

Station: Berlin

ITS- 205

Report No: 591

Reference: AB 52

COPY No. 30/4

Report Date: 30 October 1946

Source: Weinert, Savoy

Information Date: Current

Evaluation: B

Date Info Received: 25 Oct 46

SUBJECT: WEINERT PROJECT--BACKGROUND AND RECRUITMENT.

1. Subject first came to the attention of this office when SAVOY began reporting on subject's activities last February. According to these reports, WEINERT was captured by the Russians following the fall of Berlin; was, because of his background judged to be agent material by the Russians; and was, in October 1945, released from captivity after he agreed to become an agent of Captain SKURIN, NVD, Luisen Strasse. His work for the (then) NKVD consisted mostly of ascertaining the whereabouts of prominent National Socialists, in whose arrest subject occasionally participated. SAVOY was instructed to keep track of subject's movements, which assignment he carried out successfully. Over a period of months a total of 15 reports were made by SAVOY on WEINERT (Raw Intelligence Reports No. 42, 51, 194, 238, (272), (281), (306), 309, 326, 327, 344, 359, 370, 415, 570).

2. From the above mentioned reports we gained a fairly comprehensive picture of the background, personality, and activities of the NVD agent Joseph WEINERT. As WEINERT's work for the NVD closely paralleled that of SAVOY, except that it was on a considerably lower level, it was decided not to compromise SAVOY's security by attempting to "double" WEINERT through the services of the former. We were, however, at all times fully informed, and the possibility of "turning" WEINERT was constantly borne in mind.

3. When on 22 October 1946 the liquidation of SAVOY's double role became unavoidable (for details see RIR No. 583, 25 October 1946), it became obvious that WEINERT would best serve as the means of further observing Captain SKURIN's activities. An energetic approach, aimed at securing WEINERT's services for us was therefore decided upon.

4. SAVOY, who to all the world became so sick that he had to stay under constant medical and nursing care in his Dahlem home, invited WEINERT through a cut-out to visit him on the afternoon of Friday, the 3rd of October. It was planned to have staff members of SC present during WEINERT's visit and attempt "doubling" of subject. (Since SAVOY had already been compromised vis-a-vis the Russians, previous objections to using him as decoy no longer stood.)

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5. Around 2200 hours on the night of the <sup>24</sup>24th, SAVOY telephoned AB 36 and advised him of an unforeseen development: WEINERT had visited him without previous announcement and was then at his house. The original plan of having SC officers meet WEINERT on the afternoon of the 25th could not be carried out, as WEINERT planned to leave Berlin for Magdeburg in the company of Captain SKURIN on the morning of the 25th. AB 36 immediately realized the far-reaching implications of the newly arisen situation and took the only possible course under the circumstances. Late at night the Chief of the Berlin District CIC was advised about the impending SC Project and the immediate need of executive police action to prevent WEINERT from leaving Berlin as planned. CIC was most cooperative and agreed to issue orders to that effect over the telephone. Special Agents of the Zehlendorf CIC observed WEINERT leaving SAVOY's villa around 2300 hours, and arrested him near the Dahlem-Dorf Subway Station. WEINERT was taken by them to the Berlin District Interrogation Center, Wannsee Detention Camp, where he spent the night.

6. In the morning and noon hours of Friday, <sup>25</sup>25 October 1946, WEINERT was interrogated at the Wannsee Detention Camp by AB 51 and AB 52. As a result of our gentle persuasion, WEINERT, who was rather unwilling at first, decided to realize that his best interests would be served by agreeing to cooperate with us; i.e., volunteer to serve as a double-agent. It was agreed that his role of a double will be an essentially negative one, as far as we were concerned. Accordingly, after he was supplied with a cover-story concerning his absence from his home overnight, WEINERT was released from the Detention Camp at approximately 1330 hours. He was instructed to meet AB 52 at 1130 hours the following day.

COMMENT:

A detailed debriefing of WEINERT will take place at the earliest opportunity.

*See BSC 574 (MBB-264) for  
correction of date*