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Sept. '43 - Fe

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Austrian Representatives At Rome
Sept. '43 - Feb. '44

Ref: P/378.1

5 February 1945

Austrian Freedom Movement - Italy
Via Gregoriana 5
Rome, Italy

Sir:-

Your letter of January 23rd addressed to the Allied Commission has been referred to Political Section for reply.

For your information, neither the British nor the U.S. Government contemplates according any official recognition or unofficial support to any Austrian individual or group, or encouraging the organization of any committee which represents a coalition of groups existing at the present time.

Consistent with this policy, the Commission is not in a position to recognize your organization and, in consequence, Political Section feels that no useful purpose can be served by receiving a delegation thereof.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM W. SCHOFF
Vice President, Political Section

378/

Austrian Freedom Movement Italy.
Verfechtungsbewegung
16111111

Rome, 22 January 1945.
Office: Via Gregoriana 3

To the

Allied Commanders,

U.S.G.

The Austrians in Liberated Italy do not have, until now, a non-political organization. They decided, therefore, to set up such a non-political central organization, called

Austrian Freedom Movement Italy

and they beg the Allied Commission to recognize and help the new organization. This request may be justified by the following facts:

1. declarations of President Roosevelt and Premier Winston Churchill for creation of an independent free Austria.
2. declaration of the Moscow conference.
3. forming of a "Free Austrian National Council" in London on 17 September 1941.

Aims and targets of the Austrian Freedom Movement Italy are:

- a) collaboration with the Allies.
- b) organization of the Austrians in Liberated Italy.
- c) help and assistance for the Austrians.
- d) forming of an Information Center for Austrians.
- e) preparation for the repatriation of the Austrians.

The Austrian Freedom Movement Italy is co-ordinated to the World Organization of Austrians in Washington and London, which comprehends approximately about 80% of all Austrians over the world, who had to escape from Nazi-Austria. It has nothing to do or in common with a so-called "Austrian Office" or "Austrian Union" in Rome, both Via Mercadante 17. It refuses to be mixed up or identified with this office. The leader of this "Austrian Office" - an Italian citizen - and a sort of his friends and collaborators through their political background are undesirable for a new democratic Austria. Further, they lost by their personnel and commercial connections with Nazi-Fascist authorities and personalities during the German occupation of Italy and Rome every right to collaborate for the rebuilding of a new free Austria.

The undersigned managing committee begs therefore to recognize the above mentioned facts and to give a date for the presentation of his members to the A.C., giving them the possibility to transmit the principal details of the activities of the new association.

For the Committee:

4946

The Austrians in liberated Italy do not have much to say, now, a non-political organization. They decided, therefore, to set up such a non-political central organization, called

Austrian Freedom Movement Italy

and they let the Allied Commission to recognize and help the new organization. This request may be justified by the following facts:

1. declarations of President Roosevelt and Premier Winston Churchill for creation of an independent free Austria.
 2. declaration of the Moscow conference.
 3. forming of a "Free Austrian National Council" in London on 27 September 1941.
- aims and threats of the Austrian Freedom Movement Italy are:
- a) collaboration with the Allies.
 - b) organization of the Austrians in liberated Italy.
 - c) help and assistance for the Austrians.
 - d) forming of an information center for Austrians.
 - e) preparation for the reconstruction of the Austrians.

The Austrian Freedom Movement Italy is co-ordinated to the World Organization of Austrians in Washington and London, which comprises approximately about 80% of all Austrians over the world, who had to escape from Nazi-Austria. It has nothing to do or in common with a so-called "Austrian Office" or "Austrian Union" in Rome, both of which are in the hands of the Italian government. The leader of this "Austrian Office" - an Italian citizen - had a part of his friends and collaborators through their political background and unbreakable for a new democratic Austria. Further, they lost by their personnel and commercial connections with Nazi-Fascist authorities and personalities during the German occupation of Italy and Rome every right to collaborate for the rebuilding of a new free Austria.

The undersigned committee begs therefore to recognize the above mentioned facts and to show a date for the presentation of his members to the A.C., giving them the possibility to transmit the principal details of the activities of the new association.

40-26

For the Committee:

Handwritten signatures:
- *Handwritten signature*
- *Handwritten signature*
- *Handwritten signature*
- *Handwritten signature*

PARAPHRASE

OF

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: SECRETARY

JUNE 21, 1944

227

SECRET

RMD: June 22.

Following is substance of the Department's Circular telegram of January 14th -

For the present the Department does not contemplate according any official recognition or unofficial support to any Austrian individual or group, or encouraging the organization of any committee which represents a coalition of groups existing at the present time. Department considers that such recognition at this time would only lead to further undesirable complications because of apparent failure of such groups and their leaders to effect any actual unity and because of the necessity to avoid any step which might ultimately prejudice the freedom of any people to choose their government and leaders when liberated.

In addition, and for your information, principally because his record proves him to be a confirmed fascist, Berger-Waldenegg's action has created a distinctly unfavorable reaction among Austrians in this country.

HULL

Office of the

Copy for
Mr. Reber

June 20, 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

In compliance with the request contained in your telegram of June 15, 1944, I am pleased to enclose herewith a copy of the Department's Circular Airgram dated January 14, 1944, 8 p.m.

Sincerely yours,

G. F. Reinhardt

Enclosure

Copy of Airgram

The Honorable

Alexander C. Kirk

U.S. Representative on Advisory Council for Italy

Naples

4940

O
P
YJan. 14, 1944
8:00 P.M.CIRCULAR AIRGRAM

To Certain American Diplomatic Officers and to the
American Consul General at Jerusalem

The Department has received inquiries from several missions regarding the attitude of this Government toward Austria since the Moscow Declaration on Austria, and inquiring particularly whether this Government contemplated giving official recognition to any Austrian group or representative in the United States.

For your information and for communication, if the occasion arises, to the Government to which you are accredited, our attitude toward Austria at the present time goes no further than the statement contained in the Moscow Declaration on Austria, namely that the Government of the United States, together with the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union, "wish to see reestablished a free and independent Austria and thereby to open the way for the Austrian people themselves ... to find that political and economic security which is the only basis for lasting peace".

The Department does not contemplate, for the time being, at least, giving either official recognition or unofficial support to any Austrian group or individual, or stimulating the organization of any new committee representing a coalition of presently existing groups.

