SECURITY AGENCY

HOETTL, Wilhelm
Contact with Theodor von Albert
and Rudiger Lippman
Land Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria

7 April 1953
ED-01700
S-17222 HEB/mkf

DAR 3711

On 1 April 1953 this Agent interviewed Theodor von Albert in the German language at his residence Hofmannsgasse 8, Salzburg, Land Salzburg, Austria concerning his contact with Willi HOETTL, well-known intelligence operative, and received the following information:

a. Albert, born 9 October 1922 in Vienna, Saxonia, Germany, Austrian citizen, is a newspaper man by profession. Albert first met SUBJECT in March or April 1948. At that time SUBJECT appeared in Albert's apartment, introduced himself, and stated that someone had given him Albert's name as a possible source of information concerning the publication Interreport Ost in Vienna, Austria, with which Albert had been connected until January 1951.

b. During subsequent meetings between Albert and SUBJECT, the latter asked if Albert could provide him with background material on Jugoslavia since SUBJECT was allegedly working at that time on a new book dealing with World War II intelligence matters in the Balkan countries. During one of these conversations, HOETTL disclosed to Albert that he had excellent contacts with Allen Dulles, the US representative in Switzerland during World War II, the colonel Bill Donovan, a member of the OSS. SUBJECT further stated that he was [illegible] work for a West German intelligence service and that his specific field of activities was to gather political and economic information [illegible] Southeastern European countries. He asked Albert if he could [illegible] help him in that endeavor. Albert replied [illegible] that he would assist Albert to establish [illegible] newspapers where Albert could publish his [illegible]

c. At the beginning of their [illegible] burg and obtained verbal information [illegible] was submitted in written reports [illegible] Baron Hilbrich Mast, [illegible] SUBJECT disclosed to Albert that [illegible] so called "Ost Blank" (office [illegible] served by the Bonn government in [illegible] time that [illegible]

d. Alb[illegible] to SUBJECT from various [illegible] analysis and from confidential [illegible] disclosed at the pre[illegible] Albert [illegible] tion with one Agent Wagner, a local [illegible] Albert added that he met [illegible] his interview with this Agent and that [illegible]

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430th CIC Sub-Det A (Salzburg)

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ask permission to disclose his sources to the Americans. For the information submitted to SUBJECT, Albert received a monthly payment of approximately 1200 schillings, expenses included.

e. In the fall of 1952, Albert was contacted by two members of the "Ost Blank" Intelligence Service in Munich, Germany, one Schulz, first name unknown; and one Merk (or Mark), first name unknown. They told him that SUBJECT had been eliminated from the "Ost Blank" and that Albert could continue to work for the above-mentioned intelligence organization or stay with SUBJECT. Since Albert, in the meantime, had received information to the effect that SUBJECT was extremely unreliable and was forwarding information which Albert submitted to SUBJECT to various other agencies including the Austrian State Police and the Austrian Ministry of Interior, he decided to accept the offer to continue his activities for the "Ost Blank" intelligence service.

f. Albert claimed that even after officially discontinuing his contact with SUBJECT, he still corresponded with his because he was interested in finding out more about SUBJECT's activities. By doing so he also fulfilled a request of the "Ost Blank", which was desirous of obtaining information about SUBJECT's activities.

g. Concerning SUBJECT's activities, Albert stated that, according to his information, SUBJECT had been in contact with the "Ost Blank" since the end of 1951. He was removed from that organization in October 1952, allegedly at the request of the Americans. Upon dismissal, SUBJECT received an unknown sum of money as final payment. SUBJECT and his friend, Merk, who also was eliminated from the above-mentioned intelligence organization, then started a "revenge campaign" against the "Ost Blank" and its individual members and denounced them to various other intelligence agencies, to Austrian Police agencies, and to the so called "Ost Gehlen" (Office Gehlen), a West German intelligence organization, which was allegedly sponsored by the Americans. During that period, SUBJECT wrote letters to Albert telling him that pretty soon he would be in the "driver's seat" again because of his connections to the previously mentioned American intelligence personalities. According to rumors, SUBJECT allegedly has contact with a Swiss intelligence agency and also with the French Intelligence. SUBJECT has also attempted to gain employment in the Gehlen intelligence service and allegedly SUBJECT has established contact with the Gehlen intelligence service. It is rumored, however, that the Gehlen Service has maintained contact with SUBJECT only in order to obtain information concerning the latter's activities.

