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TO : Chief, EE

INFO: COS

FROM : Chief of Station, Germany

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational/BEDOX/DIZTAG/BECRIPPLE

SPECIFIC— BECRIPPLE-2 Progress Report - DDR Refugee Debriefings

Ref: EGBA-24235 of 18 July 1955
noted

1. In addition to BECRIPPLE-2's other activities for the BOB BEDOX Section, he screened the following listed DDR refugees of BEDOX interest during the period 10 May 1955 to 15 September 1955:

a. ~~Hermann~~ DEMITTER, born 30 April 1909 in Beuthen/Upper Silesia, last address Magdeburg, Bahnikstrasse 6, last employed with the "VEB Karl Liebknecht". Subject has not been in Beuthen since 1944 and has no contact with the one relative he has still residing there, a deaf and dumb brother. Subject made a bad impression character-wise on BECRIPPLE-2, who interviewed him on 30 May 1955.

b. ~~Erich~~ BOELKE, born 25 August 1912, Schwedt/Oder, last DDR address Schwedt, Helbigstrasse 50, last worked as a construction engineer with the "Oder-Brueckenbau", a railroad bridge building firm, in Neu-Ruednitz. Subject fled the DDR because he had never joined the SED, felt he was under observation, and states he was to be made scapegoat of damage to a steam dredge and small locomotive which were taken out of commission by his firm due to faulty bearings. Subject provided some information about the bridges he had worked on, but we did not go into Subject's knowledgeability since he admitted being in contact already with MID. Subject brought photocopies of official documents with him and had already turned them over to MID. Subject was interviewed on 17 August 1955.

c. ~~Manfred~~ SCHERKE, born 20 February 1937 in Frankfurt/Oder, last resided Frankfurt/Oder, Wilhelm Pieckstrasse 32, last worked as a mechanic at the Frankfurt/Oder passenger RR station. Subject's two best friends fled to West Berlin prior to Subject's escape and he was accused of aiding them, being then placed under observation so he claims. Subject stated during the interview that he had already talked to another U.S. service (MID) and that he had written a letter to a friend of his still residing in Frankfurt/Oder for the service.

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Distribution:

✓ 3 - EE BEDOX (DIRECT)

1 - EE DIZTAG

3 - COS

CCT: aee

19 September 1955

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This friend is named Gernand ^{AD} KOHLS, taylor, residing Fuerstenwalderstrasse 49, Frankfurt/Oder. Subject could give very little information on the Frankfurt/Oder transit traffic station, and he was not pressed for operational leads due to his cooperation with MID. He was interviewed on 16 August 1955.

d. ^{AD} Erna FERDINAND, born 28 September 1920 in Frankfurt/Oder, last address Grosse Muellroserstrasse 22. Subject was first interviewed on 19 August 1955 and found to be tied in with former BEDOX operations. A full report on this interview and on further handling of Subject has been forwarded per separate dispatch.

e. ^{AD} Guido WAGNER, born 18 January 1934 in Berlin, last resided East Berlin, Zionskirchstrasse 3, last worked as a laborer with the East Berlin Gas and Water Works. Subject was previously in the Vopos as an officer candidate but was released after accidentally shooting himself in the finger with an official pistol. Subject then became despondent and shot himself in the forehead, attempting suicide. He lived through the experience and after spending some time in an East Berlin hospital, he was released. After his release he was recruited by an SSD friend of his, and he agreed to help in a kidnap attempt against another acquaintance of his living in the West Sector of Berlin who allegedly set fire to the Haus Vaterland in East Berlin during the 17 June 1953 riots. Before Subject carried out this mission he escaped to West Berlin. Subject was turned over to the BOB CART Section for further exploitation. He was debriefed on 23 August 1955.

f. ^{AD} Richard KRAETZIG, born 23 April 1893 in Niederlangenau/Goerlitz, last address Frankfurt/Oder, Paul Kellerstrasse 7, last worked as a mechanic and engineer out of the Frankfurt/Oder RR Station. Subject apparently decided to come to the West after reporting locomotives unfit for service and after officials blamed him for the condition of the equipment when in reality the failures were due to faulty repair materials. Subject provided information on DDR/Polish rail relations and on the Goerlitz RR bridge construction failures which we have disseminated via BOB Reports Section. Subject was interviewed on 30 August 1955.

2. BECRIPPLE-2 debriefed the following refugees of DIZTAG interest during the reporting period:

a. ^{AD} Georg RHETZ, born 4 January 1907 in Foersterei/Memel, last DDR residence Langenwolmsdorf, last employed with the VEG Rennersdorf in Langenwolmersdorf as chief bookkeeper. Subject escaped the DDR since he feared to be made responsible for a DME one million deficit in the farming enterprise employing him, when in reality the deficit was due to faulty planning and the poor 1954 harvest. Subject brought with him official documents of his employing agency and these were photocopied and disseminated as EGB 9882. Subject had no exploitable operational leads. He was interviewed on 9 August 1955.

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b. Willy WINKLER, born 30 June 1906 in Kleinburgk/Freital, last served as mayor of Sergau/Marienberg, last resided in Olbernhau/Marienberg. Subject came to the West after being discharged as mayor of Sergau and being offered a "lesser" official position because he fathered in illegitimate child in Olbernhau. Subject made a bad impression on BECRIPPLE-2 since he had questionable grounds for escaping the DDR and his story in general did not hang together well. BECRIPPLE-2 does not rule out the possibility that Subject was sent out to go through refugee processing by the SSD. Subject was debriefed on 15 August 1955.

3. In addition to refugees from the DDR, BECRIPPLE-2 debriefed the following German National returning from the CSR and channeled to us through [] we had BECRIPPLE-2 debrief the refugee since BECRIPPLE-2 was well qualified to check the refugee's bona fides due to their police backgrounds and since we were fairly certain the refugee had no leads into the CSR after spending the last ten years there in prison:

a. Konrad Georg Rudolf GREESE, born 8 November 1906 in Hamburg, imprisoned in 1945 in the CSR and last served time in the Cheb prison. Biographical information on Subject was forwarded per EGBA-25378. BECRIPPLE-2 was able to check out Subject's background but Subject was unable to provide usable operational leads. He was interviewed on 20 August 1955.

4. A progress report covering [] debriefing activities has been forwarded per separate dispatch.

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