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18. AUG. 1954

Chief of Mission, Frankfurt

Chief of Base, Pullach

(INFO: ER
HCB

Eugen DOLLMANN Case

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1. Forwarded herewith for your information is a copy of a memorandum of the conversation (ref para 1, ref B) held at the American Consulate General Munich, 6 AUG 54, between: Ian G. James, political affairs officer, Eugen DOLLMANN and Karl GEURTEL.

Encls: 2

- 1. James/DOLLMANN Memo
- 2. [] James M/R

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Approved:

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16 Aug 54

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Confidential

August 6, 1954

Memorandum of Conversation

Participating: Dr. Eugen Dollmann von Fischer, temporarily residing at Hotel Blaues Haus, Fuerstenstr. 16, Muenchen; Karl Grueter, Frauenhoferstr. 6, Muenchen, and Alan G. James, American Vice Consul, American Consulate General, Munich.

I invited Dollmann to come to the Consulate General to discuss the matter referred to in his letter of August 3 a copy of which is attached to this memorandum. I did this inasmuch as Dollmann said that he had an urgent matter to discuss in connection with the John case and inasmuch as I could not contact our Liason Officer, Mr. Lens, on Friday to arrange for a representative of an American agency other than the Consulate to interview Dollmann.

Dollmann's companion, Grueter, was introduced as a former Luftwaffe fighter pilot who had flown in the Mediterranean area and who was close to Field Marshall Kesselring. Dollmann said that he had brought Grueter with him because Grueter was familiar with the matter about to be discussed and because Grueter was a permanent resident of Munich whereas he, Dollmann, was going to return to Madrid, where he made his permanent residence, in about 4 or 5 weeks.

Dollmann opened by stating that of course I knew who he was. Inasmuch as I had just read an exhaustive file on him maintained by the Sueddeutsche Zeitung and had received some information about him from the Bavarian L-F LfV, I said that I did. Dollmann then remarked that what he had to say did not relate directly to the John case. He observed parenthetically that he had met John only a few times, all in Rome between 1939 and 1941, although John had in 1952, after Dollmann had been arrested in Frankfurt for entering Germany with a falsified passport, urgently requested that Dollmann see him. Dollmann said that he had refused to see John and did not speculate on why John might have wanted to see him in 1952. Apropos of John's disappearance, Dollmann said frankly that he did not know anything about the case, although someone whom he believed to be in British Intelligence had recently tried to elicit information about the John case from him. He told me that he had informed the individual that who had suggested that he go to Berlin with him that he was living in retirement and would not be able to leave Munich since he was working very hard with his publisher to get his memoirs into print.

The nub of Dollmann's statement was that he knew someone who lived in Munich whom he considered temperamentally, politically and by circumstances ideally suited to go to the East Zone, specifically East Berlin on a or a series of missions for the Americans. The individual, Kurt HOLGART, (the last name is an artistic - not his family name. He was born HUNGER, but uses the name HOLGART for professionally. He is a singer) is about 45 years old. He was, according to Dollmann, born in Freiburg, Baden, was active in the Pfadfinder in Baden until 1935 when he went to Rome the German Embassy in Rome as Landes Jugend Fuehrer. He was in Rome from 1935 until 1938. During this time Dollmann said he came to know Holgart very well. He said that Holgart was the "enfant gate" of von Shirach

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but that he had certain difficulties with the Nazi Party, publicly which he liberally criticized before many Party officials without apparent immunity. During Holgart's duty in Rome, Dollmann said, the former got to know the von Hassells very well and became particularly Frau von Hassell who in 1945 after learning that Holgart was a prisoner of the French wrote to General Koenig requesting Holgart's release. The release was promptly arranged. Dollmann remarked that this was one of the few instances in which Frau von Hassell had intervened for former Nazis and certainly showed her good opinion of Holgart. Holgart, Dollmann said and in this was corroborated by his companion Grueter, was a son of a farm family, emotionally mature and balanced, quite a successful singer, well off financially, not deeply interested in politics, although not without conviction, an outspokenly loyal to the West and immune to the attractions of Communism.

