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DISPATCH NO. EGLW-1282

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

JAN 19 1955

TO Chief of Mission, Frankfurt
Attn: Chief of Base, Pullach

FROM Chief, EE

DATE

INFO: BONN

SUBJECT

GENERAL	Operational
SPECIFIC	Traces on Hans Walter ZECH-MERTWIG O Dr. Sven Joachim NANSEN

REF: PULL 9077, EGLA-11058, EGMA-5283, 5307, EGQA-51466

1. Subject is variously known as Joachim Hans Walter ZECH-MERTWIG, Hans Walter ZECH-MERTWICH, Joachim Hans Walter ZECH-MERTWIG, Dr. Sven Joachim ZECH-MERTWIG and Dr. Sven Joachim NANSEN.

2. Headquarters files contain the following identifiable information on Subject:

a. Subject, DOB: 10 July 1916, served a short time in the German Army and Air Force, and then joined the SS in 1938. In 1940, he was adjutant to SS-Gruppenfuhrer FEGLERIN. HIMMLER ordered Subject's arrest in 1944 on a charge of having sent weapons to the Polish Underground. Subject fled from Warsaw to Sweden and then to England. He worked for BIS under the name Dr. Sven Joachim NANSEN and in 1945 was an interrogator of German war prisoners. He returned to Germany in 1946, and from 1947 to 1949 was an adviser to the state government of Nordrhein-Westfalen with the rank of First Class Counselor of Legation under British orders. During this period he is alleged to have had frequent contacts with Communist leaders, including four visits to Walter ULBRICHT in the DDR. Subject was dismissed from his position in 1949 for unknown reasons. He then became head of the "GLO transport unit". In 1951, he was a staff member of the newspaper Der Fortschritt. A police raid on his home in September 1952 uncovered a letter from the Subject to ULBRICHT that asked ULBRICHT a help in the attainment of a position in the DDR. In early 1952, Subject had no visible profession, but he is alleged to have had a great deal of money. In mid-1952, Subject was arrested by the British and sentenced to three months in jail for attempting to acquire information on the supply system of the British Army of the Rhine by bribery. Subject later was rumored to be in line to succeed Dr. Otto JOHN as chief of the Office for Constitutional Defense. Subject has two residences: Mehlem, Schlosstrasse 11, and Winnekendonk bei Kefelaer, Heidehof.

(Releasing officer)

(Continuing officer)

(Authenticating officer)

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b. Subject was the target of a preliminary proceeding issued against him in early 1953 on the charge "preparation to commit treason". Subject's residence at Mehlen was raided 24 September 1952 on order of the Federal Court and a large quantity of papers was seized. The papers included the letter to ULRICHT mentioned above. Subject, at the time of the raid, was charged with assault and slander. On 5 December 1952, Subject received a suspended sentence of five weeks in jail and a fine of 170 DM. (This and the preceding trace were obtained from a Headquarters source of variable reliability, tending to average poor. These reports are both in the possession of the Bonn Operations Base).

c. Subject was an officer in an SS Cavalry Division. He spent the entire war in Poland and on the Eastern Front. (KUTWIN report, 10 October 1943, apparently a prisoner interrogation report. Note that report predates the year given in 2a above for Subject's flight from the HIMMLER arrest order.)

d. Subject was described in an SPD Executive Information Report as "a many-sided man" whose visit to Chancellor ADENAUER on 9 January 1950 was discussed at length in Bonn. His name was reported as Dr. Sven Joachim ZECH-BENTWIG, about whom the *Fortschritt* had published information. Subject allegedly was an SS officer, a collaborator with the Polish Underground, a confidant of Frau VANSITTART, leader of a British propaganda bureau, and an agent of the BIS. He is said to use the title "Dr." without justification. It was said that Subject had been offered a position in a counter-intelligence organization to work against SED spies. It was also said, however, that he once had offered his services to the SED because it had become clear to him "that nothing was to be gained through western democracy" (MGFA-3520, 23 February 1950).

e. Subject was the subject of a three-page Zipper report to BfV, dated 21 February 1952 (Attachment to MGLA-12080, 25 June 1952).

f. Subject appeared in documents of the Security Group of the Federal Criminal Police from 6 December 1952 to 5 January 1953, which were forwarded to headquarters as attachments to EGFA-708, 8 January 1953.

g. Subject is mentioned as a former British agent during and after World War II, who fell out with the British and denounced a number of SPD and CDU politicians as British agents (MGFA-3614, 28 March 1950; EGQA-22401, 6 August 1953).

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