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DISPATCH NO. EAVW 6908

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

23 DEC 1955

TO Chief of Station, Vienna

DATE

FROM Chief, EE

SUBJECT

GENERAL	Operational/GRHOUNCE
SPECIFIC	(Dr.) Otto Nichulmeister

MICROFILMED
FEB 16 1961
DOCUMENT MICROFILM SERVICE

References: A. VIEN 6897 *N. K.*
B. EAVW 6855 *N. T.*

1. Further examination of the GROSSEBAHN and CHANOITE files has revealed no additional substantial biographical and operational information on Subject. Background material from the GROSSEBAHN files reflecting on Subject is listed below:

2. At the time of the take-over by SOB, GROSSEBAHN recorded Subject as a sub-source who was witting of the fact that his information on high level OeVP and Catholic Action affairs was used for intelligence purposes. Although recorded as a sub-source of GROSSEBAHN's agent/case officer, Otto Boehm, no PRQ data was collected on Subject, which is not very surprising since GROSSEBAHN tended to record peripheral contacts as sources.

3. Examination of the Boehm reports concerning the OeVP and Catholic Action suggests that information was elicited by Boehm from Subject, from Otto Mauer (another recorded source), and from other Catholic Action figures, and was consolidated in reports.

4. The following data has been extracted from Boehm's PRQ I since his career in many ways parallels that of Subject:

1919-1945 Member and later chairman of the Catholic Youth Association Neuland.

1934-1938 Member and leading functionary of the Austrian Catholic Action.

1927-1938 Editor-in-Chief of the monthly Neuland (which was suppressed after Anschluss)

(Releasing officer)

(Coordinating officer)

(Authenticating officer)

(Handwritten initials)

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Wrote a number of articles for "Die Presse".

Lists Subject among close associates.

Also lists as close associates:

(Dr. Otto Mauer

(Dr. Karl Heinz Schmidts, editor of Orbis
Catholicus, Oberwesel/Rhein

x Party

5. In Boelun's reports from October 1948 until May 1950 on OeVP and Catholic Action affairs, Subject is depicted as a close personal and political associate of Dr. Otto Mauer:

- a. Oct 48 As leaders in a group referred to as the Neuland Group, which was in opposition to the Cartel Verband Group within the Austrian Catholic Action.
- b. Nov 48 Subject was reported as the anonymous author of a newspaper article which was highly critical of the efforts of Private Jacob Fried to negotiate with the Communist political leadership on school questions. The article became the subject of considerable government comment and inquiry.
- c. Nov 49 In connection with a demand by the Papal Nuncio that the organization Neuland not be reestablished. Subject and Mauer were mentioned together with Dr. Josef Koestner, Bishop of Gurk-Klagenfurt, as influential former members of the old Bund Neuland who deliberately abstained from efforts to re-establish the organization.
- d. Dec 49 Subject was reported as a member of a small circle of political friends gathered by Ministerialrat Karl Aichhorn which attempted to increase the influence of the Wirtschaftsbund within the OeVP in accordance with the wishes of Julius Raab. To this group also belonged OeVP Gemeinderat and Innungsmeister (Dr.) Pius Frutscher.
- e. Jan 50 Subject was mentioned, together with Dr. Otto Mauer and (Dr.) Ignatz Kangerle of Innsbruck (Vice President of the Austrian Catholic Action), as member of a small circle favoring a separate Catholic political party.

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f. May 50 Subject attended a Catholic Action conference in Salzburg. The purpose of this conference was to establish the Austrian Catholic Action's political policy. The conference was held in the American Zone so that its true purpose could be cloaked and Soviet attention and interference be prevented.

6. Otto Boehm had maintained contact with Wilhelm Hoettl for a considerable period prior to his termination in 1953 for the purpose of reporting to GROSSBAHN on Hoettl's activities. At the end, KUBARK was suspicious as to the nature of this relationship, but a detailed LCFLUTTER examination and a thorough interrogation revealed that Boehm had been duped and was under development by Hoettl for information on GROSSBAHN. It was concluded that he had been merely naive in his dealings with Hoettl and termination was therefore amicable. Boehm is now employed with Adenauer's mouthpiece, the Rheinische Merkur, and makes occasional trips to Austria. He is believed to be no longer in contact with Hoettl, but it may be assumed that he maintains journalistic contact with Subject.

7. A Boehm report corroborates the information in paragraph 3 e of reference B, in that it states that Schulmeister feared that this strong editorial in "Die Presse" would be attributed to him and through him to Archbishop Joachim with whom he was closely connected.

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20 December 1955

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