

CAMISADE

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OPERATIONAL MEMORANDUM

KAPOK No. B-16-09

BSC/Ops/147

Berlin

16 September 1947

TO : Chief, Foreign Branch "M"
FROM : Chief of Station, Heidelberg, Germany *Ced*
SUBJECT: Possible Russian Surveillance of CAMISADE
REF : MGB-3912/BSC-714, MGB-4559/BSC-822, BSC/Ops/138

NOTE: For the past month CAMISADE has believed himself to be under sporadic surveillance by some Russian agency. Because of CAMISADE's past history of starting at shadows, SC Berlin is not inclined at present to place much importance on his suspicions. In the following memorandum, however, the incidents inclining CAMISADE to this belief are recounted.

1. At PREGNANT's 30 July 1947 meeting with CAMISADE, he told CAMISADE he would deliver some written material to him on 1 August which CAMISADE could deliver to his American contact, the mythical Mr. WEBB. Acting on the possibility the material might prove interesting enough for a special meeting between CAMISADE and his U.S. case officer, his case officer made arrangements with him to take a call at 0800 hours, 2 August, in an apothecary's shop neighboring on his lodgings. As CAMISADE went into the shop just before 0800 a young man was standing in front of CAMISADE's house; he walked by CAMISADE as CAMISADE knocked on the shop door; and when CAMISADE came out of the shop the young man had again taken up a position in front of his house. CAMISADE remained in his house until 1045, and noted on leaving that the supposed watcher was still before the house. CAMISADE's landlord later told him the young man left five minutes after CAMISADE.

2. The second episode contributing to CAMISADE's uneasiness involved, primarily, his subsource for SNB information: Fraulein Ursula KAHNKE, Berlin Weissensee, Hunsrückstrasse 31, a teletypist employed by SNB. On Saturday, 9 August, in his weekly meeting with PREGNANT, CAMISADE told PREGNANT that he had been requested to obtain an organizational plan of SNB by Mr. WEBB. PREGNANT had approved his giving WEBB such a plan, but as usual told CAMISADE he must procure the plan for WEBB on his own. CAMISADE said he would try. Saturday afternoon, a few hours after this interview, Frl KAHNKE was called into the office of KOLTIPIN, Chief of SNB, where she was confronted by KOLTIPIN, SOLUS (apparently the acting deputy chief of SNB (cf MGB-4559/BSC-822)), ROSENSTECHER (Chief of Communications, SNB, and KAHNKE's superior), and an unknown Russian officer. The latter KAHNKE described as the "pugilistic type" (he definitely did not fit PREGNANT's description). KAHNKE was asked if anyone had asked her recently for an organizational plan of SNB. She replied in the negative,

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and broke into hysterical tears. She was berated for some time, the theme being that although she had worked for SNB for two years she was still not trusted. In the end, however, they told KAHNKE they believed her protestations.

3. On Friday, 22 August, CAMISADE was sojourning in Birkenwerder, on the outskirts of Berlin, with his friend, Frau WIELAND. A small, thin, dark woman came to CAMISADE's lodgings in his absence and asked for him. She told his landlord she was from ADN, but CAMISADE is unable to think of anyone at ADN answering her description who would have legitimate business with him.

4. On Thursday, 28 August, someone called the ADN offices, asked for CAMISADE, and refused to leave a message on learning he was not there. This incident is important to CAMISADE only because it is unprecedented.

5. CAMISADE was visiting Frl KAHNKE on Friday evening, 29 August. They came downstairs from KAHNKE's room at 2330 hours, and found a man who had the appearance of watching the house. As CAMISADE and KAHNKE walked up the street the man preceded them slowly for about 400 yards and then disappeared.

6. On the evening of Monday, 1 September, KAHNKE received a visit from Kurt BREUER, an SNB journalist who has been identified as an MVD agent.

Field Comment: See MGB/3912/BSC-774. A mail censorship cover has been in effect on BREUER for some weeks without result. It has not been deemed advisable to take more drastic action for fear of compromising CAMISADE with PREGNANT.

BREUER, who has never had more than a nodding acquaintance with KAHNKE, passed his visit off as a purely neighborly call. His conversation, however, was confined almost exclusively to questions about CAMISADE. He wanted to know what CAMISADE was doing for a living and why he no longer works at ADN.

