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1. London X-2-Pts 2-Box 3, Folder 88. Interrogation of Freiherr von Bechtolsheim, July 1945. Appendix A I is Report on GIS Personnel in the RSHA, Berlin.

WIRSING, Giselher: ~~Stuba~~ Stubafu (SS or SA?), is a well-known author of books on economics and America. Brought to Amt VI by Schellenberg in Dec 44, was to collect and collate and memorize all possible info. so as to act as walking Baedeker on intelligence to SCHELLENBERG. Seen once at a reception at the WAINSEE Guesthouse.

para 3. PERSONNEL AND MOVEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENTS:

Chief of Amt VI - SS Brigade and Gen. Maj. R d. Pol. SCHELLENBERG

Personnel Staff: Giselher Wirsing, walking Baedeker.

2. Wash X-2-Pts-98, Folder 4 (86) Box 1, 18 March 46. Subject: Interrogation of Karl Heinz Kraemer, German Intelligence Officer stationed in Stockholm during WW II

para 6. Kraemer reported to Abwehr I/Luft (The Air Forces Intelligence Section of the GIS until ~~absorbed~~ absorbed by the RSHA in June 1944) Oberstltm. KLEYENSTUEBER and OHLTZ, as well as OBERLTm. BERG and Giselher WIRSING

Dr. Giselher Wirsing: Mentioned in our L4-2899 of 5 Nov 1945. Also author of the "Egnone" reports relying on KRAEMER for information.

5. London X-2-Pts 12, 1 of 2: WIRSING, Giselher
US Forces European Theater, Interrogation Center, AFG 757; Preliminary Interrogation Report No 46, 8 August 1945; Prisoner: H/Stuf Dr. Wirsing, Giselher, Editor of "XX Jahrhundert"

Personal Data: Giselher Wirsing was born in Schweinfurt 15 Apr 07. He studied at Muenchen, Koenigsberg, Berlin and Heidelberg, working at the same time as co-editor and publisher of "Die Tat". From 1930 until 1932 he was a Dozent at the Univ. of Heidelberg. Summer 1932 he went to Berlin to study at the University, where he remained until end of 1933. During this period he did free-lance newspaper writing and published the book "Zwischen Europa". The following is a summary of his subsequent career as an author and editor.

1933 Joined the staff of Muenchener Neueste Nachrichten
1934 Editor in chief
1938 Spent four months in the United States. In Nov joined the Allgemeine SS.
1940 Joined the NSDAP
1942 Published "Der Masslose Continent", a book in which he described his experiences in the U.S. Drafted into the German Army, served in Central Russia and the Caucasus as a war reporter with rank of

Lt. In Dec contracted jaundice. Sent to hospital in Weimar.
1943 Unfit for active service. Political writer for "Die Tat". Later editor in chief of "XX Jahrhundert". Made several trips to Spain with Ambassador Dieckhoff.
Apr 1944 Published his philopophical work "Das Zeitalter des Ikaros".
Aug War reporter in Paris attached to the chief intelligence officer. Met Meyer-Detring. Met Abetz.
Sept Schellenberg asked him to write a series of reports on the world political situation. Wirsing asked whether it would be possible to convince the Fuehrer that further prosecution of the war would be senseless. Schellenberg admitted that he was of the same opinion but doubted that the Fuehrer could be convinced. It was decided that the reports, later known as the "Egmont Reports" should be designed to influence the Fuehrer. Wirsing continued the work until shortly before the surrender. He was not a member of Amt VI and was not paid for the work.
Spring 45 Consulted with Schellenberg about a surrender to the Western Allies. Nothing came of this effort.

b. Administrative Data: Wirsing was arrested in Bad Toelz 1 Jun 45 by CIC Det 303.

c. Knowledge Brief: a. Journalists and propagandists in Germany; b. Amt VI RSHA; c. Personalities of the German Foreign Office.

d. Comments: Wirsing assets that he had very little to do with the SS and that his main interest in life was his profession. He says that he was not a member of RSHA and prepared the "Egmont Reports" as a personal favor to Schellenberg. #.....

4. Description of Wirsing by Bechtolsheim: 1.72m, powerful build, sparse fair hair, rosy round face, round nose and chin, clean shaven

5. Draft Reports from MFIU No. 3: In 1941 Wirsing wrote book on U.S., 140,000 copies of which sold up to 1943. Title means boundless, with connotations of insatiable (Das masslose Kontinent). Book was very anti-American; "was a smooth concoction of blatant propaganda and insidious distortions; ... became a fountain head of anti-American propaganda in Germany.

