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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria

SUBJECT Socialist Determination to Replace Rauscher

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This document is hereby regarded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1950 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Ambassador of the United States. Next Review Date: 2013

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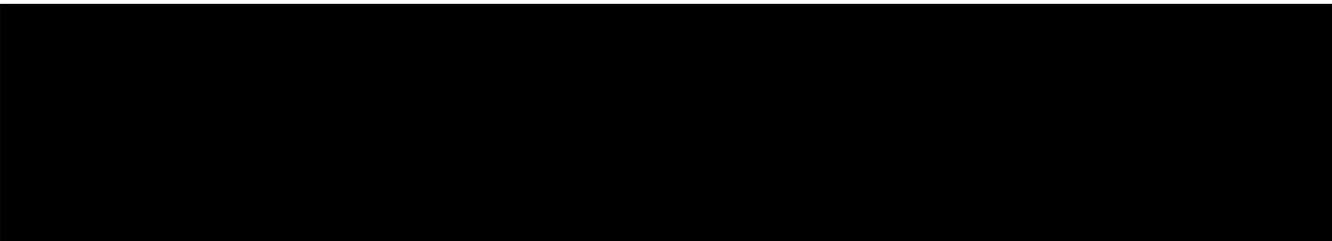
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SUPPLEMENT

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1. The Austrian Socialists are determined to replace State Secretary Franz Rauscher because of his failure to keep Peter Krauland, Minister for Pro- party Control and Economic Planning, from over-conservatism. Comment: Rauscher is regarded as no match for the dynamic Krauland. However, Rauscher received inadequate support from his party, which tolerated Krauland's policies in order to preserve a smoothly operating coalition. Comment: According to a report of 28 August 1946, Rauscher was ousted from the party leadership because of his failure to make the nationalization law a success, but was to be given another chance to prove himself before being requested to resign by the Socialists.)
2. Karl Waldbrunner, recently replaced as Minister to Moscow, is the figure who has been mentioned most frequently as a replacement for Rauscher; but, since Waldbrunner was elected party secretary and economic spokesman, the Socialists feel he now is too big for the job. At the moment, Karl Mantler, member of the Bundesrat for Lower Austria and President of the Vienna Chamber of Labor, is the leading candidate. He is also being considered as the possible successor of Dr. Hans Frenzel, Minister of Food. Comment: See [redacted] for the expected resignation of Frenzel.)
3. Mantler has long been active in the trade union movement. Comment: Mantler was Secretary of the Free Trade Union of Austrian Food workers prior to 1934 and has been Chairman of the union since the liberation.) He was imprisoned by the Schuschnigg government in 1937 and again by the Nazis in 1939. He remained in Buchenwald until 1945. He is generally regarded as quiet, serious, and of considerable ability and is remembered for his intelligent handling of the left-wing Trade Unionists last year, when he diverted their clamoring for strikes.

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 NO CHANGE in Class.
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