The matter has been carefully considered by the Department on the basis of proposals submitted since the Moscow Declaration by various Austrian groups and individuals, and while there is full realization of the potential usefulness of an Austrian "symbol" it is nevertheless felt that recognition at this time of any of the available groups or individuals would only lead to future complications which it is desirable to avoid. This is particularly indicated by the bitter disputes which have characterized the relations between the various Austrian groups, and by the seeming inability of such groups and their leaders to achieve any real unity, even under the stimulus of the Moscow Declaration.

The Department has based its policy toward all "free movements" on the principle of the Atlantic Charter that there shall be respect for the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live. The degree of support which free movements in exile may have in their own countries can be only a matter of conjecture until there are means of access to the people. It has, therefore, been deemed necessary to exercise great care not to take steps the effect of which might be to prejudice the freedom of any people, when liberated, in their choice of a government and leaders. No deviation from this policy is contemplated.

With the foregoing in mind you are requested to watch carefully and report promptly to the Department any developments relative to the Austrian situation.

HULL

4939

Dr. Peter Breycha-Zuliany

22nd November 1944. *FBI*

R o m

6 bis, via Caroncini

To: AC - Political Section.

So far I have been very pleased to offer my services to the Allied Organizations in the Austrian Office without mentioning the financial side of the question. My personal funds are now coming to an end, so unfortunately I am obliged to look for a job with an income. Before considering some offers in private business which have recently been made me, and with the intention of pursuing the collaboration with the Allies, aiming to the liberation and immediate post-war organization of my Country, I would like to make a proposal in the case that the Allies might be interested in my continued collaboration.

As ex-commercial Attaché at the Trieste Austrian Consulate-General and after the "Anschluss" as owner and manager of an industrial enterprise in Trieste, I had the opportunity to study thoroughly the problems of Austrian Economy and in that occasion acquired knowledge in the following branches: Industry, Trade, Transportations, Banking and Insurance in Austria.

By continuing to receive economic information from Austria until the month of May 1944 I was able to extend my knowledge of the above-mentioned subjects.

Following this, several Allied Organizations asked me for information. I have already handed over the respective reports to the organizations concerned and am working on some new ones.

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If these reports should have been considered of any value, I would suggest for the eventual continuation of my work the following:

One of the organizations interested in my work might give me the possibility to open in Rome an "Austria Information Centre" at the disposal of any unit interested in the above-mentioned question. The expenses of this centre might be divided among the organizations most concerned.

In this centre I would suggest the creation of a file of all data at my disposal on the Austrian Economy of these last years and this file could be extended through research to be made in material found in Institutions, Banks and through competent people who were in communication with Austria in recent times;

In this manner, the questions put could be answered without waste of time and could be used as basic material after the liberation of Austria by the competent Authorities.

In the "A.I. Centre" also all required reports concerning Austria would be compiled.

I would appreciate very much to be personally incorporated in one of the Allied Organizations for the purpose of the above-mentioned work. If my proposal should be taken into consideration, I am in condition to give further details on the execution of the plan.

Copies of this are forwarded to the following organizations, with the request that they may reach a decision among themselves:

AFHQ - G. 2 , IS 9 , CIC , OSS .

J. P. Brenzke - Julian
4937

HEADQUARTERS

30 SEP 1944

A.C.E.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

TBJ/jjj

G-5: 383.2-1

25 September 1944

SUBJECT: Austrian Activities in Rome.

TO: U.S.S.

HQ AFHQ, APO 394
486 Sec. y. Gen.
Rec'd 1 Oct 1944
By

1. Reference is made to your pamphlet RAL 97 of 17 July received by this Section 12 September under heading The Austrians in Rome.

2. It appeared to this Section that certain statements in it were incorrect particularly as to recognition of the Austrian group in Rome and the pamphlet was referred to ACC for comment.

3. The following comprises comments received from ACC:

The narrative matter of the attached pamphlet in the main is correct. The amount of help afforded the movement by the Vatican is a matter of conjecture, but Dr. Hudal, the original leader of the "Committee" is Bishop of Eln and consultant to the Holy Office.

The Austrian colony is some 250 in number, representing a mixture of political shades from right to left, and classified in four different categories. They are not united and there recently has been a division of forces regarding a constitution of the Committee, from which it appears that the group no longer will be "definitely led by aristocrats". It is not known that the "Austrian Office" ever was established.

The Austrian group receives no official support of the Allied authorities in Italy. The United States Government has declared that its attitude towards Austria goes no further than the Moscow Declaration on Austria, and Allied authorities make no distinction between Austrians and other enemy aliens.

Allied Control Commission has not recognized the Committee nor the Austrian Office. As late as August 15, Political Section tabled a request by Bishop Hudal to publish a Free Austrian news sheet. Permission to hold a private meeting of the Austrians in Rome was granted, and held, late in June 1944, but nothing of consequence came of it.

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4. Inasmuch as there have been other OSS reports that have contained statements which are erroneous or misleading so far as ACC is concerned the suggestion is made that you should make a practice before publication of clearing with ACC documents which purport to state their attitude in any particular matter.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:



T. B. JACKMAN
Lt. Colonel.

Copy to:- ACC (your 378.1 of 23 September refers.)



4935

File
andHEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref: 578.1

14 November 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: U. S. Representative on the
Advisory Council for Italy.

1. With reference to your Airgram No. A-85 of October 16, 4:00 P.M., forwarding my report on "Austrian Activities in Rome", I have the following further to report.

2. A new Austrian organization called, "The Association of Liberated Austrians in Italy" has been formed, apparently under the aegis of the Austrian Office. A committee was elected at a meeting of all Austrians in Rome holding Austrian cards of identity (presumably those issued by the Austrian Office) and an account of this meeting, together with a copy (in German) of the statutes of the new organization, is attached hereto. The names of the elected committee members are now to the Political Section, Allied Commission.

3. This information was presented to Political Section by Baron Berger von Saldenegg who pointed out that the number of Austrians entitled to vote represents a majority of the Austrians in Rome, that nearly 82% of this majority actually voted and that the election was held in a fair, legal manner.

4. It is interesting to note that the number of Communist voters was less than twelve - the number required to present a panel of candidates. Most of the Austrians holding Communist views presumably adhere to the Schmitzer-Frunda-Ruck group which has distinct left political views and ambitions and wishes to establish a branch of the London "Free Austrian Movement".

5. Baron von Saldenegg said that the committee of the Association soon will elect a provisional President but the actual President will be one DOERFINGER who, he said, now is working for the Allies in Cairo but is expected soon to arrive in Rome.

6. In discussing this new organization with Dr. Peter Freyha, the actual head of the Austrian Office, he assured me that it really is composed of a majority of the representative Austrians, that its object is not political but one to aid and unite the Austrians in Italy and to assist the Allies in freeing Austria. He stated that the former "Austrian Committee"

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- 2 -

has disappeared and that small dissident groups in the Austrian colony are of no importance and are led by politically ambitious individuals of no consequence.

