been released from a hospital. NOTE: Frau FECHNER interprets this as a release from prison. In the last letter dated 18 February 1946, he endeavored to tell his wife to start her life anew and to forget him because he would never return. He said he was employed as a bookkeeper and that it was extremely cold where he lived. He wrote his return address as Kirowskaja Oblast, Kajskij Rayon, Post Office Wolosnitza 23 1/5. Source stated that he read the letters.

5. Source had great hopes in finding DESPOTULI and his wife in Berlin. According to source, DESPOTULI was a veritable encyclopaedia on Russian emigre affairs in Berlin. Although there is nothing remarkable about his arrest by the Russians, the facts related above indicate (a) that source made a serious and conscientious effort to contact him, and (b) in the event that DESPOTULI and/or wife return from Russia--admittedly a long shot--he or she or both would prove interesting to this organization.

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