SECRET

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MRL-8- 1156

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Chief of Station
Switzerland

17 December 1948

Attn: [ ]

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Dr. Karl von WINKLER

REFERENCE: MRL-4895

1. The following information on Subject has been taken from local files:

An alleged member of an Austrian resistance movement von WINKLER was brought to Feldkirch by Wilhelm SUETZ in 1946, at which time Subject was making arrangements for entry into Switzerland. Bern obtained information on Subject's resistance group in April 1945. The British then reported that WINKLER's past record was very bad and that London Austrian groups were unanimous in stating he was corrupt and discredited. He was turned down by the Foreign Office. Bern in turn reported that WINKLER was not considered of the caliber to be an important resistance leader but because of business contacts might be of use for intelligence purposes. It was learned that WINKLER was born 12/8/12 at Stadmark Styria, and was reported to have been private secretary of Count Wilhelm von BALLESTREM, representative of the board of directors of Vereinigte Stevrobleschiche Kohlenwerke for Belgrade and Agram, where the company owned export firms. Subject was said to have long been anti-Nazi. In July 1946 it was reported that WINKLER had founded an export-import trading firm in Austria known as the Graberr-Kohlenlgmbh, with the main office at Graz, Sporergrigh 18 and with a branch in Vienna at Rathausstr. 5. The authorities in Graz and Vienna refused to recognize or sanction the firm because one of its partners (name not given) was a compromised Nazi. The report further states that Subject while in Switzerland stated he was going to be appointed Austrian consul in Switzerland.

2. The only recent information on Subject was a Vienna communication of November 1948 which reported that WINKLER was given a card of introduction to a Vienna source by a CIC agent, George C. WEBER. This was regarded as a breach of security on the latter's part.

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