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NOV 1953

Subject: Intelligence Activities
of Dr. fru THALER

Report No: EAS-118

Date of Information: prior to
19 May 1953

Place Acquired: Austria, Salzburg

Date Acquired:

Evaluation: C-3

Date of Report: 21 September 1953

Source: An Austrian with good contacts in Austrian police circles.

1. ^{Friedrich} Dr. ~~fru~~ THALER was a member of the NSDAP Sicherheitsdienst in Austria prior to 1938. In 1945 he founded a chemical plant in Kufstein, Land Tyrol, and established connections with the FIS shortly thereafter. 1 Sometime during 1947, THALER contacted one (Dr.) ENDES who was at that time working for the RIS. 2
2. In 1948 THALER became associated with Dr. Kurt WESSELY who was then active for ZIPPER in the field of Austrian economic and domestic policy. 3 A possible partial reason for the THALER-WESSELY relationship is the fact that WESSELY's Hungarian born wife was living in Budapest with her two children, and was free to travel between Austria and Hungary. Mrs. WESSELY's father was a high ranking official in the Hungarian Ministry of Trade at the time.
3. THALER reportedly asked WESSELY to furnish him with economic and domestic policy information on Hungary. It is not known that WESSELY complied with THALER's repeated demands, however, Hungarian refugees in the realm of intelligence purport to believe that due to the fact that Mrs. WESSELY's father was sent to northern Hungary during 1952 and was later held in confinement in Platensee, there is evidence that the WESSELY's were working for the RIS.
4. THALER frequently travels outside of Land Tyrol to all parts of Austria. In the Linz and Graz areas, THALER has tried to recruit former NSDAP Sicherheitsdienst members, promising them financial rewards. In his attempt to recruit these people, he proposed cooperation with the FIS and only later mentioned the RIS. He has met with little success in his recruitment efforts, particularly in the Graz area.

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5. THALER was at one time in contact with Erich KERNMAYER, however, it is not known whether this connection is a current one.⁴

¹ Field Comment: SOI, Gmunden Field Office, No. GM/1040, dated 25 May 1949, reports one (Dr) Heinz THALER, head of a Russian information group in Kufstein, Land Tyrol, as having connections with Kurt WESSELY.

CIC Report S-12742, 21 March 1952, lists one (Dr) Friedrich THALER, born 8 April 1901 in Kufstein, as manager and part owner of the Alpenlandische Kunststoff GmbH, Hallein. He was incumbent of a high-ranking position with the Berlin police during the Nazi regime.

CIC Report V-29971, 2 May 1952, lists one (Dr) Fritz THALER, born 8 April 1901, as a new employee of the USIA Central Committee Commercial Office in Vienna, although a non-KPOe member. THALER had reportedly been legal advisor to the Soviet diplomatic representative in Vienna some years earlier.

² Source Comment: ENDRES jumped from his apartment window in Vienna in 1952.

³ Field Comment: CIC Report L-16144, 19 September 1949, refers to an unidentified SOI giving the following information on Dr. Kurt WESSELY, born 20 March 1906 in Linz, Austrian citizen, Roman Catholic, lawyer. Subject is a student of the economic and industrial situation in Austria and through publications, he also studies similar conditions in Yugoslavia, Hungary and Rumania. He has written several articles on the subject for Austrian newspapers and periodicals.

⁴ Field Comment: Erich KERNMAYER is a well-known intelligence operator in Austria on whom there are many traces in SOB in connection with the Willi HOETTL case.

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