"Over and beyond their immediate, didactic purpose, of enlightening their readers on the true state of affairs, the Egmont reports were a means towards an end. Both Schellenberg and Wirsing were agreed on the desirability of seeing Hitler ~~appraised of all the pertinent facts that would lead to his impending doom~~ hors de combat. Wirsing accepted the commission to write the Egmont reports with the expectation in view, that Hitler appraised of all the pertinent facts that summed up Germany's impending doom would, if he had a spark of responsibility left, withdraw from the political scene of his own accord. At any rate, Wirsing figured, that the reports might be instrumental in manoeuvring Hitler into a political stalemate where no alternative was left him but to resign. End of Nov. 1944 when it became evident that Hitler reacted unfavorably to the political line of the Egmont reports, Egmont reports discontinued in March 1945

This report gives Wirsing's evaluation of political event during and just prior the end of the war. Shows him to be anti-Russian, fearing Russian expansion.

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6. London X-2-Pts 8-Folder 11 (14) Box 2; Annex # 10; Personalities in Amt VI of the RSHA

101. Wirsing, Giselherr, Stubaf, with VI Apr 45; lives Berlin; Misc. Editor of "Die Tat" and "Muenchener Neueste Nachrichten"

Rome X-2-Pts-127 #2-2a-4248 Box I. Nothing new (Report of Personnel in Amt VI)
" " " 120 #2-2a-3839 Nothing new
" " " 118 #2-2a-4166 Nothing new; says as do all the others, that Wirsing, Giselher was a member of the Zentralbuero of Amt VI

7. Rome L-2-Pts 107-#2-2a-5111, Box 3; Army Report CI-IIR/40, 29 Dec 45; Interrogation of O/Stubaf Paeffgen, Theodor, Leader of VI-D RSEA.

In April 1945 Lenge (head of VI-D/1) escorted General Vanaman, a US Air Force Officer, to the Swiss border. Vanaman was allegedly given an oral message to deliver to President Roosevelt. This project was supervised by Schellenberg who acted upon the advice of Stubaf Giselher Wirsing (cf Third US Army Int Center Special Interrogation Report # 2). After changing his mind several times, Himmler had reluctantly consented to Vanaman's release from a PWE.

8. London X-2-Pts 8, Box 4; Interrogation of Walter Schellenberg, ~~in~~ July 45.

XIII. Amt VI collaboration with the Japanese

42. The officers of Amt VI dealing with Japan were:

Professor Dr. Glassen

Dr. Wirsing was another collaborator of Amt VI with the Japanese Intelligence Service. He worked on the political side of central intelligence regarding Japan, whilst Lt Col Freund, together with an officer whose name Schellenberg has forgotten, covered the field of counter espionage.

9. KEM-463, 15 Oct 46; DIC, CCG (BE), FR 105, 25 Oct 46; Final Report on Stubaf Giselher Wirsing:

2. Prisoner's reputation was built primarily on his shrewd analysis of foreign affairs. His constant interest in high policy, and personal knowledge of the politicians and officials who shaped it, showed him how tenuous and potent the manipulation of power can be. There is no doubt that his own political ambitions aimed very high, and that he considered himself a future Secretary or Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. In his view titles and rank were unimportant and real influence, especially in totalitarian Germany, could equally well be wielded by shadowy men concealed behind the figures exposed to the public gaze.

3. Prisoner did not regard himself as an unscrupulous opportunist. As a journalist he had observed the wrangles of politicians for many years and prided himself on having few illusions: to him Fascism, democracy and Communism were but symptoms of the age-old clash of cultures, part of the dynamic struggle between decay and growth ... Nazism was injecting new vigour into a people forgetful

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of ~~his~~ its destiny. In his youth, he had sat at the feet of Oswald Spengler: his was Spengler's philosophy brought up to date.

When Prisoner first came into prominence in the early 1930s he advocated pseudo-Socialism and State nationalism, is the Gregor Strasser kind of Nazism. ~~Exk~~ Through his writings he persuaded the Conservative element to under write Nazism, arguing that the more repugnant aspects were mere teething troubles of a young revolutionary party.

