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COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS

430th CIC DETACHMENT

Land Upper Austria

APO 174

U. S. Army

10 November 1948

Major James V. Milano
CBI, USAF,
APO 777, U. S. Army

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES-METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2008

Dear Jim,

Here's the story on the former Austrian and later German Gestapo lads who were the leading KP experts and whose services are sought by oldish. The three are:

- /1 Kriminalrat Hans Sonnitzer
- /2 Oberregierungsrat Dr. Karl Ebner
- /3 Oberregierungsrat Dr. Othmar Freiberger

At present they are billeted in old Vienna at Landesgericht I and have all recovered their indictments under the Denazification law (There are no war crimes charges against them.).

In the case of Sonnitzer, the Russians made an attempt to get hold of him because they require him as a witness (for what I don't know). The Austrian court refused on the pretext that an accusation has already been made against him. Now he fears that the Russians will extradite him and get him to trial when the court no longer has a pretext or after he has served his time under the present sentence. He has therefore suggested that his trial be transferred to Linz since most of the witnesses on his side do not dare to testify in Vienna because of expected reprisals.

If this is not possible then try to have Sonnitzer and the others transferred to Linz immediately after his trial on the pretext that they are needed as witnesses in the trial of the fourth man (same background), Dr. Hubert Rieber, the Salzburg Gestapo leader, whose case is in Linz for trial.

Naturally transfer before trial is preferable in the case of all three as the Russians might beat us to the punch after the trials.

As I have outline to you the Russians interest in these persons is based upon the fact that they were the leading specialists the Austrians and the Gestapo had on the KP, its secret members, its organization, its undercover Agents and especially its secret Agents who defected to the German side but continued and who still continue ostensibly to

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