7. Political Section has made it clear that the new organization cannot be afforded Allied official recognition or unofficial support, but that it would welcome the efforts of Austrians in aid of the Allied cause.

WILLIAM W. BROWNE
Vice President, Political Section

2 Encls:

- 1 - Account of the first meeting of
"The Association of Liberated Austrians
in Italy".
- 2 - Copy of the statutes of the new organization.

Report on the election of the committee of" The Association of liberated Austrians in Italy ".

The election of the board of representatives of the " Association of liberated Austrians in Italy " was carried out Saturday 21/10 1944 from 9-13 hours, Sunday 22/10 1944 from 9 - 15 1/2 hours and Monday 23/10 1944 and Tuesday 24/10/1944 from 9-13 hours in Rome, Via Mercadante 15.

With this election the " Association of liberated Austrians in Italy " takes the place of the " Austrian Committee " which had decided, in its meeting September 18th 1944 its own dismissal.

The election was carried out in the following way: The single political groups were summoned to present their list of candidates. Twelve members were entitled to present a list.

The following groups presented their election lists/ Christian democrates, democrates, monarchist group, socialists; the communists could not find twelve votes in order to present an own list.

The basic figure was 20 votes for a deputy, 36 gave a second one and every 35 votes a further one.

The result of the election was as follows:

Members in possession of identity cards

of the A.O. entitled to vote;;;;;;;;;;;;; : 341

Votes.....: 279 (81.8 %)

The poll resulted:

Christian democrates.....: 144 (51.1 %)

Democratic list.....: 38 (13,9 %)
Monarchic list;;;;;;;;;;;;: 43 (16,4 %)
Socialist list.....: 46 (17,6 %)
Invalid votes.....: 8

Summary

279

There were elected:

For the christian democratic list: Paul Hofmann, Frieda Reiningger,
the Reverend Franz Egle, Kurt Seidler, Maria Biegler (Dr. Baschiera
resigned).

For the democratic list: Ernst Schopper, Juliana M. Lebach.

For the monarchist list: Count Nikolaus Reverteira, Camillo Narciso
Neumann.

For the socialist list: Heinz Arthur Hamber, Dr. Bruno Brée.

We join the statute of the association and the forms, which were
handed to all voters before the election.

VEREINIGUNG DER BEFREITEN OESTERREICHER,

ROM, Via Saverio Mercadante Nr. 15.

Rom, den 21. Oktober 1944.

A E N K E N D A T T.

1.) WAS WIRD GEWAHLT ?

Vorliegende Wahlen haben den Zweck, jene Personen, die dem Vorstände der Vereinigung der befreiten Oesterreicher (Austrian Action) angehören sollen auf eine Wahlart zu bestimmen, die jeden Zweifel an der Geheimhaltung des Wahlaktes ausschliesst.

Gewählt werden sollen die Vorstandsmitglieder der Vereinigung, die dann ihrerseits den Praesidenten zu wählen haben werden.

Die Wahl erfolgt nach Gesinnungsgruppen. Die Auswahl der Personen bestimmt sich nach ihrem Range auf den einzelnen Wahllisten.

Jeder Wähler wählt nach die ihm zugehörige Gesinnungsgruppe ohne nähere Bezeichnung der einzelnen, auf der Wahlliste aufscheinenden Kandidaten.

35 Stimmen ergeben ein Mandat.

2.) WER KANN WAHLER ?

Wahlberechtigt sind alle Inhaber der oesterreichischen Ausweiskarte.

Durch den Wahlakt erklärt sich der Wähler mit der vom Komitee am 18.9.1944 beschlossenen Umwandlung der oesterreichischen Organisation in die VEREINIGUNG DER BEFREITEN OESTERREICHER (Austrian action) einverstanden und vollzieht damit seinen Beitritt zur neuen Organisationsform.

Wer die beschlossene Umwandlung und seinen Beitritt ablehnt, darf nicht wählen.

3.) WIE WIRD GEWAHLT ?

Der Wähler erhält einen Briefumschlag mit je einen Stimmzettel aller wählbaren Gesinnungsgruppen. Er entnimmt die Stimmzettel, schliesst den gewünschten Stimmzettel in das Kouvert ein und behält die anderen 3 Stimmzettel bei sich. Der Briefumschlag mit dem Stimmzettel der gewählten Gesinnungsgruppe ist zu verschliessen und wird im Wahllokal persönlich dem Wahlleiter uebergeben.

Wahlbare Gesinnungsgruppen.

Wahlbar sind die folgenden Gesinnungsgruppen:

Christlich- Demokratische	Demokratische	Monarchistische	Sozialistische
1. Dr. Alfred Beschiera	1. Ernst Schopper	1. Graf Nikolaus Revertea	1. Heinz Arthur Hamber
2. Paul Hofmann	2. Juliana W. Lebach	2. Camillo Narciso Neuman	2. Dr. Bruno Brée
3. Frieda Reininger	3. Franz Lorant	3. Theodora von Peithner- Lichtenfels	3. Leopoldine Guger
4. Franz Egle	4. Edward Arzt		4. Ernst Fein
5. Kurt Seidler	5. Karl Furcht		5. Ernst Tausig
6. Maria Biegler			6. Karl Kadisch
7. Erich Lorant			7. Helene Lehmann
8. Egon Dewidels			8. Kurt Weitzmann
9. Teresa Harl			
10. Engelbert Koenig			

Jeder Wähler, der einen Gründungsbeitrag leisten will, hat unmittelbar nach dem Wahlakt vor der Kommission die Möglichkeit den Gründungsbeitrag zu leisten.

S t a t u t e n

der

Vereinigung der befreiten Oesterreicher. (Austrian action).

Art. 1

Zweck.

Die Vereinigung der befreiten Oesterreicher ist eine Organisation die darauf abzielt, die verhuendeten Noechte in ihrem Kampfe um die Befreiung Oesterreichs zu unterstützen und die oesterreichischen Landsleute kulturell, gesellschaftlich und charitativ zu betreuen.

Art. 2

Sitz.

Der Sitz der Vereinigung ist Rom.

Art. 3

Mittel.

Die zur Erreichung des Zweckes der Vereinigung erforderlichen Mittel sind durch Beitraege, Spenden und Veranstaltungen einzubringen.

Art. 4

Mitglieder.

Mitglieder sind:

- a) ordentliche,
- b) ausserordentliche.

