

Preliminary Statement of Agi ZELEBY  
in Connection with NSDA Financial  
Operations.

4 June 1945

TO: C.O., X-2 Germany

In the middle of December 1944 in a tourist office I accidentally met Guenter WISCHMANN. Two days later we met again in the Hotel Carlton, Bratislava, where we both used to live. WISCHMANN told me that he would like to do some business but that he did not know anyone in Bratislava. During the conversation I agreed to help him and he promised to give me a commission.

At the beginning all I had to buy for him were such things as food, canned food, coffee, cocoa, tea, liquor, sugar, flour, cloth, radio sets, gramophones etc. At first for these purchases I used Slovakian money but later when I had to buy more he asked me if I could not exchange some foreign currency for him. It was then that WISCHMANN first mentioned English pounds. As I had worked formerly for the Slowakische Nationalbank, I had good connections with Slovakian bankers. I therefore asked the advice of Josef KOPACEK, the manager of the Zivnostenska Banka, and he told me he could help. Besides KOPACEK I asked the advice of KASIK, a highly placed employee of the Slovenska Banka, and also of a former colleague Josef KLABICKA of the Slowakische Nationalbank. They all offered to help place English pounds.

At first WISCHMANN gave me sums amounting to from two to five hundred pounds. With the Slovakian currency which we received in exchange for the pounds we bought goods of general use, Reichsmarks and gold coins. WISCHMANN always emphasized that he was doing all this business on his own account and that he was the representative in Prague of his father's Hamburg factory. He stated that he himself had no opportunity to make such investments in Prague. When I asked WISCHMANN why he was not drafted into the army he told me that he had been discharged because of wounds.

WISCHMANN went home for Christmas and left me 2000 pounds, telling me that he would return by New Year's Eve and bring me some more, which he did. He also brought with him a sample of a soldier's mess kit and told me that he needed 50,000 of them for the German army in order to have an excuse with the German authorities at Prague if they would ever investigate his activities in Slovakia. This was the first time that WISCHMANN admitted that he needed a cover of official business to conceal his personal business, as he called it. WISCHMANN brought with him at that time 10,000 pounds which I gave to my agents with the order

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to buy Swiss francs and other good foreign currency, as WISCHMANN had asked. WISCHMANN left Bratislava immediately and it was agreed that I go to Prague in a car to get him on 8 January 1945. We were back in Bratislava on 12 January.

In the meantime the demand for English pounds was steadily increasing and WISCHMANN brought with him 68,000 pounds. When I asked him how he dared to do this, he showed me a pair of pliers with which to put official seals on luggage. He said that he had bought them from some service for a great deal of money. I could not make out what kind of seal was on the pliers as he showed them to me for only a minute. He told me that his chief was a man named Harald WANNINGER, the only private arms dealer in Germany with official permission. He said that WANNINGER dealt with the English and the Americans in order to buy captured weapons of Czechoslovakian or German make. When I asked WISCHMANN how he could work for his father's firm and for WANNINGER at the same time he said that his job with WANNINGER would be his main occupation and that very little could be done for his father's firm at the time. He offered me a very generous commission if I could succeed in buying weapons of German or Czech make captured by the Russians or partisans, whether the weapons were in good condition or in need of repair.

At Bratislava I met two Frenchmen, Michel LACHESNAIRIE (a false name I later learned) and Roger MONNIER alias MATTHIEU. They were supposed to be representatives of the Ministere du Travail at Vichy and were charged with taking care of the French workers in Slovakia. I thought that these two men could help me get in touch with the partisans among whom I knew were a great number of Frenchmen. I introduced LACHESNAIRIE and MONNIER to WISCHMANN who had a long discussion with them at which I was not present.

My position became critical at that time because all the men of Bratislava had to dig trenches and I was in danger of being drafted for the new Slovakian army. I told WISCHMANN and he assured me that I was a V-man of his by order of WANNINGER for the territory of Slovakia and that my mission was to take care of factories that were important for the war. This was not sufficient and WISCHMANN gave me another order issued by the SD saying that I was working for the SD and was not to be drafted into the army. When I asked WISCHMANN how he could obtain such a paper he told me that the SD had orders to help in the purchase of arms. This was at the end of January 1945 and it was the first time that I had heard the SD mentioned.

Another surprise was the statement of WISCHMANN when he told me that LACHESNAIRIE and MONNIER belonged to the SD and had been transferred to Bratislava with SD Kommando Nancy. I learned later that their role was rather dubious. WISCHMANN also promised them large commissions and asked them to start buying weapons immediately.

