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## DR. HERMANN MEUBACHER

During the summer of 1957 an MDB memorandum was received at VOB wherein it was reported that Subject had returned to Austria from Abysinia. This memorandum mentioned that the director had at one time evinced an interest in Subject. The Colors was then in its developmental stage and we welcomed the chance to test Colors and reporting possibilities on prominent Austrians who have personality files in the Political Section of the Austrian Foreign Ministry. Colors reported personality information on Subject on several occasions during the fall of 1957. Through an oversight, this information was not reported at the date of its receipt.

Personality files of the Political Section of the Austrian Foreign Ministry include information on all prominent Austrians living outside of Austria whose past, present, or future actions have, do, or will have political undertenes which should be taken note of by the Austrian Government. According to the files concerned with Subject have very little of the early history and personalis since it was assumed such information was readily available in files other than those of the Foreign Ministry. The files disclosed that Subject was a pre-1938 member of the MEMAP (Maxi Party). He held the position in the party of an "SA Gruppenfuehrer". In 1936 (this date is not certain) Subject was arrested by the Schussmigg government for anti-state activities and was held in Austrian jails for a period of 13 months. It is not reported when Subject was released but he did flee to Germany in 1938 prior to the Anschluss. He returned to Austria the same year concurrent with the German Army. In March of 1938 Subject was named Mayor of Vienna. He was decorated by the Germans with the "Aller Maxims" and was given the title "Alter Kampfer".

Subject remained in this position as Mayor of Vienna until April 1949 at which time he was named by his government as German Ambassador to the Balkan states. Subject held this position until the end of the war. According to investigations conducted at an undetermined date by the Austrian Department of the Interior, Subject was supposedly answerable for sending large numbers of Yugoslavian partisans to the German concentration camps. In 1945 Subject was arrested by the Americans and appeared as a witness in the Kuernberg trials. In 1946 the Americans handed Subject over to the Yugoslavs in answer to their demands.

In 1950 the Austrian Ambassador to Yugoslevia reported that Subject had been sentenced to 20 years imprisonment by a Yugoslev court on the charge of war orimes. In spite of the sentence, Subject was pardoned by the Yugoslav Government in November 1952. Subject returned to Austria on 22 November 1952.

At this point information in the Austrian Foreign Office files is contradictory. In one memorandum it is reported that Subject was charged and sentenced in absentia for high treason on 27 February 1951 by an Austrian state criminal court. In addition, his assets were declared conflictated by the state. In this same memorandum from the Austrian Ministry of the Interior there is the following unattributed comment from August of 1951: "There are presently no known conditions which would prompt anyone to now doubt his positive patrictic feelings for the independent republic of Austria. In consideration of 7 years of imprisonment which Subject has spent in foreign countries and in consideration of the necessity for Subject to provide for his family, the Austrian state will not further press court proceedings against Subject." It would appear from these two seemingly contradictory reports that Subject was indeed charged and sentenced of a treason crime in 1951. The second report which appears to be a direct quotation from an Austrian judicial proceeding may well refer to an appeal made by Subject in which he was at least partially successful.

Wear the end of 1953 Subject applied for a position as advisor to the city government of Addis Ababa. In approximately April of 1954, in response to his accepted application, Subject traveled to this city. He received the position as advisor to the state government of Addis Ababa over the objections

of the Yugoslav, French, and British legation heads in Ethiopia. Previous to his installation as advisor, the Ethiopian Government had requested the Austrian Foreign Office for information concerning Subject. The Austrian Ministry of Interior's investigation results were definitely unfavorable, but in spite of this further disability, Subject was installed as advisor to the city government.

Subject was made aware of the unfavorable report which the Austrian Government had provided to the Government of Ethiopia and on 9 July 1951: directed a letter of protest to the Austrian Foreign Office. In addition, a friend of Subject's, the then member of the Austrian Parliament, Gustav Kapareiter, also took up Subject's case with the Austrian Foreign Ministry on 1h July 1954. Kapsreiter attempted to argue against the findings of facts which were included in the Interior Ministry's letter concerning Subject which had been provided to the Ethiopian Government. Repersiter stated that Subject had not fled Austria prior to the Anschluss as alleged but, rather, had been an employee of the I.G. Farben Company and had traveled to Germany on a business trip. He stated that Subject had not returned with the German troops to Austria at the time of the Anschluss, but rather, shortly prior to this date. He denied that Subject had been a defendant at the Ruerenberg trials but, rather, had been there only as a witness. Reparelter further stated that Subject had never been declared guilty of treason by an Austrian court but, rather, the court had only concerned itself with the confiscation of Subject's assets. Kaparelter stated that "Subject had fought with courage during the war against the repressive German political machinations in the Baltic states," and alleged that this finding was declared by the court in Numrenberg to have been a correct representation of Subject's political activities during the war.