In sinngemaesser Anwendung des Komitteeschlusses vom 18./9.1944 steht allen Oesterreichern die im Besitze der oesterreichischen Ausweisakte sind, bei Volljaehrigkeit das aktive und passive Wahlrecht zu.

Ausserordentliche Mitglieder koennen Oesterreicherinnen sein, die durch Heirat ihre Zugehoerigkeit zum oesterreichischen Staatsverbande verloren haben.

Art. 5

Pflichten und Rechte der Mitglieder.

Von allen Mitgliedern der Vereinigung wird erwartet, dass sie die ihren Vermoegensverhaeltnissen entsprechenden Beitraege leisten und die

sonst vom Vorstande beschlossenen, den Zwecken der Vereinigung dienlichen Pflichten erfüllen.

Den ordentlichen Mitgliedern steht, soweit sie volljährig sind, das aktive und passive Wahlrecht zu.

Die Ausübung des Wahlrechtes ist Pflicht.

Art. 6

Hauptversammlung, Wahltag und Vorstand.

Jedes Jahr soll eine Hauptversammlung in Rom stattfinden.

Ist aber die Abhaltung derselben durch die Kriegsverhältnisse nicht tunlich, ist zur Wahl des Vorstandes ein Wahltag zu bestimmen, fuer den alle Wahlberechtigten wenigstens 3 Tage vor dem Wahltermin zu laden sind.

Die Wahl erfolgt nach Gesinnungsgruppen, die mindestens 3 Tage vor dem Wahltag unter Beifuegung der jeweils festgesetzten Mindestzahl (derzeit 12) von Unterschriften ihre Listen beim Vorsitzenden einzureichen haben.

Je begonnene 35 Stimmen ergeben ein Mandat.

Gesinnungsgruppen, welche die Mindestzahl von 35 Stimmen nicht erreichen, sind mit einem Mandat vertreten, wenn sie wenigstens 20 Stimmen auf sich vereinen.

Die Wahl ist persönlich auszuueben und ist schriftlich und geheim.

Alle Gesinnungsgruppen sind berechtigt, Oesterreicher auch ohne deren vorherige Zustimmung auf ihre Wahlliste zu setzen, wenn sie dadurch ihr besonderes Vertrauen auch solchen Personen zum Ausdruck bringen wollen, die sich gesinnungsgemäss entweder ueberhaupt nicht oder nicht im Sinne der betreffenden Gesinnungsgruppe festgelegt haben.

Das Erscheinen derselben Person auf mehreren Listen ist unzulässig.

Art. 7

Pflichten und Rechte des Vorstandes.

Dem Vorstande obliegt die Leitung der Vereinigung und der Aufbau ihrer Organisation. Er setzt die Beitrage fest und bestimmt die sonstigen zweckentsprechenden Pflichten seiner Mitglieder. Er waehlt seinen Vorsitzenden, der Oesterreicher sein, aber den gewählten Mitgliedern des Vorstandes nicht angehoren muss, sowie dessen Stellvertreter, der dem Vorstande zu entnehmen ist. Der Vorsitzende fuehrt nach aussen den Titel eines Praesidenten der Vereinigung.

Die vom OESTERREICHISCHEN KOMITEE beschlossene Geschäftsordnung dient weiterhin als Grundlage.

In dringenden Faellen steht dem Vorstande das Recht auf Statutenänderung zu.

II.

Art. 8Schiedsgericht.

Ueber Streitigkeiten, die die Vereinigung unmittelbar betreffen, entscheidet ein Schiedsgericht, dessen 3 Mitglieder vom Vorstände zu bestellen sind.

Die drei bestellten Richter wählen ihren Vorsitzenden.

Die Entscheidungen des Schiedsgerichtes sind unanfechtbar.

Art. 9.

Auflösung.

Ueber die Auflösung der Vereinigung entscheidet die Hauptversammlung mit 2/3 Mehrheit.

Die Verwendung des Vermögens der Vereinigung bestimmt der letzte Vorstand.

A new Austrian organization called, "The Association of Independent Austrians in Italy" has been formed, apparently under the aegis of the Austrian Office. A committee was elected at a meeting of all Austrians in Rome holding ^{Austrian} cards of identity (presumably those issued by the Austrian Office) and an account of this meeting, together with a copy (in German) of the Statutes of the new organization, are attached hereto. The names of the elected committee members are given to the Political Section, R.C.

This information was presented to Political Section by Baron von Waldenberg, who pointed out that the number of Austrians entitled to vote represents a majority of the Austrians in Rome, that nearly 50% of this majority actually voted, ^{and} that the election was held in a fair, legal manner. It is interesting to note that the number of communist votes was less than ten and the number required to prevent a panel of candidates. ^{that} The Austrian Office is evidently concerned with the Schnitzler - Freund - Pankas group which has distinct left political views and ambitions and wishes to establish a branch of the German "Free Austrian Movement".

Baron von Waldenberg said that the Committee of the Association can elect a provisional President but the actual President will be one Dobretsberger who, he said, was on his way for the Allies in Cairo but is expected soon to arrive in Rome.

In discussing this new organization with Dr. Peter Banzhaf, the ^{actual head} of the Austrian Office, he assured me that it really is composed of a majority of the representative Austrians, that its object is not political but one to aid and assist the Austrians in Italy and to assist the Allies in freeing Austria. He stated that this (over)

former "Austrian Committee" has disappeared and that ^{small} dissident groups in the Austrian colony are of no importance and are led by politically ambitious individuals of no consequence.

Political Section has made it clear that the new organization cannot be afforded Allied official recognition or unofficial support, but that it would welcome the efforts of ^{persons} ~~persons~~ in aid of the Allied cause.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

23 October 1944

Mr. William F. Schott thanks Baron Egon Berger Waldenegg
for his invitation to attend the Inauguration of an exhibi-
tion of the Austrian painter, Gustav Kurt Peck, which will
take place on Sunday October 29th at 11 o'clock and regrets
he is unable to attend because of prior official appointments.

4827



ÖSTERREICHISCHES BUREAU
UFFICIO AUSTRIACO
AUSTRIAN OFFICE

25th October 1944

ROM,
VIA MERCADANTE, 15 (ANGOLO VIA PERGOLESI)
TEL. 61.727

The leader of the Austrian Office begs to
invite you to the

I n a u g u r a t i o n
of an exhibition of the Austrian painter
Gustav Kurt Beck

The inauguration will take place on Sunday
October 29, 1944 punctually at 11 o'clock,
in the rooms of the AUSTRIAN OFFICE, Rome,
via Mercadante 15
(near to the Zoo and the "Villa Borghese").

