

DBF 41968

J. Edgar Hoover

Bureau

Subject: Dr. Herbert Engelsing

With reference to your letter of the 6th of September, 1947, Dr. Herbert Engelsing has given the following information on his background and his connections with

requesting details re- flecting that Engelsing was a member of Rote Kapelle

the Schulze-Boysen group of Rote Kapelle. He was born on the 2nd of September, 1904, near Cologne, Germany and is a Catholic and a lawyer by profession. When the Nazis took over the German courts, Engelsing was a judge in Berlin. As he was anti-Nazi in spirit, he gave up law and became a film director and producer, in which field he had considerable success.

In 1938 Engelsing married Ingeborg Kohler in England, as, since his wife was half Jewish, it was impossible to marry in Germany. Mrs. Engelsing and her children are now living at 115 Hillcrest Road, Berkeley 5, Calif., with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Kohler. Engelsing was in Berlin from 1930 to 1944 when he went to Konstanz, Germany, to make a film and remained there. His home address is Aeschernweg 8, Konstanz. In 1945 he was given an appointment as Chief Attorney in the French Military Courts and the German Courts in the French zone. He works with Leon Hild, "Commissaire de Surete" of the French Military Government, Konstanz.

Concerning the Schulze-Boysen group, Engelsing said that he himself was largely responsible for bringing the group into contact with persons having access to information and for clarifying Schulze-Boysen's own line of action. Engelsing claimed that he was able to provide Schulze-Boysen with situation reports on future political or military actions to be taken by Germany through his acquaintance with favorite actresses of top Nazis. He remembers that all information went to Dr. Elfriede Paul who is still alive in Berlin. ~~Engelsing~~ Engelsing escaped involvement when the group was brought to trial.

SECRET

In a statement made at a later date Engelsing said that he introduced a certain Buschmann, a chief director of large German cement firms, to Schulze-Boysen

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in 1939. Buschmann provided Communist literature through the reading of which Schulze-Boysen was influenced toward aiding the Soviets instead of following his earlier inclination to the British.

~~His~~ Engelsing's story is considered on the whole to be very unsatisfactory. Further questioning is expected to elicit more detailed information on his ~~interactions~~ connections with the Schulze-Boysen group. Please be advised that ~~therefore~~ any further material received by this office will be forwarded to you promptly.

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