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20 February 1960

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

Dr. Kurt Wessely: born on 23 March 1906 in Linz, Austrian citizen, Roman Catholic, residing in Linz, Döngasse 14. He is a former editor of the Wiener Allgemeine Nachrichten; later joined the NS where he advanced to the grade of Untersturmführer and became a close friend of Kaltenbrunner.

Wessely works at present for the Harry Mast Bureau, Wks, Landstrasse, where the former editor of the Zeits Zeits, Franz Millik, is also employed. No details are as yet available on the activity of this bureau, but it is assumed to be the head office of an American counter intelligence service procuring economic information.

Wessely's father-in-law, Schmidt, is a civil servant in the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture. Wessely's wife Suzanne was an agent of the Ave when Rajk was still the Hungarian Minister of Interior. She travelled to Hungary about three months ago and often makes long distance calls to Budapest from the Kommandatura in Urfahr. Her husband as a journalist concerned with economic matters finds it easy to obtain detailed information on plants in Western Austria. He frequently travels to Salzburg and to the Tyrol.

In Aufstein, Tyrol, Dr. Wessely frequently visits a certain Dr. Thaller, the chief of the Communist Counter Intelligence Bureau in Kufstein, which is directly subordinate to the Central Committee of the KPOs. Dr. Wessely's expenditures are not commensurate with his official income. His wife bought Christmas presents in Linz valued at 25,000 schillings and stressed that this was only part of her shopping.

At present Dr. Wessely and his wife are staying in Bad Hall where they proceeded in a taxicab. Dr. Wessely recently purchased a camera and is trying

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to photograph certain persons. Insofar as scrutiny of the persons photographed by him does not permit any conclusions as to the field of his interests. It is suspected that while in Hall Wessely is conferring with Hungarian intelligence and KPOe functionaries.

As a supplement to the above information it was recently learned from confidential sources that Dr. Wessely had a conference with Haider, Schuller and other leading Upper Austrian Communists. The conference was held on 20 December 1949 at provincial headquarters of the Upper Austrian KPOe. After this conference the participants called on the Soviet Kommandatura at Urfahr.

It is said that Dr. Wessely with Ivar Nagy and one Fehrbach is in charge of repatriating KPOe and ethnic Germans living in Austria.