

SECRET

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OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF CONSUL  
APO 408 - U.S. ARMY  
INTERROGATION DIVISION

24 October 1945  
Nurnberg

Memorandum to Mr. Jaari  
From W. Beetti

Following my conversation<sup>1</sup> with American authorities in Switzerland we came to the understanding that I would attempt to gain control of the political German intelligence service in the Balkans and in the Danube area - I already controlled the larger part - in order to hand the control over to competent American authorities as long as it was a matter of politically reliable elements, that is, members of our opposition group. I was successful in doing it. In March 1945 I set up our own strong transmitter in the Austrian Alps and gradually I switched the Balkan wireless connections to this station. After the American troops marched into the territory I handed over the transmitter and all <sup>my</sup> reliable employees to the American intelligence service. Later I heard that the first attempts to reestablished wireless connections with Budapest and Budapest succeeded in June 1945. From this time on I worked exclusively for the interrogation center of the III Army in Freising and no longer had any direct contact with the intelligence services. I only knew that my Balkan advisers, after they were confirmed by me, were transferred to the job. My deputy, one operator and my secretary had been there from the beginning on. I have no information on the present state of the enterprise.

I failed in one thing: I was not able to prevent the destruction of the many documents and extensive files on the individual Balkan states by the SD because at that time I was in Switzerland. Since all the other competent authorities as, for instance, the GI (Abwehr) destroyed all their material I am inclined to assume that at the

present time no really essential material on the Balkans exists in Germany.

The only intelligence service which also worked intensively in these countries, that is the English one, could not quite develop during the last few years and was partly crushed by various police measures. As a result, their material is rather out of date and, above all, would contain little on recent developments since the Russian occupation. I came to this conclusion because various attempts were made by the English and the American intelligence <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ more official authorities to contact our agents in the various Southeastern states. The situation might be similar as far as the American intelligence service is concerned; an additional difficulty for them was the fact that they were only beginning their work and had not been able to establish an efficient organization in such a short time. (That, at least, was the impression of the German Abwehr). It is likely that no material of great significance is in their hands.

On the basis of this knowledge I proposed to reconstruct a comprehensive Balkan file as a substitute for the destroyed German material with the help of the best and the most reliable German Balkan experts who previously worked under my supervision. Since I had turned over all my people, with the exception of one, to the American intelligence service I did not wait for a decision but started this work on a very small scale, because it seemed urgent to me. With the help of my co-worker, a Hungarian by the name of Rothen, and my former secretary in Rome, Frau Beetz, I started to work on this file about two months ago. First we put down on paper our own information about the individual personalities of the Balkan countries and then we proceeded to question persons from these countries which were held in the internment camp of the interrogation center and which appeared suitable for this purpose. Since this was mostly a matter of dealing with personal acquaintances the results were good beyond all expectation and we were able to contribute much for the interrogations.

During the first screening of the material I noticed that the personalities were often ~~the~~ identical with those appearing on the official war criminal lists of the different Balkan states or would sooner or later be considered for such. I got in touch with the representative for war criminal matters at the interrogation center in Freising, a Mr. Guth, and suggested to him to limit this file - which was planned with a long range point of view - first to the problem of the war criminals, in agreement with the competent authorities in Nuernberg. This was agreed upon and I started with Hungary. The first results were very good because our material alone, that which we put down from memory, was far more extensive than the information available at the Interrogation Center. After I started with the questioning of individuals from the different countries, I got, in some cases, as much information as sometimes did not even exist on German personalities. First of all I selected ~~some~~ persons ~~which~~ because of their opposition to the system in power - to which they had had close ~~connections~~ connections because of their former attitude - were only too willing to tell the truth and were able to give intimate details from which the entire responsibility of the different personalities for various measures became evident. As a result the file for Hungary developed satisfactory. Up to the time of my departure for Nuernberg I had started files for the following persons:

About Regent (Reichsverweser) Morthy, going back to the beginning of his government after the defeat of the Communist regime.

About the ~~Stojay~~ government which came into power following the German occupation in March 1945 and all its cabinet ministers.

About the Szalasi government and all its members which came into power through the German coup d'etat in October 1944.

About all the important leaders in the Hungarian Pfeilkreuzlerpartei ( the extreme Hungarian Nazi Party) including the secret police.

About the responsible German personalities and their role in a position to supply

the necessary information.

I had prepared similar material for Slovakia and Yugoslavia which, of course, was not yet as extensive because I worked alone with my co-worker Rothen. Nevertheless, for these countries we also received very valuable material from (sic!) the chiefs of the governments under the German occupation, which they had not given to the examining American authorities.

All this material is now in the hands of the above mentioned Rothen and /or a Hungarian Generaloberst Rusky who is in a field hospital near Munich, and the officer at the interrogation center in Freising, Lt. Flex, with whom I worked. I gave instructions to Rothen and my secretary to wait for me at the hospital in Freising where we were staying because I assumed that the trip to Nurnberg would be a matter of a few days.

I would like to make the following proposal: to resume this work here in Nurnberg on the smallest scale, concentrating on the war criminal problem, pending the decision on my proposal. I do not know who is handling the above mentioned proposal.

In order to resume my work I would need the following:

- 1) my notes in Freising,
- 2) the above mentioned Rothen who is probably still in Freising or could be located there,
- 3) my secretary, Doris Kochs, who was at the same time my intimate co-worker and the contact with the entire opposition circle. She also could be traced in Freising or through the American intelligence office in Munich. ( D.K. is a certified interpreter and worked on a newspaper in London. In case she should not be available Mrs. Neets could be used who also speaks English)

With the help of these people I would be able to conclude the Hungarian, Slovakian, and Yugoslavian part within a few weeks.

In case this proposal is accepted I will take the liberty to give further details.