

KUWOLF

DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION
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PROCESSING

TO Chief, KUWOLF (Attn: thru COS/G

INFO. EE COS/G

FROM Chief, Munich Operations Base

SUBJECT CAMOG/DTDORIC/PECHORD/Operational Dr. C.D. Kernig

PRO-POSED	ACTION	ACCOMPLISHED
	MARKED FOR INDEXING	
XX	NO INDEXING REQUIRED	
	ONLY QUALIFIED HEADQUARTERS DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING	
	ABSTRACT	
	MICROFILM	

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

See para 3

1. Prior to his departure on home leave, Will Klump briefed us on a proposal by Dr. C.D. Kernig to establish a "Documentation Center" on world communism. See correspondence enclosed. Mr. Klump wishes to discuss this proposal with Mr. Sargeant, and possibly with interested Washington officials. Before doing so, he asked us to check on Dr. Kernig's bona fides.

2. We have checked locally on Dr. Kernig. There are no traces in either MOB or MLB files. Local liaison also reported no traces.

3. We suggest that COS/G and HQ run a similar check on Dr. Kernig, and that KUWOLF brief Mr. Klump both on the results and on the basic issue of possible ODYOKE interest in Dr. Kernig's proposal.

Attachment: use DOC FORWARDED W/O S/C BY RID/AN 10 Sept. 63

Report

Distribution:
 ✓ 2-KUWOLF w/att
 1-EE w/att
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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2D
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
 DATE 2007

200-124-39/3

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CROSS REFERENCE TO

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER

EGMA 62953

HEADQUARTERS FILE NUMBER

200-124-

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AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR LIBERATION
MUNICH OFFICE

August 6, 1963

UNCONFIDENTIAL

TO: Deputy to the President, Europe
FROM: Director, Special Projects Division, Munich,
SUBJECT: Dr. C. D. Kernig
REF:

On Wednesday, July 17, 1963, I was visited by:

Dr. C. D. Kernig
Encyclopedic Dictionary
Herder Verlag
Hermann-Herder Strasse 4
Freiburg im Breisgau

Dr. Kernig is in charge of compiling the Herder Verlag's encyclopedia on world communism, a work which is expected to take five years and which will be issued simultaneously in German, English, and Russian. His idea of a "Documentation Center" is very clearly explained in Al Boiter's letter of March 23, 1963, to Mr. Sargeant.

Dr. Kernig came to me to ask my help in introducing him to Americans who might want to feed information into his "Documentation Center." Since he has, with his encyclopedia, already demonstrated that he is a man who not only conceives projects but also rolls up his sleeves and makes the projects work, I said I would try to help him.

Dr. Kernig believes that only international cooperation and only machine data processing are logical in the Year of Our Lord 1963 in the field of Communist Bloc information. He believes he can count on Dutch, German, and Swedish cooperation; he would like to meet Americans who might be interested in his idea.

I am attempting to establish Dr. Kernig's base files.

Other people I have met who are working with him on the encyclopedia project include Father John (Gretschel), Mrs. von Rakint and Margart Wilhams.

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Will Klump

6 Apr 63
200-124-39/3

March 28, 1963

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Howland H. Sargeant
American Committee for Liberation
30 East 42nd Street
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Howland:

In keeping with your request to me last year to call your attention to ideas which appear worthwhile but which fall outside our normal scope of operation, I wish to pass along the following information with the hope you will know who is in the best position in the U.S. to profit by it.

During a visit last week to Freiburg, Germany, I ran across for the first time what struck me as a probably workable system for programming a data-processing set-up about the Soviet Union which could engage an IBM electronic brain of fairly large size. The programming scheme was sketched for me roughly, but I also saw some detailed charts and diagrams which indicate that its author has put in a lot of work on the relevant problems and tried to cover all types of information necessary. The author is Dr. Klaus Kernig, director of the Sovietologie Abteilung of the Herder Verlag in Freiburg. This department has been created by the largest catholic publishing houses in Germany during the last two years for the express purpose of compiling an encyclopedia on world communism. The work is expected to take at least five years and the encyclopedia will be issued simultaneously in three languages -- German, English and Russian. This is by way of explaining Dr. Kernig's background. He is not himself a Soviet specialist, nor does he speak Russian or English very well; but he is a competent generalist in the area of Soviet affairs and apparently a capable administrator.

What Dr. Kernig has in mind is a "Documentation Center about the U.S.S.R." which would in effect be a pooling of all the open informational resources and work of experts in research institutes and universities in Europe.

ANSOBYA MATERIAL

He has worked out a "key-word" system for subject-matter storage, which by use of co-ordinates and sliding screens for time and geography can pinpoint fairly minute topics. As an example he cited how the key-word "Growth" could run across such co-ordinates as the various fields of the natural science, economics, ideology, etc., and then be further narrowed by the sliding-screens of time and geography of others.

This would be the central element of the information pool. There would, in addition, be a documentation (or bibliographic) element divided into Soviet and non-Soviet sources. To this would be added the biographic element, which also would show both Soviet and non-Soviet people busy in any given subject-matter area, and who would be suitably categorized by position and personal characteristics.

As an example of how this "documentation center" would work practically, Dr. Kernig cited to me the following: A group of Dutch bankers is about to depart for Moscow for talks about certain international financial matters and possibly will be received by Khrushchev himself. A request about their briefing needs would come to the "documentation center" and the proper questions fed into the IBM brain by the relevant expert in the field of economics. Immediately fed back would be typewritten pages showing Soviet attitudes and past actions, relevant western counter-action or counter-arguments, valid legal or treaty regulations and, in addition, a list of who the important people in the given field are in the Soviet Union and what they and others may have written. As a bonus would be a bibliography of the important writings by non-Soviet authors on the given topic and a listing of western experts who might be available for personal consultation.

Dr. Kernig believes that only an information-pool broad enough in scope to do all these things for the potential users would make it worth the cost in terms of frequency of use. For example, he felt the "use factor" is a serious drawback to the trouble and expense of automating Soviet biographic files alone. He would further assure wide use of the pool by the cooperating institutions by linking them together in a network of open-line telex machines.

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He has even gone so far as to figure out what such a documentation center would require in personnel and budget. The staff would total 60 -- 15 top experts in academic fields, 15 middle-level experts to fill the area gaps, and 30 service people (including 2 engineers for the IBM machine). He estimates the annual cost at \$625,000 (2 1/2 million German Marks), not including presumably the rental cost of the electronic brain.

I recall that Victor Zorza got a good hearing in several offices in Washington and that a special seminar was set up at Rand Corp. two years ago when he presented similar ideas. It therefore seems likely that a number of people are working on the problem of automated data-processing about the USSR, even though the Zorza ideas seem not to have made a deep impression. Perhaps these same people would be interested in knowing about Dr. Kernig's plan.

It is my assumption that Dr. Kernig will be trying to get financial support for his documentation center from Bonn and that he envisions it as primarily a German institution, although he wants both the Radio Liberty research department and the Institute as part of his information-pool network. The language of operation would be only German presumably, although translation of processed data into any language would not be a great added burden.

There are some personal observations I could make about the proposal of Dr. Kernig, with whom I have become well acquainted since first meeting him about 18 months ago. I will not add them to this already lengthy letter, but will be glad to do so for anyone interested in exploring further. I would call attention, however, to the fact that the proposal is still in the incubation stage and it might not prove too difficult for an American group to co-ordinate with or even completely take over the proposed operation.

Sincerely,

Albert Reiter

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