

MEMORANDUM

June 7, 1946

Dr. Joseph WIRTH

1. Dr. WIRTH was the Chancellor of Germany under the Weimar Republic during the years 1921, 1922 and 1923. He was a member of the Catholic Center Party and is from Baden. He left Germany, I believe, shortly before Hitler took over and has lived in Switzerland ever since. He was one of the organizers of Demokratischer-Deutschland in Switzerland, a group of anti-Nazi, anti-Communist and presumably democratically-minded Germans. Dr. Wirth lives quietly in Lucerne. He was of some assistance to Allan Dulles during the war and provided some interesting information.

2. Dr. WIRTH, it should be remembered, has been outside of Germany for about fourteen years and is entirely out of touch. He is, I believe, a man of good will who might be of greater use in the future when he returns to Germany, in view of the recent electoral success of the Christian Democratic Party with which he will probably be associated on his return. He is a name, and he is still not too old to take a vigorous interest in Germany's internal politics. Dr. Wirth had some difficulty with the French last Autumn when he visited Baden and is quoted as having criticized the French Occupation on his return to Switzerland. Dr. Wirth has advised me that he was mis-quoted and that the German Communists had inspired the misunderstanding between himself and the French authorities. At the present time he is unable to obtain a French Permit to transit the French Zone and enter the American Zone of Occupation where he apparently desires to reside, probably in or near Karlsruhe. I have advised Dr. Wirth that his case has been cleared insofar as the American authorities in Germany are concerned and that he will be given a Military Permit to enter the American Zone, but that it is between him and the French authorities to obtain permission to transit the French Zone. Dr. Wirth states that he has written to French friends in Paris and that he will approach the French Ambassador in order to clear up the misunderstanding which has arisen.

3. I suggest that this office continue to maintain friendly contact with Dr. Wirth. It may be that he will play a major role in the Catholic Center Party in Germany and our relationships with him here might in the future be productive, although he is of little value as a contact at the present time.

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