

Station : Berlin **SECRET** Report No : 344
Reference : AB 52 Report Date : 17 June 46
Source : Savoy Information Date : Current
Sub-Source : Date Info. Received : 14 June 46
Evaluation : B-2
SUBJECT : SOVIET AGENT WEINERT--POSSIBLE DEFECTION

Reference: Raw Intelligence Reports Nos. 194, 230, 272, 281, 309, 327.

1. This is a continuation of the series of reports dealing with meetings between the Soviet agent WEINERT and our source. In the course of these meetings, originally started because of WEINERT's fear for his personal safety, our source subtly attempted to influence subject to insure himself (in a manner of speaking) by seeking contact with the Americans.

2. The last meeting between the two took place on the 12th of June, when subject visited SAVOY's law office. In contrast to the previous meetings, WEINERT appeared considerably calmer and acted somewhat reassured. He related the following to source: On the 11th of June he was called to the office of his chief, the Russian colonel in charge of the SNB office at WEISSENSEE. The Colonel informed him that, although he has received charges against WEINERT, he does not plan to do anything until he talked the matter over with SKURIN's successor, for whose name he asked subject. The Colonel instructed WEINERT to continue with his work as usual, pending a decision.

3. WEINERT told our source that in his opinion his difficulties are over for the time being. He was positive he never mentioned SKURIN's name to anyone at the SNB; therefore, if the Colonel was aware of Captain SKURIN's connection with WEINERT, it must mean that the NKVD cleared the project of placing him with the Colonel. WEINERT was convinced that once the Colonel talked with Major CHERNIKOFF his troubles would be over.

4. WEINERT, according to source, appeared to be regretting the fact that he spoke too confidentially at the last two meetings. In fact, he definitely tried to give the impression that he spoke only in a case of extreme excitement, and that his plan to go over to the British must not be taken seriously. "I hope you will forget all about it," he told source. SAVOY pointed out that such a statement (about deserting to another power) from an agent cannot be forgotten and that while he himself will always keep utmost discretion, he posed the rhetorical question to WEINERT, what would have happened had he, SAVOY, immediately reported WEINERT's possible defection to CHERNIKOFF. WEINERT agreed that in that case he probably would no longer be alive. Source therefore believes that he now has a hold on subject that could possibly be exploited at some future date.

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5. SAVOY pointed out that while it is entirely possible that WEINERT when speaking about deserting to the British spoke in a state of extreme excitement and fear, nevertheless he knew entirely what he was saying, and had he not dissuaded subject from carrying out his original plan, WEINERT would today be sitting at a British Interrogation Center, with a Russian price on his head. This probable course of events he will point out to subject frequently in the future.

6. WEINERT had a meeting scheduled with Major CHERNIKOFF for the 14th of June. After the meeting he again plans to visit source.

SSU COMMENT: 1. Our earlier estimates about the importance and high caliber of SKURIN's office seem to be borne out by events. Russian intelligence organizations, at least in the BERLIN area, are fairly notorious about their lack of liaison and collaboration with other Soviet agencies, intelligence or otherwise. The fact that SKURIN cleared with the SNB the project of placing WEINERT speaks highly of his foresight and professional handling of agent personnel.

2. While SAVOY's plan to influence WEINERT to contact the American authorities has suffered a temporary set-back, mostly because of SKURIN's foresight, the plan still promises a certain degree of success as a long-term proposition. It must be remembered that source now has a certain element of control over subject because of WEINERT's momentary indiscretion, and we are confident that source will be able to turn this to our advantage should the possibility arise.

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