4. Prisoner is a man of exceptional intellectual faculties and literary flair. From then onwards he interpreted Nazi expansion in terms of renaissance of German ~~is~~ "Kultur, ~~xxxxxx~~" - his theme was German hegemony in Europe, cloaked in the deceptive verbiage of a "Federal Europe". The mission of German Kultur, the degrading nihilism of "Amerikanismus", the mechanistic barbarism threatening from the East, the decadence and hypocrisy of British Imperialism, all these were recurrent topics in his writings, served up with a seemingly rational erudition in which shrewd historical and social analysis, insidious half-truths and astonishing fallacies constantly intermingled.

5. Prisoner's claim that he was not a ~~Nazi~~ Nazi is not well founded. He was not, it is true, a believer in the Nordic blood myth. He can point to his frequent clashes with the Propaganda Ministry, with Bormann, Dietrich, Goebbels and Ribbentrop, to his cautious public and open private criticism during the final stages of the Third Reich ("The was is lost - let us save Germany), and finally to his timid intrigues to have the, as he believed, the more malleable Himmler replace Hitler. His share in the war guilt was that he shored up a vicious and cowardly dictatorship by giving it moral values and a historical perspective which he knew to be false.

History of the Case 7. Many questions in the Brief have already been fully covered by previous reports, and Prisoner has nothing new to add. In fact, such info as he has given falls short of previous statements. Further on the basis of the "Dustbin" Report, apparently unwarranted assumptions have been made linking Prisoner with political and economic espionage. For instance a whole para (para 8) of the Dustbin Report is devoted to Wirsing's "Probable Activities" and contains hints and predictions not substantiated by data, but based, it would seem, wholly on the previous interrogators' hunches. Each of these red herrings has greatly delayed investigation.

9. Career:

15 Apr 07 - Born in Schweinfurt/Main

1925 - Studied sociology and political science.

1929 - Became assist to Prof Brinkmann at Institute of Social and Pol. Sciences at Heidelberg Univ. During next few years visited East. European and Balkan countries.

1930 - Took Doctor's degree at Heidelberg Univ.

Asst. Editor - Die Tat

1932 - Published his first book: Zwischeneuropa und die Deutsch Zukunft

Went to Berlin as free-lance journalist, and became active contributor to Die Tat.

Sep-Dec 32 - Worked in the Info Sect. of League of Nations, in Geneva.

1933 - Continued free-lance journalism. Published his second book: Deutschland in der Weltpolitick. Went to Italy and Yugoslavia.

Oct 33 - Asst Editor of Muenchener Neueste Nachrichten.

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1934 - Published the third book: "Koepe der Weltpolitick
End 34 - Became political editor of Muenchener Neueste Nachrichten" and editor of Die Tat.
Travelled widely in Europe for his papers, during next few years.
Summer 36 - Editor in chief of MNN
Jan-Mar 38 - First journey to the Middle East
Published fourth book: "Englaender, Juden & Araben in Palaestina"
Apr - Aug 38: Visit to USA
Jan-Mar 39 - Second journey to Middle East.
Sep 39 - Accepted hon position in Info Sect. of Amsw Amt, in addition to his duties as editor of MNN and Die Tat, now renamed Das XX Jahrhundert
Jan 42 - Publication of fifth book: "Der Masslose Kontinent".
Feb 42 - Voluntarily joined the Army. His position as editor of the MNN had become untenable as a result of several editorial articles favouring a lenient policy towards France. (R "There is no such thing as a "soft or hard policy, only a wise or a stupid one".
Promoted Sdf (Z) in Kriegsberichter Komp.
April 42 War Correspondent in Russia; attached 56 Pz Corps. There wrote memorandum criticising German treatment of Russians. This ~~emo~~ memo he managed to give personally to Gen Wagner, Deputy Chief of GS,OKH. Wagner apparently passed it on to Hitler, for some months later Prisoner was ordered by Bormann not to write again on Russian affairs during the war.
Dec 42 - Ill: returned to Germany
Jan 43 - Attached to OKW/W/Pr (Wehrmacht Propaganda). Working on Wehrmacht publication "Signal". Brief visits to France, Spain, Italy and Denmark.
Spring 44 - Promoted Lt.
1944 - Publication of sixth book: "Das Zeitalter des Ikaros".
Summer 44 - "Das XX Jahrhundert" was suppressed by Propaganda Ministry as a result of an article on Hieronymus Bosch (Allegorical Invective)
Oct 44-Mar 45 - Wrote Egmont Reports for RSEA VI, and became Schellenberg's political adviser. Evacuated with Amt VI staff to Bavaria.
1 June 45 - Arrested by American CIC in Bad Toelz, Bavaria.

