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25 February 1947

MGB-2303

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SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
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ITS 1618

Station : Berlin Registry No. : MGB-2303
 Officer : AB 52 Report No. : 679
 Source : Dr. Schwarz Info Date : January 1947
 Evaluation : F Date Info Rec'd : 5 February 1947
 Subject : Activities of Captain SKURIN
 (Dr. Guenter Schwarz -- MVD Target)

indexed

Note: While source is untested there is reason to believe that his version of his experiences with Captain SKURIN is probably true. For evidence of previous Luisen Strasse interest in source see BSC 306 and BSC 358. For a summary of Captain SKURIN's activities see MGH-288, dated 6 December 1946.

1. Dr. Guenter SCHWARZ first came to the attention of this office when SAVOY was instructed by Major SHERNIKOV (who ran SKURIN's agents while the latter was on leave in Russia) to investigate his present whereabouts. According to the Soviet officer, SCHWARZ was an agent of Lt. Colonel ROSENRETER, Abwehr I, Berlin, and was active in economic espionage against the Western Powers. SAVOY was of the opinion that MVD was interested in recruiting SCHWARZ, who was subsequently interviewed by a member of this Detachment, under cover of a CIC agent making routine check of individuals known to have been connected with the Abwehr. SCHWARZ impressed the interviewing officer as an essentially weak man, an opportunist, and as one who lacked both the ability and the necessary ideological convictions to make a really successful double agent. Taking further into consideration that SCHWARZ's house was only a block away from the SC safe house and the fact that he was married and had three small children, it was decided that no useful purpose could be served by permitting SCHWARZ's abduction from the U.S. Sector to take place. He was therefore discreetly warned about known MVD interest in ex-Abwehr officers and thereby encouraged to draw his own conclusions about the advisability of circulating in the Soviet Sector.

2. We were of course well aware that SCHWARZ presented a rather attractive target to the MVD, not only because of his past experiences as an officer of the Abwehr, but because of his present connections to both the British and U.S. Information Control Divisions, his wide knowledge of German picture-making circles, and his friends in the film industry abroad. It was therefore suggested that should there be any difficulties at all because of his past Abwehr activity, he should not hesitate to consult with the American authorities, who after all, "no longer consider Abwehr men as criminals".

3. On Monday, 20 January 1947, SCHWARZ (accompanied by his lawyer, a Dr. WEISE) contacted the Berlin CIC and reported that he was arrested by the MVD under rather strange circumstances and that it was suggested to him, after a detailed interrogation, that he become a Russian agent. This suggestion, SCHWARZ stated, was unacceptable to him. Although he agreed to sign a statement to that effect, in order to regain his freedom, he considered his signature null and void as it was obtained under duress. He had no intention to work for or against the Russians, but he felt the American authorities, who warned him about just such a happening last summer, should be advised about the circumstances of his arrest, as it may be of some use in avoiding similar incidents in the future.

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4. Under interrogation SCHWARZ made the following statements. He resides at 101 a Spanische Allee, Berlin-Nikolassee with his wife, Lydia, and 3 children; Renate, aged 12, and Rudolf, aged 12, 11, and 7, respectively. He was

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born 25 October 1902 in Heddesdorf, Kreis Neuwied, Rheinland. His father was Oscar SCHWARZ, a bank accountant. The family moved to Berlin in 1910. Source graduated the Oberrealschule in Schoeneberg in 1918, and spent the next 3 years working for the Dresdner Bank as clerk. From 1922 until 1926 source attended the Universities of Berlin and Munich, graduating from the latter as a Doctor of Economy in 1926. In 1927 source became an assistant for economic questions with the German Film Chamber. This organization was incorporated in the Kulturkammer in 1933 and source became a Referent. From 1936 until 1944 source concerned himself exclusively with export and import questions affecting the German film industry. During this period he travelled frequently in most European countries. In 1944 source transferred his activities to the Foreign Department of the UFA GmbH. At the end of October 1944 he was called for active army duty, but was placed on an inactive status after the intervention of Lt. Colonel ROSENRETER. Following the German collapse, source, because of his NSDAP membership, could obtain employment only at manual labor, and worked for a time as furnace-men for the 133rd Engineer Combat Bn, U.S. Army. In December 1945 source obtained a position with the Transocean Film Vertrieb, and on 1 January 1947 a position was offered to him by DEFA (Deutsche Film AG) the Russian-sponsored German film-manufacturing organization. (Note: Details concerning biography of source and chronological record of his travels abroad can be found in the attached 8-page, single-spaced, German document. It is not pertinent to subject of this report.)