The Leader of the office

EGON BERGER WALDENEGG

4528

AUSTRIAN OFFICE

ROMA
VIA MERCADANTE, 15
(vicino Villa Borghese - Giardino Zoologico)
TEL. 81-727

*Il Dirigente l'Ufficio Austriaco, Ministro Berger Waldenegg
ha l'onore di invitare the Vice President of the Political Section A.C.
e famiglia alla* *William W. Gehl, Esq.*

INAUGURAZIONE

della Mostra del pittore viennese GUSTAV KURT BECK,
la quale avrà luogo nella mattinata di domenica 29 ottobre 1944,
alle ore 11 precise, nei saloni dell'Ufficio Austriaco in Via Mer-
cadante 15.

IL DIRIGENTE L'UFFICIO
f.to Egon Berger Waldenegg

1123

(Il presente invito è strettamente personale e non può essere ceduto ad altre persone).

0146

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

To the
Allied Commission,

R o m e .

0147

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Austrian Freedom Movement Italy
via Gregoriana No 5./I.

Citta.

1884

ALLIED [REDACTED] COMMISSION
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:

FILE No. 4

TO :

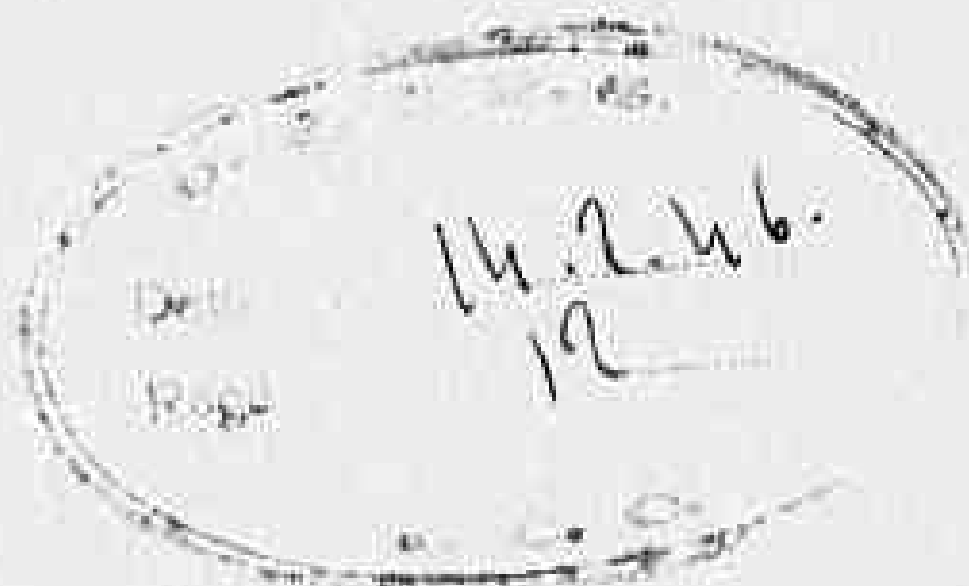
Displaced Persons S.B.
Latin Maj. Srincock

12 Feb. 1946.

Ref. communication from H. Srincock - Maj.
Srincock 1 the attached letter is forwarded
for your comments. This would appear
to be a matter for your Sub-Commission.
Heather, Maj.

CA Section.

814



The United States Member of the Advisory Council for Italy presents his compliments to the American Embassy at Madrid and acknowledges receipt of its memorandum dated August 23, 1944, in which was enclosed a letter from the Free Austrian Committee in Barcelona for transmission to "His Excellency, Baron von Berger-Waldenegg, Austrian Embassy, Rome", should there be no objection to such action.

It is not considered appropriate at this time to cause delivery of the letter which is returned herewith. The reasons for this decision are:

- (a) the Allied authorities make no distinction between Austrians and other enemy aliens;
- (b) the Austrian colony of some 250 members has organized an "Austrian Liberating Committee" which has not been recognized by the American or the British Government; and
- (c) Baron von Berger-Waldenegg is not the leader of the Austrian Movement in Rome. The more democratic and socialist Austrians forming the "Committee" reject his leadership because, as a former prominent figure in the "HEIMWEHR" and when Austrian Ambassador to the Quirinal, he was close to the Fascist Regime and the "Committee" is in doubt as to the sincerity of his present democratic outlook.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APC 394

Ref #378.1

19 October 1944

Sir:

The Political Section of the Allied Control Commission has to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated October 12 to Mr. Guccio forwarding a collection of essays written by the Austrian Office. This work has been found most interesting and has been forwarded to the interested Allied Authorities. The Political Section wishes to thank you for your courtesy in supplying it with this information.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM F. SCHOTT
Vice-President, Political Section

Egon Baron Berger Baldenegg,
Austrian Office,
Via Mercadante, 15
Rome

378.1

4922

h.s.

PWB AFHQ
Unit No.12

SECRET

To: ACC Political Committee - attention Mr. Schott
From: Mr. Radford
Date: 12th October 1944

As a result of our conversation I have made discrete enquiries about the present position of the Austrian office in Rome. I understand that it is still open and functioning as previously but that both Bishop Hudal and von Berger Waldenegg have withdrawn from any part in the management. The office is now run by Breycha, von Froeschlichstal, and a third man whose name is given as Judge Peschiera. I have no knowledge of the last named and it was uncertain whether he was Italian or Austrian subject. You will find notes about the other two in earlier reports from PWB which are on your files.

62. Radford
PWB "D" SECTION

378.1

SECRET

To Mr. Schwann
Mr. Keller.

PWB AFHQ
Unit No. 12

Date: 10th October 1944

Copy for Political Committee, ACG.

With reference to our conversation when you visited me last month I am informed that the correct channel for the Austrian committee to enter into contact with the Allied authorities on political matters is the political commission of ACG. This commission will either deal with the question itself or will if necessary forward any communications from the Austrian committee to the other competent Allied authorities.

PWB, as I informed you on the occasion of your visit, is not authorized to deal with the Austrian Committee except on matters directly concerning propaganda, publications, etc. Even on these matters I should prefer our dealings to be with individual members of the Committee rather than with the Committee formally.

P. A. Mulvihill

1.2.15

Paraphrase of Telegram Received
From Secstate Washington to
AMDEL, Rome.

The "Austrian Committee of Liberation" is now issuing "Austrian membership cards", according to a supplement of the report which was quoted in A-27, September 14, 1944 from Department. These cards bear the printed heading "Austrian Legation, Rome" and it is rumored that Fritz Mandl and Starhemberg are contributing funds for its support. The proclaimed list of blocked nations in Argentina contains the name of Fritz Mandl.

