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Chief of Base, Pullach
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INFO: COM
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Heinrich A.E. OTTO and ZECH-BENNYWICH

1. Attached is translation of an Aide-Memoire, written by Fred ^XHIDL, publisher in Frankfurt/Main, who submitted it to the NIGOG Press Attache, Lowell Bennett. With the latter's permission I sent the original to Dr. Otto JOHN because of his special interest in the activities of ZECH-BENNYWICH who has been spreading false information allegedly obtained from NIGOG circles.
2. I also recommended to the BfV that they check Heinrich OTTO's allegation that he had obtained classified material from the Organization G alias ZIPPER. Any traces the addressees of this dispatch may have on Heinrich A.E. OTTO and ZECH-BENNYWICH will be greatly appreciated. *(aka - Bonn - KAD)*
3. The BfV has been trying for over a year to collect evidence that ZECH-BENNYWICH is either a Czech or a Cominform agent who is deliberately spreading false information which might embarrass both the Allies and the Federal Republic. If ZIPPER or you have any material that may assist the BfV in their investigation of these Cominform activities, it should be submitted immediately to the BfV either directly or through this office.

Enclosure:

A. Paper - Subj: "Heinrich A.E. Otto
Author, Siegburg, Luisenstr 143
and Zech, Journalist, Bonn"

15 March 1954

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Subject: Heinrich A.E. Otto, Author, Siegburg, Luisenstr. 143 and
Zehn, Journalist, Bonn.

Last year, in autumn, the author Heinrich A.E. Otto was introduced to me by Herr Pieperbeck of IHT. He asked me whether he could not occasionally do the editing of manuscripts. That was the last I heard of him.

At the beginning of February, Otto sent me a manuscript, under the assumed name of Thomas Rada: "You have still two years to live", and visited me a couple of days later in Frankfurt. The manuscript is well written, interesting, and not at all exaggerated.

According to Otto, the manuscript had been talked over in detail with staffers of the organization G. and he had only used official material. To confirm this statement, he showed me a pile of files, protocols and a copy of the bill of indictment, parts of which were stamped "secret".

Otto suggested to me that I publish a series of articles which only dealt with cases of espionage of current interest.

At the same time he informed me that he was already preparing a second manuscript on the Heinz case. His proposal sounded interesting to me, not only from the business point of view, but because I was of the opinion that a series (spies among us) would absolutely fit into my political-publishing program.

Together with Herr Otto I visited the editor-in-chief Frotscher of the "Abendpost", who was interested in getting advanced copy rights, however, for time reasons he had to postpone this project till May. *X-POB - Germany*

During the course of this conversation, Otto offered Herr Frotscher a sensational report on statements allegedly made by Rastorok, who, according to him, was in Berlin. Otto said that this material had originated from the same official source as his former material and that he therefore vouched for its authenticity.

Frotscher was somewhat sceptical and requested from Otto to check on the story once again in Bonn, especially as it was a highly important affair of the Occupation Power.

I was not informed on further discussions between Frotscher and Otto, and when reading the "Abendpost" of 15.2.1954 noted with amazement that Frotscher had brought the story inspite of his original misgivings.

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As the story -at least according to my information- proved not to be true, I became even more sceptical of O t t o, whom, apart from this; I did not especially trust. O t t o, namely, had informed me in the meantime that he did not receive his material directly from the organization G, but through a go-between.

Because O t t o was urging that I should make a decision and wanted to have advance payment, a second discussion took place yesterday in the Stern hotel in Bonn, at which his go-between was present also, who introduced himself as journalist Z e c h.

I insisted upon being informed whether contents and tendency of the manuscripts were really co-ordinated with any official offices and whether they would really agree to the intended publication of such a series.

These questions of mine were only very evasively answered. It was said that Dr. John's consent was without any importance anyhow as his office would undergo changes in personnel in the near future. The organization G should not at all be mentioned in connection with this project, as Herr Z e c h would lose his source if this would be done.

As one of the numerous references he (Herr Z e c h) had at his disposal, he named Herr (Dr.) Otto Schmidt, from the Landesregierung Nordrhein-Westfalen, and said that he was on friendly terms with Herr Staatssekretär Dr. Globke.

Z e c h spoke of the second manuscript, on the h - i n z case, as of a sensation, because he would prove that this was a continuation of the "Rote Kapelle".

Z e c h and O t t o stated that they were in a position to furnish at least two manuscripts per quarter, and demanded together an advanced payment of DM 2000.- pro manuscript. (Author's fee 10%, minimum circulation 30.000 copies.)

I finally asked Z e c h whether he was the originator of the story on the R a s t o w o r o w case, which O t t o had sold to the "Abendpost". He answered in the affirmative and said that the American denials were not correct. Rastoworow had really been in Berlin and had been taken back by plane on Monday 1st week. He had been accompanied by the Russian speaking (CIC Colonel) Tcherbini. Zech added that negotiations had been started to exchange Rastoworow against McLean and Burgess.

At the end of our discussion I told O t t o and Z e c h that I would let them know my final decision the same night, whether I would be willing to conclude a contract for publication, or not.

NO
Means TSCHERBENINE
of evil memory (old stuff)
PAC #6/1/66
3/2/55

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Though I am convinced that the offered series of articles could be a great business success, I have decided to give the gentlemen a negative answer. The second discussion was not of a kind as to establish the necessary confidence, moreover I have gained the impression that the origin of the material as well as the aims pursued by the two gentlemen give reason for serious misgivings.

Pfn, 24-2-54

/s/ Fred Rudl

NO - RUDL is no right in his conclusion

*RR
EE/C/CE
3/2/55*

17 Mar 54

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