5. Questioned about his Abwehr activities, source made an obvious effort to whitewash himself. In any case, his own version of his services for the GIS does not agree with that of SAVOY, and presumably not with that of ROSENRETER. According to source, he first met ROSENRETER in the summer of 1940 in the latter's office on Admiral Koester Ufer, next to the Marine Ministry. ROSENRETER, it seems, wanted source's opinion on the dispute between von HAKE, chief of the UFA in Copenhagen, and certain officials of the NSDAP, who resented HAKE's appointment abroad on the ground that he was not a member of the Nazi Party. ROSENRETER explained that HAKE, although a civilian, was actually under Wehrmacht control. Source was then asked to assist the Abwehr in obtaining newspapers, periodicals, and technical publications abroad. Source was also asked to write factual reports on economic conditions in Western Europe as well as reports on his estimate on the attitude of the Danes toward the occupying power. Source agreed to write the report on Denmark, but claims to have explained to ROSENRETER that he had for some time been writing similar reports for the Filmkammer, which passed them on to the Propaganda Ministry. Source claims to have written approximately 200 reports on economic questions. He does not know whether his reports reached the Abwehr through the Propaganda Ministry. In October 1944 source was called to military service and assigned to a ground regiment of the Luftwaffe. He did not like this assignment, so he contacted ROSENRETER who suggested source should go to Sweden for the GIS. Source agreed and was placed on inactive duty with the Army, but the rapidly worsening military situation made travel impossible and source was still in Berlin awaiting transportation when the war ended. (Note: Source is rather emphatic in playing down his Abwehr role and considers himself practically a hero of the resistance for not having reported on political and military developments.)

6. After a period of manual labor, because of his NSDAP membership, source was contacted in October 1946 by one (Herr) JAKIEL, claiming to represent DEFA, the only authorized film producer in the Russian Zone of Germany. The DEFA, JAKIEL stated, is ready to produce and export moving pictures, and it needs personnel with film-marketing experience abroad. Source's record was well known, and he was considered qualified to work for the necessary reconstruction of the German film industry.

JAKIEL, who described himself as a sort of liaison officer between the DEFA and Soviet authorities, advised source that final approval must be obtained from Direktor LINDEMANN, Chief of the DEFA. Negotiations extended over a period of two months, the main difficulty having been encountered at the Arbeitsamt which insisted source should work for the Municipal waterworks. By the beginning of January 1947, however, all difficulties were taken care of, and on 10 January 1947 source was requested to see Direktor LINDEMANN in the DEFA building, Doenhoff Platz, Berlin-Mitte (Russian Sector). LINDEMANN, after a few minutes conversation, told source he should go and see a certain SMIRNOV, 2-3 Jaeger Strasse, in order to get his Arbeitsbuch signed. Source left the office shortly after 1600 hours, and as he came out of the building he heard LINDEMANN call after him from an open window: "Dr. SCHWARZ, turn left and see SMIRNOV at the Kommandatura!" Source did as told and began walking toward Leipziger Strasse. He noticed he was being trailed by a red limousine, which he had previously seen parked in front of the DEFA building. Source observed three persons in the car: a Russian soldier, driving; a Russian officer; and a young woman in civilian clothes. In Leipziger Strasse source was passed by the vehicle, which then parked a few yards in front of him. The officer and the woman got out and waited next to the car. As source came up to them he was stopped and asked for his identity papers. Looking the papers over, the woman asked him what he was doing in the Russian Sector inasmuch as he lived in Zehlendorf. Source told them the truth, whereupon he was told he would have to come along to the Kommandatura as his story needed checking.