After receipt of these two letters, the Austrian Foreign Hinistry felt compelled to request a new investigation of Subject by the Austrian Hinistry of Interior. This second investigation, without supporting documents, was noted in the Austrian Foreign Office files as having generally proved the validity of the defense of Subject as set out in the Experiter letter above. (This is obviously contrary to the information set forth in Paragraphs 2, 3, and 5 of this memorandum. An ettempt to resolve the disparity of these statements is beyond the purpose of this memorandum.)

In spite of this latest investigation report being considerably more favorable than the original report sent by the Foreign Ministry to the Ethiopian Government, the results of this report were not made known to the Ethiopian Government for the following reasons: (1) Such action would externess the Austrian Foreign Ministry; (2) Noteithestending the information in the second report, it was felt that Subject was at least excelly guilty of high treason against the Austrian Government; (3) In spite of the derogatory first report, Subject did not appear to have been prejudiced since he did receive the position which he sought.

In June of 1955 the Austrian Ambassador in Cairo, who is also credited to Ethiopia, reported that things were going well for Subject in Addis Ababa and it appeared that the unfavorable investigation report had no ill effects on Subject. He further reported the French legation head, who had objected so strongly to the original employment of Subject, had withdrawn all objections since a French construction firm had been granted a sizeable contract by the city of Addis Ababa, presumably due to Subject's influence.

The Austrian Ambassador in Cairo made it his regular practice to talk with Subject for at least a short time on each of his trips to Addis Ababa. On these occasions Subject took every opportunity to emphasize to the Austrian Ambassador that he had become a good patriotic Austrian and had been able to serve Austria by awarding Austrian construction firms contracts let by the city of Addis Ababa. There is reason to suspect this protestation of patriotic feeling on Subject's part was prompted by his recognition that intrigues were

undermining his position within the city government. Ultimately these intrigues had the effect of bringing about his transfer out of the city government. It is alleged that Subject's transfer was the direct result of the new mayor's dislike for Subject. In January of 1956 Subject was transferred to the Ethiopian Ministry of Interior as an advisor. (This information was received from the Ambassador in Cairo on 3 January 1956.)

On 30 July 1956 the Ambansador to Cairo informed the Austrian Foreign Ministry that Subject had been relieved from his post in the Ethiopian Ministry of Interior. Subject had stated to the Ambassador that this was a result of domestic intrigues brought about by changes in personnel. Subject stated to the Ambassador that he intended to return immediately to Austria.

At this point the file concerning Subject breaks off in conformance with the policy of the Austrian Fereign Ministry to keep track of only those Austrian citizens living cutside of Austria. Further concern with Subject would be of demestic nature and absence of a specific request directed by the Foreign Ministry to the Ministry of Interior investigation results will not be made known to the Austrian Foreign Ministry.

On 3 November 1957 the Vienness Communist newspaper "Volksstisss" reported that Subject was to be given a high position in the "Industrie - und Bergbauverwaltung (IEV)". This organization is a state-owned commercial mining company. This newspaper article quoted the Vienness Catholic weekly newspaper "Die Furche" as reporting that Subject had already been signed to a contract which gave him a salary of A.S. 120,000 per year. It was not checked out by VOB the extent of which the allegations in this article actually corresponded with the truth.

The last information concerning Subject which indicates that personality information on Subject may well be of considerable operational interest is the fact that as of September 1958 it would appear that Subject will be named general manager of Austrian Airlines (AUA).

It would appear unusual that Subject could travel so far and so fast on the Austrian downtic political scene without objections being reized by the Socialist part of the Austrian coalition government. If any objections have been made on the part of this faction, they have been maffled and have never become a newspaper issue. Because of the antrems political vulnerability of Subject, it would appear that Subject has become one element of a long rolling operation conducted by the Socialist and People's Party.