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DISPATCH NO. MGL-A-4309

SECRET

CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, Foreign Division M DATE: 7 December 1950
FROM : Chief of Station, Karlsruhe
SUBJECT: GENERAL - Operational
SPECIFIC - ZIPPER - Kurt MEREK

1. At the beginning of November 1950 I was asked by Dr. HENGL of CV-C to find out from MIS Munich whether subject is about to be released or will be retained for an indefinite time, because ZIPPER was interested in hiring him. It appears that someone at ZIPPER knew subject during the war and was aware of his employment by CIC and MIS since 1945. When we approached MIS on this subject we were told that by a recent EUCOM directive MIS Munich had been instructed to release MEREK by 15 November 1950. When we passed this information on to ZIPPER, they immediately hired MEREK and provided him with suitable housing. What actually happened is that MEREK knowing of or sensing his imminent release by MIS, approached ZIPPER for possible employment.

2. Regardless of how the recruiting of MEREK came about, we consider him a definite asset to the ZIPPER staff as evidenced by the attached MIS report. MIS considers MEREK an outstanding agent whose sources, practically without exception, have been furnishing MIS with above average OB information from the Sovzone. We did not fail to stress the value of this man to ZIPPER and inquired about his future place in the organization. MEREK will be assigned to CV-C with the specific task of building up an agent network for the penetration of Soviet personnel and establishments in the Berlin area and the Sovzone. His more productive OB sources in the Sovzone will be turned over to another ZIPPER agency. We shall continue to watch the progress of MEREK within the ZIPPER organization and report all the incidents that may come to light from his new assignment.

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