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Political HK
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HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHERN REGION, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U. S. ARMY

R/2052

2 October 1944

SUBJECT: Free Austrian Movement - Bari Zone

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission
(Attention of Political Section)

1. Reference the attached correspondence in regard to the formation of a branch of the Free Austrian Movement at Bari.
2. Please return correspondence with reply.

For the Regional Commissioner:


GUY I. WARREN
Lt. Col. Sp. Res. AUS
Executive Officer

INCL.

As above

GIV/jjf

4817

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
ZONE COMMISSIONERS OFFICE
BARI

27/9/44
BZ/CR / 1 / 54

Subject: Free Austrian Movement - Bari Branch

H.Q. Southern Region
ACC

The attached letters with reference to the formation of a Branch here of the Free Austrian Movement are forwarded.

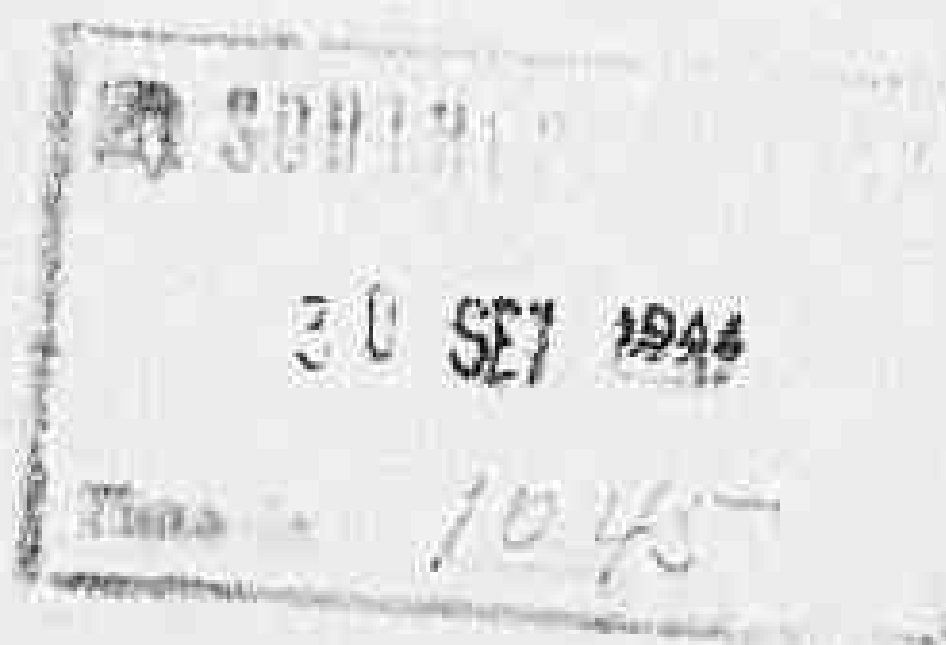
I understand that there is already a Headquarter in Rome and other Branches elsewhere.

There is no objection to the formation of a Branch here, but I understand that permission must be obtained first from higher authority.

May such permission be given, or application be made to ACC H.Q. if it is not within the competence of the Regional Commissioner.

Please return correspondence with your reply.

E. S. Greywood
E. S. GREYWOOD, LT. COL.
ZONE COMMISSIONER
BARI ZONE



4526

Dr.A.v.Sacher-Masoch
Via Principe Amedeo 493
B a r i

25th September 1944.

Zone Commissioner
Allied Control Commission,
B a r i

Sir,

Reference letter from our secretary, Mr. Paul Kollman, dated 18th August, and the enclosed letters received from Capt.G.Fuchs, Representative of the Free Austrian Movement for Italy dated 5 September, and from the Free Austrian World Movement in London, dated 4 September.

You would oblige us by confirming the recognition of our society as a branch establishment of the Free Austrian World Movement, in order to enable us to start working in the interest of our compatriotes.

I beg to remain,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant

Alexander v. Sacher-Masoch

Dr.Alexander von Sacher-Masoch
Chairman

Translation

Capt. G. v. Fuchs, R.A.M.C.
50 Brit. Gen. Hosp., C.M.F.
Representative of the
Free Austrian Movement.

5 September 1944.

Dear Mr. Sacher,

I have just been informed that you have been appointed Chairman of the Free Austrian World Movement Group in Bari.

I beg to congratulate you on your election and, in my capacity as F.A.M. delegate, assure you of my assistance wherever possible. I propose that we should enter in regular correspondence and keep each other informed about all current matters.

I have despatched the following letters today:-

1. One letter addressed to HQ ACC in Italy, asking their permission for the establishment of a F.A.M. Group in Bari and enclosing the signatures of 40 prospective members. If the ACC does not enter a protest within 48 hours, the F.A.M. Group in Bari may be considered as legally established.
2. One letter addressed to Mr. West, Secretary of the World Executive of the Free Austrian Movement, asking him for admission of the F.A.M. Group Bari into the Free Austrian World Movement.
- 3.4.5. Letters addressed to the F.A.M. groups in London, Cairo and Jerusalem, drawing their attention to the formation of the new group and asking for their assistance by consignments of magazines, pamphlets, etc.
6. Within a few days I intend to write to Sir Clifford Heathcote-Smith, Commissioner for the Assistance to Refugees, asking his material help for Austrians in Italy. Could you please inform me of the number of Austrians in need of assistance living in Bari, and the approximate amount necessary for this purpose.

Wishing you good luck, dear Mr. Sacher, and assuring you once more of my sincere cooperation, I am,

Yours

(sgd) Capt. Georg Fuchs, R.A.M.C.
50 Brit. Gen. Hosp., C.M.F.
Representative of the Free Austrian Movement

Translation

FREE AUSTRIAN WORLD MOVEMENT
FREIE ÖSTERREICHISCHE
WELTBEWEGUNG

Secretariat London

14, 15 Beaver House, 121 Kingsway,
London, W.C.2

London, 4th September, 1944.

Mrs. G. Sachs

HQ No. 3 Polinder Unit, C.M.F.

Dear Mrs. Sachs,

Many thanks for your airgraph dated 18th August containing the good news that you have applied for the permission to establish a local branch of the Free Austrian Movement (Free Austrian World Movement). We send you today the rules and regulations of the F.A.W.M., as well as the programme of the World Movement, and inform you below of the most important points. As soon as you have called a constituting meeting and elected the direction according to democratic principles, it will only be necessary to inform the Secretariat of the F.A.W.M. here, asking them for admission into the F.A.W.M.