Meantime I continued in the foreign currency affair and together with WISCHMANN, who had met a lot of people, bought all kinds of supplies such as gasoline, kerosene, aluminum tins (15,000kgs) for mess kits, cloth for uniforms, trucks, shovels, etc. We bought unlimited quantities of these goods using especially the black market. Any price was paid and any amount was available. I cannot give an exact listing of the goods purchased because WISCHMANN was buying as well and I never knew how much he purchased. There was no bookkeeping and the merchandise went immediately to Prague and the currency to Berlin. WISCHMANN never told me who was going to receive the goods and currency; I learned that later from WAENINGER.

When WISCHMANN left Bratislava he took with him 5 million Slovakian kronen, 2 million Reichsmarks, 1000 gold coins, 5000 Swiss francs and several diamonds. During his absence he told me to refer to Hauptsturmfuehrer BAECKERS, Leiter of Abt II, Bratislava, who would maintain contact by radio if anything important should happen. The only thing of importance that happened during WISCHMANN's absence was that LACHESNAIRIE and MONNIER told me that their agents had been captured and therefore the purchase of weapons had to be postponed. They also needed more money to reestablish contact with the partisans. In this way I learned that WISCHMANN had already given them money. As WISCHMANN had not given me any instructions (he had only mentioned once that the Frenchmen had purchased 16,000 rifles for him) I did not give them any key.

At the end of February WISCHMANN returned to Bratislava and was very disappointed that there were no weapons, saying that we must do everything to get a hold of some. He gave some more money to the Frenchmen and they made several trips to partisan-held territory. The day after his arrival in Bratislava WISCHMANN sent me to Prague to take his wife, child and mother-in-law to Berchtesgaden. After I had done that I returned to Bratislava and WISCHMANN left for Berchtesgaden in a truck full of food and furniture for his wife. To make his trip look like an official mission, WISCHMANN said, he took along 32 rugs, office supplies, foreign currency, gold and valuable pictures. He said that he would return in about four days but he stayed about three weeks. Before he left he told me that two soldiers ~~might~~ might ar-

rive from Meran and ask him to buy some trucks in Bratislava to take them back to Meran. WISCHMANN told me that I was to tell them to wait. Furthermore I was to keep an eye on the two Frenchmen and tell them to supply the weapons as soon as possible. As a matter of fact, the soldiers did arrive and told me that they had orders to transport all stored materials purchased in Bratislava to Melk, near Vienna. I told them that WISCHMANN had ordered them to wait.

Two weeks after WISCHMANN left, I received a telephone call from Vienna to reserve three hotel rooms for WANNINGER. In the middle of March WANNINGER arrived with KNAGE and another man from Intercontinentale whose name I do not remember. WANNINGER was frightened and very upset about the activities of WISCHMANN and said several times that he would like to put WISCHMANN in a concentration camp. He insisted that I hand over to him the remainder of the valuables and I gave him what I had: 40,000 pounds, about 200 gold coins and 2 million Slovakian kronen. The Slovakian kronen and about 1 million Reichsmarke WANNINGER sent to Berlin the following day by SD courier. For the first time I learned who was the receiver at Berlin: Standartenfuehrer SPAZIL, Leiter Amt II, Berlin. WANNINGER told me that all these transactions and purchases were done by order of Amt II. He was frantic and angry that no weapons had been purchased and said that that was our main job regardless of the price or the difficulties involved.

Lt. Charles Michaelis QMC

26 June 1945

SUBJECT: Continuation of the Statement by Agi ZELERAY

TO: C.O. X-2 Germany

In March 1945 every other activity ceased and the purchase of weapons was declared our main job. At the same time Hauptsturmfuehrer BAEKERS asked me to work at the same time for Amt VI. Untersturmfuehrer BRANDT explained what I should do, asking me to spy on the partisans when I visited them and to get their names and if possible discover what they intended doing in the future. I told WAENINGER that I was not willing to do the two jobs. I could not do business with the partisans and spy on them at the same time for the SD. WAENINGER, who thought only of buying weapons, told me to tell the Amt VI people any story I liked, giving them falsenames etc. I did not agree to this proposition and asked him to release me from these activities as well as from the purchase of weapons, suggesting that he use the Frenchmen for this purpose and that I be allowed to continue with my business. WAENINGER became very angry and threatened me. He did, however, obtain my release from the Chief of the Nachrichtendienst (Amt VI). The only thing the Amt VI asked me to do was to introduce BRANDT alias MAREK to people suspected of being in touch with the underground, in other words using me as an "agent provocateur". By bribing BRANDT I succeeded in postponing this.

In connection with the purchase of weapons I took one trip to see an old friend of mine Baron LEONHARDI who lived in partisan territory. According to information in the possession of the SD, a supply officer of the partisans named ZEDSCENKO was living in the area. I asked LEONHARDI to contact this officer and introduce me to him. ZEDSCENKO was to sell me weapons of German and Czech make at any price he wanted to charge. LEONHARDI promised to help and to let me know as soon as the business could be completed. The commission was to be agreed on later. I reported this to WAENINGER in order to calm him.

While these events were taking place WISCHMANN returned and there was a quarrel. I was not present but KNAX told me that WAENINGER during his argument with WISCHMANN several times mentioned Dachau, Army service etc. for WISCHMANN. The latter had to pack immediately and leave for Prague. Furthermore, a report to Berlin was made about WISCHMANN's absence without leave. I then had to take over WISCHMANN's job. As I am a good friend of his I was distressed by the idea that he might think I had used his absence to undermine his position. I told him so and was surprised to hear his reaction. He told me that I should be glad not to have known anything about the whole organisation and that I should take good care of myself from now on. I took over WISCHMANN's job in the middle of March 1945.

When I asked WAENINGER what were the most important things to buy he told me everything useful for a military organisation. In fact, everything from a needle to a truck was purchased in various quantities. WAENINGER also agreed to a new commission for me. WISCHMANN gave me 10% of the Slovakian exchange rate for a pound, in other words, one pound was at that time 340-360 Slovakian kronen, so that I received 34-36 kronen. WAENINGER gave me 6% of the value of the pound. For the purchase of goods, I received no commission from WISCHMANN; WAENINGER gave me 5% of the Slovakian value. After the accounts between WAENINGER and WISCHMANN were settled I was given 100,000 pounds to work with. WISCHMANN was given 50,000 pounds which he took

18,000 pounds of the total 100,000. In fact, with WISCHMANN and the agents mentioned I placed 100,000 to 110,000 pounds.

At the end of March WAENINGER told me that he had received a cable telling him to report immediately to Munich to meet his chief Standartenfuhrer SPAZIL. I was to drive him as KNACK was unable to do so. At the same time a message arrived from Baron LEONHARDI that ZEDSCENKO wanted to confer with me about the purchase of weapons and would give me news the following week as to where we were to meet. WAENINGER was pleased about this and urged our departure for Munich. We left immediately and stopped at Munich, Mullerstr. 35 or 39, the home of SPAZIL's parents. We left there and drove out of town to a small forest where we met another high ranking SS officer. I was not allowed to participate in the discussion nor was I introduced to anyone. Later WAENINGER told me that one of the men was SPAZIL and that I was the only V-mann who had seen him. He said that SPAZIL was about to inspect the dump at Marktschwaben. He also said that SPAZIL was very dissatisfied with the exchange rate of the pound and that we should make a greater effort. Also that he was anxious about the weapons. WAENINGER was to go to Prague to keep his eye on activities there as well as in Meran and I was supposed to get the help of an Obersturmfuhrer MADER who was to come to Bratislava. We spent the night at Pitzing where WAENINGER introduced me to Mrs. BORING. The conversation was conventional and I had the impression that Mrs. BORING was not informed about the activities of WAENINGER. I spent the night at Count WENTZEL-STERNAU's place whom WAENINGER said was one of his men. The following day I was introduced to George SPITZ whom WAENINGER also said was one of his men. We then left for Bratislava where we found that conditions were dramatic. The Russians were approaching Bratislava and WAENINGER wanted to remove as much as possible from Bratislava. Trucks which went from the different dumps to Bratislava were loaded and left frequently. I had to buy whatever I could and was urged to buy weapons as quickly as possible. But the time was too short and the situation in the east was untenable. We packed in a hurry and were told to meet WAENINGER the following day 40 kms outside of Bratislava. In case this was impossible we were to meet a week later at the Hotel Alcron in Prague. In the event that I could still buy something I was to send it to Marktschwaben. When I wanted to give WAENINGER the remaining 82,000 pounds he told me to keep them. They left and my parents followed them. I learned later that my parents were mistreated by them which I could not understand. The following day street fights occurred in Bratislava and a day later the town was in Russian hands. I stayed for another three days but was anxious about the fate of my parents and of reprisals the SD might take if I stayed behind.

I left for Prague and arrived there 11 April. Before I left I buried the pounds in case I was taken prisoner with all that money on me. It is to be found in a village called Borsky Sv. Jan at the home of people who are known to my friend Frantisek PASTUCHA. I told my friend to keep an eye on the pounds and to give them back when I return. In Prague WAENINGER told me to continue the same job and to buy whatever I could find. When he learned that I had buried the pounds he became so angry that I cannot describe it. I was immediately arrested and it was only the development of events which prevented my being shot. I was supposed to return to Slovakia to fetch the pounds and my parents were kept as hostages. However, the place where I buried the pounds became an active front and I could not leave. This was the last time WAENINGER spoke to me and two weeks later he left with KNACK probably for Meran. Hauptsturmfuhrer Dr. HANSEN discharged me and WISCHMANN told him that I would surely go and get the pounds.

When all the services had left Prague WISCHMANN told me

that he had intended for a long time to get out of the whole business and that now that the danger of being caught was over this would be an opportunity to leave Prague and go back to our families. We left for Unterach/Attersee where MADER stayed and WISCHMANN went to Unterstein to join his family. I arrived at Moosen on 6 May and found my parents.

What follows is what I have heard or see and what I can guess at without any proof.

Up to the arrival of WARWINGER, WISCHMANN always kept the real meaning of his activities hidden from me. He sometimes made teasing remarks saying that he might be a member of the intelligence service. He told me that he had visited England several times and that he had a great many friends there. I have already mentioned why he was not drafted into the army. The first time I sensed something queer was when WISCHMANN left for a trip and told me to give all the purchased currency to Dr. LEHN of Skodawerke (during the war called Hermann GÖingwerke). LEHN then had to forward it to RAUBIN of the Skodawerke at Prague. I heard about the SD in this connection for the first time when WISCHMANN sealed his luggage with a pair of pliers with the SD initials and later on when he gave me papers from the SD saying that I was relieved of any army service. During his absence I also received wireless messages from Meran for WISCHMANN and sent them to Hauptsturmführer BAEKERS. They were signed Harald meaning WARWINGER, WENDIG or SCHWEND. They usually were concerned with exchange rates except those of WARWINGER's which dealt with the weapons business.

In Prague I often heard the name HÖHNMANN (probably SCHNECKMANN) who was in charge of covering these illegal activities and avoiding trouble with the different services. Dr. HAMMER was in charge of finding out about rival activities. I was surprised to learn later on that we also bought from other German organisations when the merchandise came from the black market. In Prague I also heard the names PSCHIKRIL, and Engineer ZKISIG but I do not know anything about them. KRETSCHMAR worked with WISCHMANN. WARWINGER was often with MUELLER, MADER, SELL and KNACK.

I can only guess where all these goods went. I merely happened to hear the names of the dumps at Marktschwaben, Meran, Unterach, Melk, Kuchl and Berlin. At Marktschwaben I do not know the exact location of the place but in Meran it is at Schloss Labers in Unterach/Attersee at the villa of Dr. GYSSLING; in Melk at the old brewery (alte Brauerei); in Kuchl at the villa of Mrs. WARWINGER where she lives with her children; and in Berlin at SPAZIL's home.

WARWINGER told me when we were on a trip to Prien that the owner of a garage named FICHTE was also one of his men as was Count HERTZEL-STERNHAU where WARWINGER also had some belongings. Whenever HERTZEL-STERNHAU is asked whether this is true he always acts very upset and claims that he has never received anything. WARWINGER and KNACK did not like SPITE probably because they were jealous. They said they could get hold of him whenever they wanted him. WARWINGER also owned a factory at Prague where weapons and chemical products were manufactured. At Prague an accurate accounting system was kept which was responsible to Meran. In Bratislava WARWINGER did his bookkeeping in an improvised way and KNACK gave me the settlements to forward in my name to Meran. WARWINGER mentioned once that he had 300,000 pounds in his bank account for which he was accountable. His commission on our transactions was 15% of which he had to give me 6%. English pounds were spent generously in order to buy whatever could be found. I always was astonished at the large amounts of English pounds which they had at their disposal. Any doubts that I had vanished when all the experts in Bratislava proved that they were not forged pounds. It was explained to everyone who asked that they were captured. The purpose of all these operations in my opinion

was to found a financial reserve for a secret Nazi organisation after defeat in order to be able to take over again when the time comes. As WAENINGER mentioned once these operations started only in 1943. In addition all the purchased foreign currency probably was to be used to pay German agents in foreign countries. Further, I believe that these operations were strictly limited to SS circles. This is proved by the fact that purchases were made from other Wehrmacht organisations and all the weapons and supplies were transported and stored by SS members only. In this connection I heard the name of SS General HOFER who was supposed to organise resistance at Innsbruck and who asked for mobile kitchens.

As I learned of all these activities only after the arrival of WAENINGER in Bratislava at the end of February I cannot give information on the whole picture. I was also only kept informed as far as it was necessary for my job.