

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD  
TECHNICAL SURVEILLANCE COUNTERMEASURES COMMITTEE

Information Notice 70-8  
26 June 1970

From the TSCC:

FOREIGN COMMERCIAL EAVESDROPPING MARKET  
BEGINNING TO FLOURISH

As a result of the prohibitions contained in the Omnibus Crime Bill of 1968 (18 U.S. Code 2512), the majority of the smaller domestic suppliers of commercially available eavesdropping equipment have gone out of business, although a few continue to advertise their products for babysitting purposes, intruder detection, or bird watching. It is impossible to tell to what extent sub rosa sales of such equipment are still being made for audio surveillance purposes. Reputable suppliers such as Fargo Company, Silmar Electronics, Inc., and Ace Electronics (R.B. Clifton), have continued in business but are limiting their sales to law enforcement and other branches of the government.

As anticipated, more and more overseas suppliers have appeared in the market place, although it is difficult to determine to what extent their catalogs and advertisements have become available to customers in this country. Since this overseas equipment is easily available to smaller nations who do not have an electronic capability of their own, the TSCC will continue to keep the community informed of such foreign commercially available eavesdropping gear by publishing summaries of those catalogs which it is able to procure.

The cooperation of the community in the collection of such catalogs, brochures, etc., is essential and TSCC members are urged to submit on a loan basis all such material which they may acquire. In a similar vein, any evaluations or experiences with foreign commercial equipment of interest should be forwarded to the TSCC so that these may be further disseminated for the benefit of countermeasures technicians throughout the intelligence community.

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NO FOREIGN DISSEM

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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One such recently received brochure originates from:

Gerhard Thoner  
5201 Honsbach  
Post Bachermuhle  
Germany

Thoner is apparently a retailer and his descriptive material, in German, does not identify either the manufacturer or distributor of the devices.

The catalog sheet lists a variety of wireless transmitters ranging in dimensions from king-size cigarette pack to sugar-cube format; a contact microphone transmitter is also listed. The RF transmitters are all of German manufacture and in conformity with German law are listed for sale for export only.

Other listings of equipment of interest include three varieties of telephone transmitters, a ballpoint pen transmitter, several receivers and receiver-recorder combinations, and one transmitter detector, the latter apparently of the "sing-around" variety. An infrared viewing device and infrared detector complete the listing.

Many of the Thoner devices appear to be identical with equipment described in Information Notice 69-17, 20 October 1969, as being offered for sale by Peter Hamann of Hamburg, Germany. It is probable both of these outlets utilize a common supplier.

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