Management of the F.A.W.M.: The supreme direction is the plenary meeting consisting of two delegates of the affiliated organisations being called once in three months. The plenary meeting elects the Directing Council (one constant delegate of the organisations). The Directing Council appoints the executive; this superintends the affairs of the F.A.W.M. Within the resolutions of the plenary meeting and the Directing Council, and it represents the F.A.W.M. externally. The executive appoints commissions for various spheres of activity and controls them.

Aims of the F.A.W.M.:-

1. The restoration of an independent and democratic Austria.
2. Support of the National Freedom Movement in Austria, which aims at developing a people's war against German domination.
3. The mobilisation of the Austrians in the fight of the United Nations for the defeat of Hitler Germany and its allies.
4. The establishment of an Austrian combat unit.
5. Close collaboration with all states on the basis of the Moscow Declaration on Austria.
6. The principles laid down in the Atlantic Charter.
7. The punishment of the betrayers of Austria and of the war criminals.
8. The provision of food and raw materials to the liberated Austrian people.
9. The formation of a committee, to be recognised by the Allies which, as trustee of the interests of Austria and the Austrian Freedom Front, and based on the unity of the Austrians abroad, will be able to give the most effective support to the national

HQ No 9 Poland Unit, O.A.F.

Dear Mrs. Fuchs,

Many thanks for your Airgram dated 15th August containing the good news that you have applied for the permission to establish a local branch of the Free Austrian Movement (Free Austrian World Movement). We send you today the rules and regulations of the F.A.M., as well as the programme of the World Movement, and inform you below of the most important points. As soon as you have called a constituting meeting and elected the direction according to democratic principles, it will only be necessary to inform the Secretariat of the F.A.M. here, asking them for admission into the F.A.M.

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8. The provision of food and raw materials to the liberated Austrian people.
9. The formation of a committee, to be recognised by the Allies which, as trustee of the interests of Austria and the Austrian Freedom Front, and based on the unity of the Austrians abroad, will be able to give the most effective support to the national struggle for independence of our people.
10. The unity of the Austrians in all countries for the achievement of the above aims.

Finance:- The membership fees are to be fixed according to the possibilities of the organisation.

4912

We hope to have informed you herewith of the more important democratic principles. Will you please inform us of the establishment of the group at your earliest convenience.

Wishing you good luck, I am

Yours
(sgd) F.O. West
(Secretary)

PWB AFHQ
UNIT NO.12

To: British Resident Minister
U.S. Political Adviser
PWB, AFHQ
Copy to: ACC
From: Mr. Radford
Date: 22nd September 1944

SECRET

1. I attach detailed reports of the conversations which have been proceeding between various members of the Austrian community regarding the Austrian committee, and the position of the Austrian community in Rome.
2. These reports cover the period up to September 5th when the Austrian political intelligence section of PWB ceased activity.
3. Subsequently to that date I have been informed that the following developments have occurred.
 - (a) Bishop Hudal sent for Dr. Schwam and invited him to assume the presidency of the Austrian committee assuring him that this was desired by all members of the community, and that he was acting at the suggestion of the Allied authorities. This information comes from Dr. Schwam who asked my advice. I informed him that the matter was not one for PWB, that I had no knowledge of any suggestion such as this being made from Allied quarters but that speaking personally I considered it most unlikely that the Allied authorities would suggest by so indirect a method a nomination for the presidency of the Austrian committee, again making it clear that I was speaking without the authority of my own or any other Allied organisation, and that I was expressing only personal views. I made the following points to Dr. Schwam. (1) That provided a person who was not unacceptable because of his political antecedents, were chosen, it was an internal Austrian matter who should be appointed president of the committee, but that it would appear desirable in the interests of the community itself, that the president should command as wide a following as possible. (2) That the prime needs and prime duties of any Austrian committee were to assist the Allied war effort in ways which could be indicated to them by the various organisations concerned (I explained to Dr. Schwam the needs of PWB as regards Austrian employees) and to provide for the relief of want and suffering among the poorer members of the Austrian community for which purpose the refugee organisation of ACC would be the proper channel. Dr. Schwam gave me clearly to understand that in his view and that of the Bishop he was the ideal president; he failed to elicit my views on the subject. In my opinion Bishop Hudal is faced with a growing opposition and is attempting to retain control of the committee by putting in a man personally loyal to himself with no pronounced political views, but clearly a moderate and opposed to the Left, and one who may be trusted to resign when required to do so.
 - (b) The second committee has been formed by Bambas and the aims and scope of this committee I have little to say. It is frankly opposed to Bishop Hudal and all his works and has obtained the rather lukewarm support of Dr. Koller

of

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ARMED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
INFORMATION AND MEMBERSHIP SECTION
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH-UNIT No 12
(Austrian Section)

REPORT II - POLITICAL SITUATION FOR THE AUSTRIAN CITIZENRY IN ROME

(NOTE: This report follows directly on from the first report. It includes recent and important developments which will require a decision from the appropriate authority. It is suggested, however, that Report I should be read before Report II in order fully to understand the position.)

PART I. The Left Wing Organisation

A. (Rudel - Schnitzler Interview - Source: Koller)

1. Dr. KOLLER saw Schnitzler on the morning of 17th of August. Schnitzler told him that he had seen Bishop Rudel on the preceding Monday morning, 14th. At this occasion Bishop Rudel declared himself ready to resign together with Berger, Mundung and the whole Committee's staff "for the good of Austria".
2. Rudel apparently then invited Schnitzler and the "Free Austrians" to take over the "Austrian Office" immediately thus coming into possession of the actual Committee building in Via Mercadante 15.
3. Schnitzler then told Dr. Koller that he had received that morning a cable from London in which the decision of the London left wing organisation is transmitted, namely that Rudel was being removed from office.
4. Schnitzler invited Dr. Koller to meet Bishop Rudel immediately before Rudel received a similar cable from London. Schnitzler insisted that the whole episode was necessary to avoid a scandal and so that the "Austrian Office" could be taken over before the matter should become public.
5. Dr. Koller answered that at the moment he was neither willing to deal with Rudel nor did he feel himself authorized to act as an official representative of Austria in Italy.
6. Dr. Koller immediately informed this office of his interview with Schnitzler whom he said he did not trust - in particular he did not believe that any such cable as the above could have been sent or received.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
INFORMATION AND CENSORSHIP SECTION
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH-UNIT No 12
(Austrian Section)

REPORT 11 - ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION ON THE AUSTRIAN CENSORSHIP ACTIVITY IN ROME

(NOTE: This report follows directly on from the first report. It includes material on the investigation developments which will require a decision from the appropriate authority. It is suggested, however, that Report I should be read before Report II in order fully to understand the position.)