Holgart has had several opportunities to take attractive offers from East German cultural authorities, particularly in the East Berlin opera. While Dollmann implied that Holgart had actually performed in the East Zone, he said that Holgart had turned down the permanent offers saying that he didn't want to live in the East Zone and that he preferred the West. Holgart has made several visits to East Berlin where he has a friend whom Dollmann said he could not or was not authorized to name who is either a doctor himself or has the best connections with medical men in the Charite in East Berlin. This friend is a member of the Communist party of long standing. He holds card No. 3 of the KP in the East Zone. His contacts with the Russians and with East Zone officials are the best. The friend whom we called "X" in our conversation has been instrumental in getting Russian officers, Dollmann said Generals, treated in the Charite for VD which they were afraid to report to Russian medical authorities. Holgart has visited his friend in the Charite and has on one occasion he spent about two weeks there without molestation by the Vopcs although they had asked him where he had a visa for the East Zone, which he did not. Dollmann thinks that Holgart might be prevailed upon to perform missions for the Americans, although he cannot say for sure because he has not heard Holgart express himself on the matter. The point is, Dollmann said, that Holgart is ideally suited for such a mission and that he can come and go at will, thanks to the friendship with this high ranking member of the East German KP. Interestingly, Holgart received a post card on July 23 dated July 21 from East Berlin written by "X" in which Holgart was invited to come to East Berlin, "We haven't seen each other for a long time. We have much to talk over".

Persuading Holgart to go to East Berlin as an American agent would be a rather delicate matter according to Dollmann who asked that if American agencies were interested they make the first move through him, Dollmann, rather than approach Holgart directly. For this reason Dollmann did not give me Holgart's address. "He is un-political and honest, and I can vouch for him completely (at first he said 75-80%)", Dollmann remarked. He is a little set in his ways and would need careful steering from agents in West Berlin before going over to the East, Dollmann continued, but he would be effective.

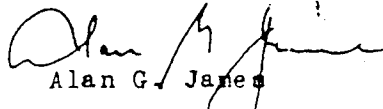
Dollmann thinks that time is of the essence since it would take some time to arrange a visit to East Berlin and since "X's" contacts in the Charite are subject to transfer. Dollmann will

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in Munich for at least 4 weeks more and then he will return to Madrid. If he cannot be reached Grueter can arrange a contact with Holgart whom he says he knows very well. Dollmann himself volunteered the reason for not going to Bonn authorities with his suggestion. He said that he frankly did not trust them, called the intelligence set up there a jungle and said that he had made his contact with the Americans in 1945 and not with the Bonn government, that he knew the Americans well (claimed he arranged the contact between Dulles and SS Obergruppenfuehrer Wolff in Switzerland) and that he felt it was appropriate to pass this hint on to the Americans so that the Americans would not reproach him at some later date for allowing this opportunity to be lost. He implied that his motive in suggesting Holgart to the Americans was purely selfish and that he would have no further interest in the matter after it had been arranged one way or the other. He requested that I speed up the matter, referring it directly to the top without allowing underling to get mixed up in it and making sure to keep the German out of it. He was particularly anxious lest the Bonn people hear about the interview and thus make trouble for him. He said he was not being disloyal to the German government, but just thought that the Americans were the people to know about it.

I explained to Dollmann, as I had done at the outset, that intelligence was beyond the scope of our work at the Consulate but that we would see that appropriate American agencies were apprised of the matter and that appropriate action would be taken. I agreed that if there was to a late further contact it would be through him, that I would bring the matter to the prompt attention of the interested offices and that as far as possible his request that Bonn be left out would be honored. I made not only a preliminary agreement on the latter point since I did not presume to know or suggest how the matter might be handled after it left my hands.

One of the members of our local German staff knew Dollmann who she worked in the Rome Embassy, as did one of the editors of the Sueddeutsche Zeitung. More biographic information ~~in Alan G. Jones~~ format about Dollmann can be had from these sources without arousing any suspicions if it is considered desirable.


Alan G. Jones

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