

HANSA

SECRET

OPERATIONAL MEMORANDUM

BSC/Ops/049
Berlin
31 March 1947

TO : AB 51

FROM : AB 52

SUBJECT: Clandestine Radio Transmitter in French Sector of Berlin.

1. We were notified by Public Safety Branch, OMG BS, that French Military Government authorities were anxious to obtain U. S. assistance in their efforts to track down and neutralize an illegal radio transmitter operating in the French Sector of Berlin. Public Safety requested us to discuss the problem with Colonel WESTERVELT, Chief of Communications of Military Government, Berlin Sector.

2. There was a conference on the 28th of March at WESTERVELT's office. Mr. BALLARD, U. S. representative on the Quadripartite Communications Directorate of the Kommandatura, stated there was no direct U. S. interest involved, but that he would like to assist the French if at all feasible. Colonel WESTERVELT stated there was no Signal Intelligence personnel or equipment under U. S. Army control in the European Theater, to the best of his knowledge, but that he will cable to the States to have D-F-ing equipment sent over here soonest. He felt, however, that this was an intelligence problem rather than a Military Government one, and suggested we contact the following French officers directly: M. MATZ, Chief of French Communications in Berlin, or his deputy, Major CAMBROUSE, the French representative on the Communications Directorate.

3. The problem of the illegal transmitter was discussed with HANSA, who was able to supply the following information within a matter of hours: It has come to the attention of German authorities some time ago that there was an illegal radio transmitter operating in the North of the French Sector. Subsequent investigation disclosed that the station was operated by a group of young, nationalistic students. From abandoned equipment found in an Aircraft Ministry building in Frohnau at the end of the war, plus odds and ends the young men acquired on the black market and other places, the young men succeeded in building a short-wave transmitter that could be heard on a clear night for a maximum distance of about 60 miles. The station is broadcasting on a wave length of 22.5 meters on the short-wave band between 2200 and 0200 hours nightly. HANSA's subsource heard some of the broadcasts personally, and described them as strongly nationalistic and sometimes even Nazi in tone. The broadcasts consist for the most part of anti-Russian propaganda, and is probably not based on facts. As to the effects of the broadcasts, subsource believed it is generally realized that they represent the well-meant (sic!) but immature efforts of young students. He doubted that these transmittals served any useful purpose and was strongly in favor of discontinuing them.

4. The transmitter is located in one of the buildings of the Argus Werke, Flottwellstrasse 35, Reinickendorf-Ost, French Sector.

5. HANSA stated he felt under no obligation to report the above to the competent French authorities, but would send word to the students involved that they will have to face serious consequences should the broadcasts be continued.

Field Comment: Location and nature of the clandestine transmitter will be reported by us to Military Government,

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