

4 June 1956

Subject - Eric WENGER @ Edward WOLTERS

att. EGNA - 8906

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3828
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SUBJECT is a long-time member of the RfV who has been employed not as an official regularly employed RfV employee (Angestellter) or official (Lehrer) but as a so-called "Freie Mitarbeiter" (unofficial semi-covert employee) since at least 1951. During this period he has continuously served with the RfV's operational CE section in its various organizational forms. WENGER had previous experience in the CE field with either the former German ABWEHR or the SD, or both and possibly the GASTAPO as well, which accounts for the fact that his service with the RfV has been continuously in the CE field and for the fact that he has until now been associated with the RfV not as a regular employee but as a "Freie Mitarbeiter". As you are aware, the RfV has frequently used the "Freie Mitarbeiter" status to employ more or less capable persons with experience whose dubious backgrounds prevented the RfV from openly employing them as regular employees and risking criticism of the practice of employing such personnel.

3. In the case of WENGER, who is married and the father of children, his continued status of a "Freie Mitarbeiter" has long been a source of discontent to him. The reason for this is that he is considered to be the RfV's most capable operational CE case officer and handling agent who is turned to by less experienced, less capable RfV CE case officers for advice and guidance and who is relied upon by his immediate chief, (Dr.) Walter STRAUSS, RfV Department II CE chief, and Department II head, Richard GERKEN, to handle particularly difficult and sensitive cases. At the same time, despite his responsibility for advising less qualified personnel, training new personnel and handling difficult cases, he has been barred from official employment, and thus from promotion and official recognition, by his status as a "Freie Mitarbeiter". In November 1955 SUBJECT confided in me that he was considering a transfer from the RfV to service with the MAD, that he had been offered regular employment in a civilian capacity with MAD and that, although he preferred to remain with the RfV, he would leave the RfV and accept employment with MAD unless the RfV took steps to regularize his employment. My conversation with SUBJECT and with his chief, GERKEN, on this subject at that time was reported in my memo of 30 Nov 1955, file Ev-55-2862, SUBJECT as above. The referenced report also recorded that if WENGER's RfV employment could be regularized there was some possibility that he might eventually attain the position of head of the RfV's operational CE section.

4. WOLTERS has now confided in me that as a result of RfV representations in his behalf the Personnel Department of the Interior Ministry has agreed to his permanent regular employment by the RfV, despite his SD past, and that

retroactive to 1 Jan 1956 he has been made a regular RfV employee (Angestellter) in the grade of TOA-3. In reply to my query as to whether he was satisfied with this grade he replied that for the present he would have to be, that SCHREIBER had explained to him that the most important point has now been settled, i.e., the question of his permanent, regular employment, and that the question of increased grade should only first be taken up after some time has elapsed in his new status and everyone has finally accepted the idea of regular employment for one of his background. At such time SCHREIBER will, according to WOLTERS, recommend his promotion to an official's grade, perhaps that of Regierungsrat.

5. In response to my further query as to whether the possibility existed that he might now be shortly made chief of the operational CE section WOLTERS said that for the time being, and until he achieved the grade of Regierungsrat, there seemed little possibility of it although GERKEN's still desired the change. He pointed out that in his present rank it would be inconvenient ("unbequem") since the CE section chief must also exercise authority over officials as well as employees. He also indicated that he is satisfied with his present status for the time being, will not be disposed to push for further promotion at the present time, and no longer entertains any thought of accepting employment with MAD.

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