

DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

PROCESSING ACTION

TO		MARKED FOR INDEXING
INFO.		NO INDEXING REQUIRED
FROM	Chief, European Division	ONLY QUALIFIED DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING
SUBJECT	Alias ACKERMANN	MICROFILM

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

1. Subject expressed an interest in having some social time with the undersigned and his predecessor who was ill, and with Identity all of whom he had gotten to know in the course of several previous technical sessions. We met at his hotel, went to the George Washington University Club for a miserable dinner, repaired to the hotel for a drink afterwards, and there follows a summary of the substance of our conversation and a few of [] own observations on subject.

2. Talk was largely focused on ADP matters during the course of which we exchanged the summary of what had transpired since we had last seen each other. He started off by saying that as I knew @ Leitner had succeeded him as chief of the ADP department, and as I predicted had turned out to be, in Ackermann's judgment, a failure as a chief thereof. Ackermann said there was no question that he was competent as a technician, but pointed out that that was hardly the prime requirement for leadership of that unit. He stated that @ Leitner's philosophy was a passive one. Rather than seeking to introduce computer-based tools to facilitate the work of the organization, which would ultimately change what the organization could do as well as the way it did it, he neither regarded the ADP organization as strictly a service organization. It was to execute the wishes of the users even though he admitted that it was possible for knowledgeable technicians to envision uses of the computer whose advantages would not be appreciated by the uninitiated. The uninitiated would not wish to have their customary mode of operation changed. He said that the center was now producing on a routine basis approximately fifteen reports and services which had been planned, but there had been absolutely no new development work undertaken since his own departure. ACKERMANN stated that all except one of the senior personnel whom he had trained and put into ADP so as to bring to the ADP work knowledge of the substance of the organization's business had left the ADP field. He specifically mentioned @ Stewarts as now working with him on a regional desk. ACKERMANN stated that @ Leitner was going

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DISPATCH

to serve three days a week with his organization and two days in his new assignment. He agreed with my assessment that this would not work out in the long run, but said that in some ways this was not important because the ADP organization was simply drifting. To this I said that given his present role I would think he could still influence events, even though the ADP work was subordinated to the Deputy for Support.

3. He outlined the nature of the reorganization that had taken place under the new leadership and opined that now that the Party had obtained status as the ruling Party and hence was responsible for the actions that it undertook, that future changes would be more judicious than some of the earlier changes had been, although he did not specify which of those he regarded as unjudicious. He spoke in respectful terms of his immediate chief but did not adduce any views on SAVONA AREA.

4. ACKERMANN was clearly bitter that he had been ordered to break off his connection with our organization in the ADP field. I expressed surprise at this saying that I was unaware of it. He said that this had taken place at the time that the Government had made the decision to use CANNISPER software for its biographic search and understandably stated that he felt that CASCOPE was on the trail of developing a better system than that which was adopted. I expressed no views on this but simply stated that I understood the CANNISPER system was working reasonably well. He stated that it was his opinion that it was designed to handle European names and that it was completely unable to cope with the tremendous influx of foreigners which provided a structure of names quite beyond the capacity of the CANNISPER system to cope with. He said that his organization's system had, as a result of the lessons they had learned from us and from the study of their own files, been more effectively designed to cope with these strange names. He stated that he had heard that CANNISPER had had to add considerable numbers of additional clerks because they were being flooded by voluminous output resulting from their name searching strategy. Although he admitted lack of contact with this system he had reservations as to whether it would ever work. I said that we were not surprised to hear this because we had expressed reservations about the output problem as early as 1965 in our discussions with the CANNISPER.

5. He inquired about how things were going with us and I gave him a factual summary of the organizational changes that had taken place and my own new responsibilities. He demonstrated here, as he did later in the evening his remarkable memory, which I would term almost fabulous. No one in dealing with him should ever make a mistake in dropping a casual remark and feeling that it will either be forgotten or not connected with another casual remark with which it could be associated so that the proper sum is derived from 2 + 2. He alluded to Identity One's Austrian accent before the latter had spoken one word of German and inquired about my daughter, concerning whom he had a precise recollection of her background. In this connection he mentioned that his own daughter had had emotional problems when she was eighteen, but that they were relatively simple problems which minor psychotherapy cleared up.

6. Of a personal nature he stated, when I asked whether his marital problems had become untangled, that his wife was fighting divorce action so vigorously that she had feigned illness so as to frustrate the efforts of the court to conclude the action. He said that he had had to resort to bringing in an outside physician in order to prove that she was not ill and to permit the continuation of the action, which has not yet been completed.

7. When [] stated that it was possible that he would come to Europe once more before retirement in May of 1974, ACKERMANN said please plan to take some leave and we will take a tour around Bavaria together. He stated he would enjoy showing me either the Baroque churches, which he remembered I liked, or the Gothic ones which he preferred. He said maybe we could also do some walking together.

8. I do not pretend that he regards me other than as a professional colleague, but it does appear that he is willing, despite my imminent retirement, to let this collegial relationship continue and perhaps deepen. I have no idea whether permitting it to deepen would shed any light whatsoever on the ambiguities of his background. I doubt it. He is very clearly a highly

professional intelligence officer and were he an American would, because of his talent and his temperament, have the same position in BERNFELD as he has in his own organization. He is cold and calculating. The term "arrogance," which has been applied to him, is understandable, but is not one which I would use.

9. On the day following our evening session he was given a very brief walk-through tour of ISD which he had previously seen. The visit concluded with a demonstration of STAR using a live data base. He was very impressed with the subtleties of the STAR search strategy and with the speed of the response. After the demonstration was over I asked him if he wanted to run any other traces and suggested that we start with running a request for his own identity which promptly showed up on the screen, along with the search mask giving the name variants that had been searched. We then searched for his colleague's file which was also promptly found. I asked him for difficult names which he wished to try. He wrote out the name UFCZAREK which received the response "surname not in element table" and we then retried this under another spelling and received the response that there was no record in the data base concerning this individual. He seemed puzzled at the absence of this name and I said, "Should we have it?" He said he thought so. I asked why. He said, "Well, don't you have all the names of old CASCOPE staffers?" I said no, not necessarily, at least not in this data base because as he knew this was comprised only of those individuals on whom we had more information, and that it was possible that we had a card in the main index referring to this individual but would not have a dossier. He said, "Oh." I asked if there were any other names he wished to run and he tried one more, again with negative results. He offered no explanation of whether we should have it or not, and I did not press the issue.

10. He did a little reminiscing during the course of the evening concerning two operations which which he had been associated which he termed very productive. One I believe was called "Phoenix" and related to a Lieutenant Colonel in the Czech intelligence service, plus several of his colleagues, for whom they had arranged defection and escape just prior to the Czech coup in 1948.

11. ACKERMANN did not finish his single pre-dinner drink. He drank barely one glass of wine, an American Rose', and just barely finished one bourbon highball after dinner. I infer that his control of his alcoholic consumption is as absolute as his control of himself in every other respect.

(Signed) [Signature]

Separate Cover Attachment to EGMW-17470

Chief of Base, Munich

Identity is [] GS-14

sc att #1 to EGMW 17470

GS 14

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