7. He was driven to Hohenschoenhausen and taken into a compound surrounded by barbed wire which used to be the RICHARD HEIKE MACHINE-TOOL FACTORY, at Frienwalder Strasse 16-19. He was given some food and his interrogation commenced at around 1700. It lasted until after 0100 hours. The officer (called "Captain" by the interpreter) was quite well-informed and asked all the questions; the interpreter then translated to source. The interrogation concerned itself with all details of source's life, with particular emphasis on source's English and American acquaintances. During the interrogation, source was threatened, but not mishandled in any way.

8. The next day source was asked to sign every page of the interrogation report, which he did although the report was not correct in all details. He was told he was expected to cooperate with the SMA, otherwise he would have to face charges as a war criminal because of his agent activities for the Abwehr. Source, who was understandably anxious to regain his freedom, agreed to render such services as may be required, whereupon he received the following instructions: a written report should be submitted on the following subjects:

- a. Names of UFA employees who worked for ROSENRETER,
- b. Names and addresses of U.S. organizations and individuals in Nikolassee, and
- c. Names and addresses of Germans working for the Americans in Nikolassee.

The report should be ready by Friday, 17 January 1947, when source would be met at 1300 hours at the Alexanderplatz U-Bahn Station by the officer and the interpreter. To this source agreed, but with mental reservations. After signing the usual declaration promising absolute secrecy, source was released and allowed to return home. After thinking over the situation for a week, and discussing all its ramifications with his lawyer, Dr. Gerhard WEISE, source decided to disregard his pledge to the Russians, and did not appear for the scheduled meeting. Instead he contacted the U.S. authorities and related his experiences.

9. Personal descriptions of Russian Captain and interpreter as given by source:

a. Officer: About 35 years of age; medium build; dark hair; wore plain uniform, officer-type without insignia or decorations; green hat.

b. Interpreter: In middle twenties; blond hair; clear complexion; about 5'2"; pretty, but not well-dressed; spoke German fluently, but source had the impression she was not a native German.

Comment: Although source could not have realized it, he was a victim of a typical SKURIN operation. From the technique used and the personal descriptions given by source, it is established beyond a shadow of doubt that SKURIN and DOOCIA were again in action.

It is unfortunate that source did not report to us immediately after his release, but our disappointment is tempered by the fact that we do not consider him a suitable double-agent. Source served us well, nevertheless, and the information he supplied will be used as additional ammunition in our drive against SKURIN. It certainly was no operation the RIS could be proud of.

Of the two who did SKURIN's dirty work in this case (and got blown in the process) JAKIEL is unknown to us. Direktor LINDEMANN is identical with Alfred LINDEMANN, a noted theatrical figure, and a communist of good standing, who was only recently (15 January 1946) delegated by the SMA to assist in the organization of a new "Volksbuehne" in Berlin. His picture is enclosed with Copy #1 of this report. Further details on LINDEMANN will be forthcoming soon. (Note: LINDEMANN is the first well-known communist that we know of to be used by SKURIN. His other agents were usually of Abwehr or NSDAP background.)

SKURIN had presumably obtained his information on subject from either von HAAKE, former Abwehr Hauptmann who recruited agents in Denmark for ROSENTERER, or from ROSENTERER himself. von HAAKE was arrested by SKURIN in March 1946; ROSENTERER had been arrested by the Russians in Berlin in February 1946. Several reports of Spring 1946 described CHERNIKOV's lively interest in locating von HAAKE's and ROSENTERER's agents, among them subject. See BSC-156, 157, 165, 246, 272, 304, 307.

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