

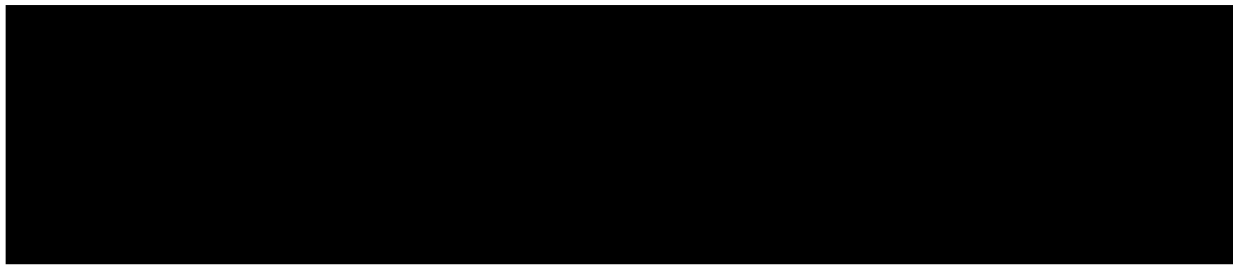
CLASSIFICATION
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED] 25X1A2g

COUNTRY Austria/Hungary/USSR
 SUBJECT New Strikes Planned by Austrian Communists
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SOURCE

1. The immediate aim of the Austrian Communist Party is the calling of new strikes over the wage question. The mistakes of the strikes which were held during the autumn of 1948 are being studied in an effort to train Communist trade union personnel and to increase the infiltration of the unions.
2. Strike procedure was discussed in a Central Committee meeting on 13 November. Franz Honner, Ernst Fischer, and Friedl Fuernberg were assigned to direct the strike committee. Other members of this committee are Theodor Maller, Josef Lauscher, Dr. Ludwig Soswinski, Gottlieb Fiala, and Otto Horn. The direction of the strike committee had previously been Honner's sole responsibility. The Austrian General Friedrich Franek, who recently returned from a PW camp in Russia, is to organize the strategic operations of the Communist Party (strikes, disturbances, or whatever armed action might be feasible). General Franek, after making some initial visits to the Central Committee, has discontinued overt contact with the Party.

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 On 14 and 15 November, Johann Koplenig, Honner, Fuernberg, and Baron Manfred Mauthner-Markhof met at the Central Committee building. On 14 November, Mauthner-Markhof's car was parked for four hours in front of General Franek's house. **Comment:** This lends credibility to several recent reports which stated that Mauthner-Markhof was ingratiating himself with the Communists by means of generous financial contributions.)

4. The Central Committee is now drawing up a list for the purging of Party members with nationalist tendencies. Hagenbuchner, Communist Landesleiter of Upper Austria, is considered to be the leader of the nationalist opposition. **Comment:** The Communists call this opposition an "illegal underground"; Ernst Fischer is not considered to be implicated.)

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5. Franz Honner will soon proceed to Moscow in an effort to speed the release of Austrian PW's. The recent unfavorable publicity which the rivalry between Fischer and Fuernberg has evoked will make Fischer's intervention in Moscow inadvisable.
6. Gusti Finally (sic) and Laurenz Genner are to represent the Austrian Communist Party at a Communist conference in Hungary. The date of the conference is as yet unknown.

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