

HEADQUARTERS  
2577TH REGIMENT OSS  
APO 512 US ARMY

SECRET

3 January 1945

SUBJECT: German Activity with the Vatican

TO : Chief SI  
FROM : Eselt Aradi

This is a list of German personalities living in Rome and in the Vatican City in contact with Vatican circles.

1. Mons. Kaas, the former leader of the "Centrum" party in Germany, now living in the Vatican as "Canon of St. Peter's Church". The Pope's political adviser on Germany.
2. P. Lieber, a German Jesuit, one of the closest personal friends of the Pope. (Personal advisor on all political and spiritual problems)
3. Von Kessel, councillor of Embassy in the Germany Embassy to the Holy See. He constantly advocates a "charitable peace" for Germany, and presents himself as anti-Nazi. Is already supposed to be in contact with Allied circles.
4. Freiherr von Braun, Secretary of Embassy in the German Embassy to the Holy See. He was a German diplomat in Addis Ababa, and after occupation of Abyssinia by British forces, was interned in Kenya. Later exchanged, was appointed to the Vatican Embassy. For political opinion, see above.
5. Prof. Ludwing Curtius, well known archeologist, living in Rome for the past 35 or 40 years. Each week he sees representatives in the Vatican City.
6. Kuhnert, German musical historian, formerly living in Florence for many years; of partly Jewish origin and a strong Catholic (converted from Protestantism). He served as an enlisted man in the German Army in Russia, but later was discharged due to illness and sent to Rome as interpreter at the office of the German Air Attache at the German Embassy in Rome. He lives at the Vatican. About 33-35 years old.
7. Mohnen, an industrialist from Mannheim; enlisted man in the German Army in 1940, later attached to Goering's office

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for "Protecting European Cultural Monuments", and then to the "German Air Attache's Office in Rome. Air Attache's name, Col. Veltheim.

S. P. Zeiger, a German Jesuit rector of the Collegio Germanico-Ungarico in Rome. He was an officer in the first World War and became a Jesuit in 1922 or 1925. He is not a politician, and is anti-Nazi.

Kuhnert and Mohnen had a decisive role to play in protecting the Vatican against German paratroops and protecting Jews, Allied PWs and others during the German occupation. Their activity was based on Veltheim's authority, in which the latter played a double role. Veltheim's greatest fear was that he would be put on the list of war criminals. Veltheim later became liaison officer between Mussolini and the German Ambassador Rahn. Kuhnert and Mohnen acted through P. Pandrazius Pfeiffer, (head of the Salvatorian Order in Rome.) Pfeiffer an old man, and friend of the Pope, was working in an unofficial capacity, but on the behalf of the Pope with the German authorities and with the Gestapo.

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