

SECRET

STATION : Berlin
OFFICER : AB-36
SOURCE : FORD
EVALUATION: B
SUBJECT : News Agency TASS

REPORT NO. : MGB-2985
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1. The Russian news agency TASS was at one time located at SMA Karlshorst, but is now at Berlin/Weissensee, Grosse See Strasse (Russian Sector). It is housed in a factory building near the local Kommandatura and directly across the street from the MVD Weissensee building. According to Source, nothing has been done to alter its factory-like appearance.

2. Source indicated that a Major TEPLOV was in charge of the Berlin TASS office, assisted by a civilian named KOHANOVICH.

3. TASS seems to have no technical facilities of its own for transmitting news stories. Source thinks that SNB facilities may be used for this purpose. A regular courier service is maintained between TASS and ADN.

Heid Comment: The Ottawa Spy Case Investigations furnished definite proof that the TASS representative in Canada had an assigned function within the Soviet espionage system. Source SAILOR has stated that the facilities of TASS are used by the First Directorate, MGB USSR for dispatching highly qualified clandestine agents. Despite the excessive security precautions which according to source surround TASS in Berlin, we consider the effort of penetrating it well spent from the point of view of gathering significant CE data.

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