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West Germany

EGF-1368

Recent Activities of  
Hans-Ulrich Rudel

March-April 1956

Germany, Frankfurt

20 June 1956

11 June 1956

Well-informed German Rightist (B).  
Appraisal of Content: 3.

1. Former Colonel Hans-Ulrich Rudel has been living in Brazil since April 1956. In Brazil he is the representative of the Kugelfischer firm of Schweinfurt. Rudel does not plan to return to Germany until the fall of 1956. His arrangement with the Kugelfischer firm includes the provision that his traveling expenses from Germany to Brazil and back are to be deducted from the profits which he makes for the firm in Brazil.
2. After his return from Brazil, Rudel plans to travel to Cairo and the Near East, where he will continue to represent the Kugelfischer firm, and at the same time take up political contacts. Rudel had already discussed these plans with Werner Naumann of Willich-Krefeld, Duesselderferstrasse 25, before he left for Brazil. In mid-May, one of Rudel's contacts in Germany, Kurt Eigenbrodt, Jr., of Frankfurt/Main-Nied, Holzlachstrasse 11, visited Naumann to discuss Rudel's future plans in greater detail.
3. Prior to leaving for Brazil, Rudel met Hesse Landtag member Derichsweiler (fnu) in Frankfurt before the latter left the FDP and joined the FVP. Derichsweiler had agreed to arrange a meeting between Rudel and (Vice Chancellor) Frank Bluecher and Bundestag member August-Martin Euler. However, Rudel left for Brazil before this meeting could take place.
4. Prior to taking the position with the Kugelfischer firm, Rudel met in Bad Homburg

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(Dipl. Ing.) Harald Quandt of Cologne, Deutscher Ring 52. Quandt, the son of (Frau) Magda Goebbels by her first marriage, is the owner of the Varta battery plant and one of the main stockholders in Mercedes Benz and other firms. Quandt stated that he could not give Rudel a job or provide him with any financial support. Quandt also declined to contribute to the defense of an individual being tried in Constance for having murdered a Jew. Quandt indicated that he did not wish to become involved in political matters.

5. Prior to his departure for Brazil, Rudel attempted to contact Hans Laternser, a Wiesbaden lawyer, and persuade him to take over the defense, without fee, in the Constance trial. However, Rudel was unable to contact Laternser.
6. The Badische Anilin and Soda factory of Ludwigshafen/Rhein offered Rudel a job with a monthly salary of 1,600 DM. However, this offer stipulated that Rudel would work without pay for the first two or three years, and that he would place all of his free time at the disposition of the factory. Rudel rejected this offer.
7. Rudel recently finished writing a book on his mountain-climbing expedition in South America. He submitted it for publication to the Plesse publishing house in Goettingen, where his other books had been published. Waldemar Schuetz, DRP member of the Lower Saxony Landtag, and owner of the Plesse publishing house, did not accept the manuscript, stating that it contained too many pictures and thus would make the printing price too high. Schuetz also stated that his publishing house was in the process of printing a book written by former Waffen SS Panzer General Kurt Meyer, and would therefore not be able to devote sufficient time to Rudel's book. Rudel then submitted the manuscript to the Druffel publishing house, owned by Helmut Suendermann of Leoni am Starnberger See. Suendermann agreed to print the book, providing Rudel would give him the names and addresses of 2,500 potential purchasers.
8. The Leberecht publishing house sold 11,000 copies of Trotzdem, Rudel's first book, and the Plesse publishing house sold 5,000 copies. According to Rudel, over 45,000 copies of this book were printed in French.
9. A press release, commenting on the BfV report that Rudolf Steidl had received funds from East Germany to finance the Munich publications Deutsche National-Zeitung and Die Nation, stated that Steidl also had given Rudel 10,000 DM. Rudel attempted to take action against Steidl as a result of this report, but Steidl advised Rudel that he had not made this statement to German authorities in Bonn, and thus could not be held responsible for it.
10. Rudel spoke with Eckhard Koenig of Munich, Residenzstrasse 24. Koenig is the attorney for Hans Zoeberlein, a writer. Rudel gave Koenig a sum of money to be used in the defense of Zoeberlein. Koenig described himself as a pronounced anti-militarist, and stated that he was unable to do anything for Zoeberlein at the moment. Koenig suggested that it would be best to wait for several years, and then present a petition requesting that Zoeberlein be pardoned.

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11. At present, Rudel is of the opinion that it is not fitting for him to take an active part in politics. However, he is maintaining his political contacts, especially those with Werner Naumann and the Deutsche Reichspartei (DRP). Rudel has not joined the DRP. As yet, Rudel has not decided what he will do at the time of the 1957 federal elections in Germany. Rudel's contact, Eigenbrodt (cont), is of the opinion that Rudel will attempt to obtain funds for the 1957 elections from the Near East.

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