Field Comment: CAMISADE does, of course, actually still work at ADN, but on a free lance basis.

7. On the evening of 2 September BREUER paid another visit to KAHNKE. Apparently feeling his pretense of neighborliness on his last call had been a little thin, he indicated on this occasion that he found himself attracted by Frl KAHNKE's charms.

Source Comment: CAMISADE comments that this emotion could be no stretch of imagination be considered genuine, inasmuch as KAHNKE's charms, with the exception of a certain dexterity at the piano, are nonexistent.

BREUER again posed some searching questions on the subject of CAMISADE. He asked, in particular, CAMISADE's age, where he was from, how long he was in the army, what his army rank had been.

Field Comment: CAMISADE has never attempted to conceal the fact that he and KAHNKE see each other frequently. He believed that since it would inevitably become known sooner or later, there would be little point in disclaiming the association. To his U.S. case officer CAMISADE describes the relationship as one of love on KAHNKE's part, and on his part

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a certain appreciation of her character, outlook on life, and access to SNB information. CAMISADE says that KAHNKE has no natural aptitude nor liking for clandestine activities, and that although she does not like or approve of the Russians, she is motivated in procuring information for him only by her affection for him. It has gradually become apparent to her, he says, that he has some ulterior motive in collecting information on SNB; and he finally admitted to her some time ago that he was an agent of U.S. intelligence. It may be noted in passing that since learning of CAMISADE's American connections, KAHNKE's motives of love have been adulterated by two requests through CAMISADE for some material recognition from the Americans of her services. As noted above, these alarms and excursions are not presently taken too seriously by this office, but, admittedly, the activities of BREUER, believed to be another of PREGNANT's agents, does add weight to CAMISADE's suspicions.

8. An unexpected development took place on Saturday, 6 September, the customary meeting day for CAMISADE and his Russian case officer. Neither PREGNANT nor his temporary substitute, Maj ANTONOV (cf BSC/Ops/138), appeared for the meeting. PREGNANT's interpreter appeared in their stead, and said that Maj ANTONOV was sick. He also said that PREGNANT, who is supposedly away from Berlin for two months, will be in Berlin from time to time and will try to visit CAMISADE when he does. CAMISADE told the interpreter that Mr. WEBB would be away for three to four weeks, and they discussed briefly possible arrangements for a meeting of WEBB with a Russian officer when he returns. CAMISADE then, somewhat to his own surprise, launched into a diatribe about the way he has recently been treated. One of the things irking him, he told the interpreter, is that PREGNANT and ANTONOV have not kept their promises about the food they have regularly promised him. He said that he had received nothing at all from them in the past two months, while during his short association with WEBB he has received more from the Americans than in the entire two years he has been working for PREGNANT. The other thing troubling him, he said, was the way he had recently been under surveillance. He told the interpreter he attributed this surveillance to his association with the American, WEBB, and reminded the interpreter that his acquaintance with WEBB had been maintained only at the direct order of PREGNANT himself. Why then, he asked, was PREGNANT, or ANTONOV, badgering him with mysterious phone calls and watchers? When the interpreter replied that he was sure CAMISADE was not being watched by anyone's order, CAMISADE took him to task for trying to soothe him with a routine answer. He insisted his dissatisfaction be conveyed to PREGNANT or ANTONOV, and that he be given a satisfactory explanation of the surveillance.

9. The interpreter left after about an hour, and returned in about two more hours. He asked CAMISADE to follow him outside and down the street, which CAMISADE did. A short way down the street they came to a parked Opel Cadet, blue, chromium trimmed, with a chromium radiator grill, and bearing the license number KB 31034 or KB 31134 (a Berlin number). Inside the car was a tall, very thin, blond, unfriendly Russian in civilian clothes, who was introduced to CAMISADE as "the Major". He ungraciously presented CAMISADE with two loaves of bread, one pound of butter, one pound of sugar, and a large bunch of carrots.

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Field Comment: We are still casting about for a suitable candidate to fill the shoes of Mr. WEBB. Thus far CAMISADE has handled his delicate assignment with considerable skill, at the same time producing some worthwhile intelligence along CE lines. No doubt the whole operation could be raised to a higher level by letting the notional Mr. WEBB materialize and by putting him in direct contact with PREGNANT's representative.

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SC, Berlin

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