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h. When asked about his knowledge concerning the relations between Kurt Ponger and SUBJECT, Albert stated that at the end of August 1952 Albert showed Albert a report from the Austrian Ministry of Interior in which the name of Kurt Ponger was mentioned in connection with the alleged Communist newspaper group, and asked Albert if he could give any information concerning the subject. Albert then, [illegible] time, asked SUBJECT if he knew anything about the [illegible] the above-mentioned report, among [illegible] knew about Ponger [illegible] any other information [illegible] Ponger [illegible] receipt of [illegible] In a [illegible] Central European Press and Literary Agency in Vienna, which [illegible] obtain information [illegible] made SUBJECT [illegible] destroyed information [illegible] received the [illegible] then Albert [illegible] Ponger [illegible] Otto Verber [illegible] Agency in Vienna, which was managed by Ponger. [illegible] for SUBJECT's book and his interviews [illegible] above added [illegible] again to Albert with the question of [illegible] asked in January 1953, in which SUBJECT [illegible] Verber employed [illegible] he knew the people and that he [illegible] him that they were suspected of being Soviet agents. [illegible] that if Ponger had any specific questions to ask him about [illegible] Verber, SUBJECT would gladly do so on his disposal, but that [illegible] that his name not be mentioned, since he did not want to be [illegible] acquaintance of these people. SUBJECT finally mentioned that [illegible] Ponger and Verber and that he could not believe former CIC officers [illegible] Soviet spies.

(P-3)

Agent's Notes: On 3 April 1953, the files of 430th CIC Sub-Detachment A [illegible]

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[illegible] examined by this Agent concerning the personalities and organizations mentioned in this report, and were found to contain the following information:

[illegible] Interreport Ost is mentioned in numerous reports as a publication printed in Vienna, which serves as a cover for the collection of intelligence information destined for the French and Austrian Intelligence Service.

[illegible] Central European Press and Literary Agency, Vienna, is listed as an enterprise managed by Kurt Ponger.

Kurt Ponger, Walter Lauber, and Otto Verber are mentioned as US citizens who were arrested by US authorities in Vienna in January 1953. Ponger and Verber were charged with espionage on behalf of the Soviets.

[illegible]ilbrich von Mast, born 26 August 1907, is listed as a TIB employee as of 30 August 1949.

[illegible]dar von Albert, born 9 October 1922, residing on Hofmannsgasse, Salzburg, is mentioned in numerous reports as a former collaborator of Armand Vollmer in the publication, Interreport Ost.

Attention is invited to the fact that during a previous interrogation by this Agent, HOETTL had stated that he had been questioned [illegible] Ponger by that on behalf of the Austrian State Police, and not [illegible] as mentioned in this report.

When this Agent first contacted Albert, he immediately stated that [illegible] this Agent would question him concerning HOETTL. When asked to state the reasons for his assumption, Albert stated that on 26 March 1953, he had been informed by his "superiors" in the Ost Blank Intelligence organization that HOETTL had been apprehended by CIC.

[illegible] 7 April 1953, this Agent interviewed Rudiger Lippman in the [illegible] in the CIC offices at 6 Hellbrunnerstrasse, Salzburg, Land Salzburg, Austria, concerning his contact with Willi HOETTL, well-known

[illegible]

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DOB 9 JAN 31

Intelligence operative, and received the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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Aussee, Land Styria, Austria. SUBJECT made arrangements for the Nibelungen Verlag to pay Lippman fifty schillings per month and postal expenses for mailing the above-mentioned letters from Germany, while Lippman was attending school in Salzburg. SUBJECT also promised Lippman help in obtaining employment upon his graduation from the Commercial Academy. On 26 March 1948, Lippman received the last letter from SUBJECT, which he mailed in Germany.

When asked about SUBJECT's acquaintance, Lippman stated that when he was attending school in Salzburg, he told SUBJECT that he needed a certain book of philosophy for his studies, and SUBJECT recommended that Lippman should contact Dr. Anton Rosbaud, a lawyer in Salzburg, one of SUBJECT's friends. Sometime in 1948, Lippman was notified by SUBJECT that a man would meet Lippman in Residenzplatz, Salzburg, and give him something to mail. Lippman met this person, who introduced himself as Baron Harry Mare, and introduced his companion as Albert, first name unknown to Lippman. Albert asked Lippman to mail letters for him to his sister in Germany, to which Lippman consented. Since that time, Lippman has frequently taken letters over the border for Albert and mailed the letters in Germany. Lippman stated that most of the letters were addressed to Ivan Kasimir, address unknown, Karlsruhe, Germany. (P-3)

Agent's Notes: On 8 April 1953, the files of 430th CIC Sub-Detachment A were examined by this Agent concerning the personalities and firms mentioned in this report, and were found to contain the following information:

Dragoo Vilis, born 12 May 1921, is listed as a former Informant of 430th CIC Sub-Detachment A, who was dropped without prejudice on [illegible] 1950.

Anton Rosbaud, [illegible] Terrasse 192, Salzburg, is listed as a CIC employee as of 7 September 1949.

On 8 April 1953, the files of 430th CIC Sub-Detachment A were examined by this Agent concerning SUBJECT and were found to contain the following information:

Wilhelm KNETTL, born 19 March 1915 in Vienna, residing at Alt Aussee 70, Land Styria, Austria, is mentioned in numerous reports

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as a former CIC Informant, [illegible]
1948. KNETTL is also mentioned [illegible]
on intelligence operations [illegible]
agencies.

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