PART I. The 1938 State Organisation

A. Rudolf - Schnitzler Interview (1938-1940)

1. Dr. Koller saw Schnitzler on the morning of 17th of August. Schnitzler told him that he had seen Bishop Hudal on the preceding Monday morning, 14th. On this occasion Bishop Hudal declared himself ready to visit together with Berger - following him and the whole Committee staff "for the good of Austria".
2. Hudal apparently then invited Schnitzler and the "Austrian" to talk over the "Austrian Office" immediately then coming into possession of the actual Committee building in Via Mercantile 17.
3. Schnitzler then told Dr. Koller that he had received that morning a cable from Rome, in which the decision of the Council left the organization in transmitted, namely that Hudal has been removed from office.
4. Schnitzler invited Dr. Koller to meet Bishop Hudal immediately before Hudal received a similar cable from London. Schnitzler insisted that the utmost speed was necessary to avoid a scandal and so that the "Austrian Office" could be taken over before the matter should become public.
5. Dr. Koller answered that at the moment he was neither willing to deal with Hudal nor did he feel himself authorized to act as an official representative of Austrians in Italy.
6. Dr. Koller immediately informed this office of his interview with Schnitzler when he said he did not trust - in particular he did not believe that any such cable as the above could have been sent or received.
7. As American officers had called on Dr. Bambs on the 15th telling him that the whole matter would be handled by the Allied Police authorities, Dr. Koller and Bambs agreed that no further steps should be taken by them for the moment, although Schnitzler also tried to

-2-

approach Bambaas direct. (the American officers were said to belong to C.I.C. but this is apparently not so.)

B. (Captain Fuchs, Representative of London Free Austrians)

1. There is a Capt. FUCHS who, according to Freund, is the representative (Vertrauensmann) of the Free Austrians (London) in Italy.
2. Capt. Fuchs is a surgeon in the 30th British General Hospital Italy and has served extensively with the British Forces in the Middle East.
3. He is expected in Rome some time soon and according to Schnitzler will take over the "Free Austrian" organization in Rome as foreseen by the London Committee. (Fuchs represented at one time the London Austrian Committee among the Austrian Jews in Palestine.)
4. Capt. Fuchs is now preparing a new Austrian organization for Italy, and it has now come to light that Freund introduced himself in Rome as his representative.

Conclusion on A and B:

1. As Schnitzler in his interview with Dr. Koller ^{wished} the latter to take over the provisional leadership of the "Austrian Office", it is now evident that the left wing Austrian Group here (Fuchs, Freund, Schnitzler) ~~was~~ ^{has} soon as possible to replace the "Austrian Committee" with one which would reflect their own political ideology.
2. The non-political opposition (chiefly Koller and Bambaas) continues to hold precisely to their views as in Report I. They wish to deal only with and through the Allies. They have suggested, however, that someone might be appointed to examine the documents of the Committee and report on the findings to the Allies.
- C. (Later Schnitzler - Hudel meeting)
 1. Subsequent to A and B Schnitzler had a further interview with Hudel after which the Bishop seemed less ready to resign but asked for suggested names to be included in the Committee.
 2. Meanwhile it appears that Schnitzler had spread among the Austrian, Polish and Yugoslav minorities in Rome rumour of the untenable position of Bishop Hudel and Berger-Waldenegg.
 3. It is guessed by independent Austrians that the Bishop informed the Allied officers with him of the Schnitzler proposals, to which he would probably have received some such answer as "We would have any-

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2. Meanwhile it appears that Schnitzler had expressed among the Austrians, Polish and Yugoslav minorities in Rome rumour of the untenable position of Bishop Hudel and Berger-Waldenegg.
3. It is guessed by independent Austrians that the Bishop informed the Allied officers with him of the Schnitzler proposals, to which he would probably have received some such answer as "We would have any one rather than the Fuchs-Group." This is substantiated by reports reaching this office that the Bishop is showing more confidence than a week ago.

-3-

PART II. The Non-Political OppositionA. (Steps taken through ACC and CIC)

1. Dr. Zoller during an interview with the representative of the DELASAM organization (Joint) in ACC mentioned the actual situation of the Austrian minority in Rome in regard to the "Austrian Committee" and "Office". The representative of the Joint asked Dr. Zoller for further details in order to inform the American representative of the ACC refugee department. Dr. Zoller asked JMB if this request should be satisfied. He was told he was free to act as an individual Austrian and to inform any Allied department he wished. He therefore supplied the requested details.
2. This now means that the Refugee Branch of ACC will be informed from now on of the broad facts of the activities of the non-political opposition.
3. The Opposition Committee (Dr. Rumbas, Dr. Zoller, Lampel) intended then to take a further step in order to get the situation clear. They were to call on the Bishop and advise him to resign of his own accord. The Bishop was to be told that if he refused, the Austrians in Rome would be prepared to inform the Italian Police of the fact that false identity cards had been issued by the Bishop and that further details would be disclosed on the former activities of the Bishop, Berger, Valenney, Breysa, and the Communist Podkostnik.
4. The Opposition agreed that people not directly implicated who had been working in the Austrian Office would be asked to remain in their places - this would include Baron von Pribichawsky who is reported to be xxxxxxxxxxxx persons grata at the Vatican, and Judge Paschiera who is said to be a trustworthy Austrian.
5. The Opposition's decisions were transmitted to this office. The undersigned gave no answer except strongly to advise the Opposition to inform ACC and CIC before taking action, the former through Dr. Zoller, the latter through Dr. Rumbas.
6. This was done, and CIC told the Opposition to wait for the time being until official action could be taken.

B. (The Algiers Group)

1. The "Austrian Committee" appears to have a monthly budget of about 100,000 lire. As the new organization, as planned by the Opposition, is to be financed, keeping at all, the budget must

PART II. The Non-Political Opposition

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6. This was done, and CIC told the Opposition to wait for the time being until official action could be taken.

B. (The Algiers Group)

1. The "Austrian Committee" appears to have a monthly budget of about 100,000 lire. As the new organization, as planned by the Opposition, has up to now no financial backing at all, the budget must be cut down to a very small sum. This is expected to be feasible as the tasks of the new organization will be strictly limited to relief activities for Austrian refugees.

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-4-

2. There is a small group of Austrians in Algiers headed by a Herr Mattersdorfer (called matter) who is said to be persona grata with the Allies. