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19 / 1953
JJI

WESSLEY, Kurt

A CIC card (no document available) lists a Kurt WESSLEY, Austrian, born 2.3.24, Redakteur, address Ibertraum 47.

A discreet background check on a Dr. K. WESSLEY residing at Lins, Döngasse 14, was requested by Salzburg CIC of Lins CIC on 3 Nov 49, per CIC cable of same date.

According to S-15930, 10 Mar 53, Dr. Kurt WESSLEY, employee of the Salzburger Nachrichten, residing at Kommunalstrasse 5/2, Lins, is a GL (Ant Genien) agent with whom Kurt KNOLL, Sr. became acquainted in 1948.

A letter from GOR to 130th CIC Sub-det A, 5 Mar 52, states that a Kurt WESSLEY who is associated with the Kleine Illustrierte is suspected of having Soviet connections (through Urfahr) and of keeping close contact with the Hibelungen Verlag Lins (owned by Willi HORTL). Letter was from Jk of CIB, G-2 to 5/A Roth.

According to L-25027, 12 June 52, a Dr. Kurt WESSLEY of Lins is a member of the Oberösterreichische Kunstlerbund. Investigation of the organization failed to prove allegations that it was a Communist-front organization.

In CIC files, L-16144, 19 Sept 49, reference is made to SOI, dated 25 May 49 (a thorough search by [redacted] failed to uncover this SOI), Subject: WESSLEY, Dr. Kurt. The SOI document reported that Subject was employed as an economical and industrial reporter by the "Salzburger Nachrichten" and a weekly bulletin, "Berichte und Informationen." Report further stated that Subject regularly covers the economic and industrial situation in Upper Austria, Salzburg, Tyrol, and Vorarlberg, and through publications studies the situation in Yugoslavia, Hungary, and Rumania. He is reportedly conducting a survey of the new electric works in Sams, Upper Austria, and the OeEA (Oesterreichische Kraft A.G.). Subject is allegedly in contact with American Intelligence, believed to be the MAST Group. Baron Harry MAST is allegedly employed by IIB, Frankfurt, using cover address of The [redacted] Publishing Firm, Lins, Landstrasse 22. Subject, according to sub-source of report, contacted the MAST Group to cover his connection with Russian info group in Kufstein, Tyrol, headed by Dr. Heinz THALER. Report gave the following to substantiate allegation that Subject is on good terms with Russians: His wife, Susanna, is a so-called "Magyarin" who recently came to Austria on a legal travel pass from Budapest, where her father is the Communist Section in the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture. Pursuant to verbal instructions from the Chief, Section issuing the document, an investigation was conducted to determine the truth of allegations concerning Subject, which revealed the following:

a. WESSLEY, Dr. Kurt, lawyer, born 23 March 1906 in Lins; Austrian citizen; Roman Catholic; married; residing in Lins, Döngasse 14, has never been convicted for political reasons.

b. MAST, Baron Harry, is not listed in the files of Lins Police.

c. MAST, Harry, born 26 December 1897 in Lins; Austrian citizen; poet; employed in Lins VD Delegation; Roman Catholic; married; residing in Lins, Hafnerstrasse 1/a. MAST has not been convicted for political actions, but has been convicted for causing injury to a person and for having taken "violent measures against his boss" (no details given), for which he received 6 months imprisonment.

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d. The Speck Publishing Firm does not exist in Lins. However, a purchasing firm, the Oberosterreichische G. m.b.h., is located at the address Landstrasse 12, Lins.

CIC files, L/16805, 18 Nov 1949, states that discreet background investigation revealed the following:

a. A Berlin file check requested by CIC Lins for the Austrian Government on 26 March 1946 showed that Dr. Kurt Wessely was born 20 March 1906 in Lins, Austria. He joined the NSDAP in 31 May 1933, No. 1618458, Wehrmacht 1939 to 1943 as Reserve Lt. Joined SS 1943, No. 303216, Obersturmfuhrer on 29 Nov 1944; sentenced to 12 months imprisonment for high treason for illegal activity with illegal press of the Landesleitung and "SS Nachrichtendienst."

b. Lins CCG telephone extracts were:

1. L/T 1454, dtd 24 June 48, from Dr. WESSELY, Chamber of Commerce, Lins, to KOLLER, firm, Aluminwerke Manahofen, in which WESSELY represented himself as the delegate of the Federal Chamber of Commerce to Portugal and discussed possible barter deals involving exchange of English pounds for Portuguese raw materials.

2. L/T 5810, 5 Apr 49, Dr. WESSELY to PFRIFFER, firm, Messerschmitt-Verlag in which Messerschmitt-Verlag was discussing the Federal creation of barracks, and a rumor that the organization of the Austrians will be speeded up, were discussed.

3. L/T 7312, 25 July 49, from WESSELY to PFRIFFER, firm, Messerschmitt-Verlag, in which both parties discussed the general political scene.

c. A discreet background check of Subject by Lins CID revealed the following: Subject was a volunteer member of the NSDAP and SS, and allegedly war-time reporter for the Lins Nazi newspaper "Volkstimme." Subject's wife is Susanna, nee SCHEID, residing at Alt Aussee, Puchan 05, Liesan, Styria.

G-2 traces:

G-2 files, TS 1759, according to a British report of 10 Oct 49, adr. Kurt WESSELY was an ex-SS man and a one-time assistant to KALTYGWERUNGER. Also reported to be a member of an American network run by a former Abwehr officer named OFZAREK from Salzburg. Subject has recently been reported in touch with Dr. firm SUOGENBAUER (serial #1167), (in charge of Sov reading room in Urfahr and suspected Sov agent) and with a KPOe journalist, Arnold B. ORSEN. Frequently visits factories in Upper Austria in his capacity as economic editor for Salzburger Nachrichten and asks questions not necessary to his work. His wife, Susanna, Hungarian by birth, recently returned from a visit to her parents in Budapest. Her father is a high official in the Ministry of Agriculture and a Communist. She frequently telephones long distance from the Soviet Kommandatura in Urfahr.

G-2 files also contain two phone intercepts from CCG, one made 24 June 52 from WESSELY, 5 Kommunalstr., Lins, to an Oberst BURIAN in Lins, who asked WESSELY about two articles written for publication. WESSELY also complained that the "Aids" had not paid him money he earned as a PW. The other intercept was from a call made by WESSELY to unknown person and phone number in Lins on

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26 June 1952. WESSLEY stated that he had received a letter from his (WESSLEY's) father that day. WESSLEY said his father was in Almedi and that this was the new name. The other person replied that it was very nice there in the summer. WESSLEY replied that for an exile no place was nice. (The examiner had noted that Almedi is possibly a village in Hungary).

Attached is a photostatic copy of CIC report, S-13415, taken from G-2 files, Subject: Edward VERBIX, which mentions WESSLEY as editor of the Kleine Illustrierte (where VERBIX is employed), and former editor of Demokratisches Volksblatt. It is noted that VERBIX is on friendly terms with a former Russian nobleman, Hans KANSAROV, living at Singersstrasse 3, Salzburg, who has been credited by journalists with selling information to VERBIX about Eastern countries.

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