Political:

1933 - Member of Reichspressekammer
Nov 38 - Hptstuf in Allg SS
Summer 40 - Joined NSDAP (no rank or office)
Autumn - Stubaf in Allg SS

Remainder of report describes Wirsing's position as trusted political advisor of Schellenberg (head of Amt VI) and author of Egmont reports. Gives piecemeal description of contents of those reports (from Wirsing's memory), and detailed description of Wirsing's travels and contacts.

73-7-28-15; MGFA 3486 (3 Feb 50); To: Chief, Foreign Division M, From: COS, Karlsruhe; Subject: Activities of German Nationalist Circles - "Die Bruderschaft" (The Brotherhood)

According to a summary report on the Bruderschaft by the acting chief of the Intelligence Branch, OLC, Bavaria, Mr Eric Isenstead, submitted to Dir Of Intelligence

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HICOG, Giselher Wirsing, Schweinfurt, Alte Bahnhofstr. 2, former chief editor of Muenchner Neueste Nachrichten, top nazl journalist, present on staff of Christ und Welt, Stuttgart (A-1) is a member of the Bruderschaft. Die Bruderschaft is a loose federation of former German professional officers, conservative industrialist, and professional "Christian" politicians. With headquarters located in Schloss Holste bei Bielefeld, the organization is governed by a so-called Bruderrat, which is not to be confused with the Bruderrat of the Confessional (Evangelical) Church. Member of group include Lt Gen Eric von Manteuffel, Lt Gen Oldwig von Watzmer, Lt. General Speidel, etc. One of principal leaders of one Franke-Grieksch, vice-chairman of CDU in Schleswig-Holstein, formerly a follower of Otto Strasser

32-7-27-5442; ID EUCOM; Report # R-P174-50, 29 June 50; Subject: German Foreign Office

Giselher Wirsing, present address unknown, believed to be in Munich. From 1939-41 Wirsing was a member of the Informationsabteilung of the Berlin Foreign Office. He was the author of many books including one on the USA ~~called~~ called "The Boundless Continent". Wirsing was born on 15 April 1906 in Schweinfurt (L51/476). Before 1935 Wirsing served as the chief editor of the Magazine Die Tat. From 1942 to the end of WW II Wirsing served with OKW/INPR as publisher of "Signal". At his denazification trial Hahn appeared as a witness.

1. Wirsing, Giselher
3. Born 1907 in Schweinfurt
6. Bad Heilbrunn, Oberbayern
12. Journalist
19. Placed in group 4 by the denazification court (this is the least severe of all groups except group 5 which is equivalent to acquittal).
24. Played prominent press role in the Hitler period and was editor of the Muenchener Neueste Nachrichten.

LWX 380, 6-7-46, Interrogation Report of Karl Georg Pfeleiderer, CSDIC, BAOR, 10 Jan 46, Appendix E to FR 21; Subject: Prisoner's Relations with the RSHA.

E. Prisoner's relations with Amt VI were very different from those with Amt IV and of far greater importance. He had personal contact with three men:

c. Wirsing, Dr Giselher, writer and journalist. Adviser to Schellenberg on political affairs abroad. Kraemer told Prisoner that he did not belong to RSHA but that through his friend Wirsing, he had direct communications with Schellenberg (Pfeleiderer was attached to German Legation in Stockholm during war.)

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5.Kraemer then gave Prisoner Wirsing's latest book to read, which was called "Das Zeitalter des Skaro. Prisoner states that the book contained a great deal of hidden criticism of the Third Reich, so much in fact that the writer must have had the aid of the RSHA in having it accepted by the Ministry of Propaganda. Kraemer and Prisoner decided that they would use Wirsing for direct contact with Schellenberg

Prisoner met Wirsing on 21 March 45 in Berlin. The conversation dealt with the question of what could be done to help Germany.

7. Prisoner states that during the discussion Wirsing raised one ~~off~~ or two points in which he was greatly interested, namely, the international significance of the Church and Jewish problems. Wirsing was of the opinion that no greater service could be rendered to Germany than to continue the policy of the RSHA, with Himmler's sanction, to save many thousands of Jews by granting them permission to go to Switzerland. Wirsing also expressed hope that problem of the ~~Ch~~ Church in Germany would find a happy solution. He maintained that his would considerably influence public opinion abroad in Germany's favor

LWX-002-815 C, 8-28-45; Nothing new. Briefly reviews Wirsing's relations with Schellenberg at very end of war (last few days)

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