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Subject: Organization and Leading
Personalities of Gendarmerie
Military Planning

Report No: EAV-1181

Date of Information: Prior to 7 Dec. 1953

Place Acquired: Austria, Vienna

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7 December 1953

Evaluation: C-2

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Source: Austrians with extensive contacts in official and officer circles.

1. Preparation for the future Austrian army is being carried out within the framework of the Gendarmerie training program. The military units are distinguished from regular Gendarmerie units by the German term Grund, i.e., military units are called Gendarmeriegrundeinheiten and military schools are Grundschulen.

2. Both the Gendarmerie training and the military Gendarmerie training are under Minister of the Interior Helmer and General Director for Public Safety Wilhelm Krechler. The regular Gendarmerie affairs are directed by Josef Kimmel, chief of Abteilung 5 in the Interior Ministry; the military program is directed by the "Vienna Committee", a group of former officers representing both the OeVP and the SPOe, through a military staff directly subordinate to Krechler which is actually located in Pensionsabteilung A of the Finance Ministry.

3. The Vienna Committee, which has no formal organizational status within the government, is composed of four men: Hofrat Emil Liebitzky and Regierungsrat Theodor Falseder representing the OeVP, and Regierungsrat Johann Einsbauer and Polizeioberst Ferdinand Linhart representing the SPOe. The following is known concerning their activities:

- a. Liebitzky - The leading OeVP representative on the Committee, he is the duly appointed head of Pensionsabteilung A and actually does considerable work on pension matters. There is a special, entirely separate element within his office which does the technical planning and organizational work for the military Gendarmerie. Liebitzky is a conservative, 62-year-old former Imperial Army officer. Prior to the Anschluss, he was the military attache in Rome, where he reportedly enjoyed cordial relations with Mussolini. He allegedly failed to obtain a commission in the Wehrmacht in 1938 and spent the years of Nazi domination of Austria in private industry. At the end of the war, he returned to an official post, in the Ministry of Finance. His shortcomings are said to be limited troop experience, only sketchy active staff experience and a preoccupation with detail which is coupled with an unwillingness to delegate authority to his subordinates. On the other hand, Liebitzky is reportedly tactful, politically astute and capable of a well-concealed tenacity of purpose in pursuing his objectives.

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He has been criticized for spending too much time on pension matters and for not travelling to western Austria to inspect military Gendarmerie training units. His reluctance to leave Vienna is explained by Liebitzky on the grounds that the Soviets might seize him.

- b. Linsbauer - He has been a member of the Interior Minister's Secretariat until recently, when he was appointed to a new division (Abteilung 5/Sch) in the Interior Ministry concerned with Gendarmerie training.¹ An officer in World War I, Linsbauer became a Socialist between the wars. After serving in the Wehrmacht as commander of a "Railway Defense Unit" in Yugoslavia during World War II, he became a leading military adviser of the SPOe. Linsbauer is reportedly a capable official and has been described as the most energetic figure in the Vienna Committee.
- c. Iglseder - Formerly on the staff of State Secretary for Interior Ferdinand Graf, Iglseder was recently appointed deputy to Linsbauer in Abteilung 5/Sch. He is reportedly a rather ineffectual type.
- d. Linhart - He was initially Linsbauer's superior in the Vienna Committee but has been given a rather insignificant post as chief of Magistratsabteilung 62 in the Vienna Security Directorate and apparently is quite satisfied to remain there.

4. Within Pensionsabteilung A of the Finance Ministry, dual functions are exercised not only by Liebitzky but also by Hofrat Wilhelm Neugebauer, who is Liebitzky's assistant in pension matters and also helps with the military planning. Slightly older than Liebitzky, Neugebauer reportedly had more troop experience than did his superior in World War I but is not regarded as professionally well qualified by World War II officers. Reportedly, Neugebauer's blunt manners have antagonized a number of people and he is persona non grata to the Socialists. The following personalities are members of the military staff in Pensionsabteilung A:

- a. Josef Krist - A specialist in signal communications who also has been assigned intelligence tasks by Liebitzky.
- b. Adalbert Filips - A former Luftwaffe colonel who also served in World War I, he is currently concerned with training and organization of the military Gendarmerie. Filips is about 55 years of age and is known to hold conservative political views. He is reportedly an energetic figure. In October 1953, he was allegedly negotiating to get military intelligence under his jurisdiction.

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c. Cerny (fnu) - The specialist on finance and budget questions, Cerny also exercises some influence in personnel matters. He is not a former officer but was an administrative official in the pre-1938 Bundesheer and the Wehrmacht. He is said to be competent on budget and fiscal problems.

5. It is expected that the new administrative office for the Gendarmerie training program (Abteilung 5/Sch) will become fully operative about 1 January 1954. It will include a supply and procurement element which will be separate from the regular Gendarmerie; at present, the military units are depending on regular Gendarmerie procurement.²

¹Field Comment. Linsbauer's assignment to Abteilung 5/Sch as of 1 November 1953, was reported in EAV-1127. An independent source has subsequently confirmed that Linsbauer is to be transferred to an official Gendarmerie position but maintains that, at Helmer's request, Linsbauer will remain in his present post until the end of 1953.

²Field Comment. Contrary to comment on EAV-1127, source believes that the creation of Abteilung 5/Sch is a necessary establishment of a needed administrative office and does not represent a move by Helmer to strengthen Socialist influence in the military training program.

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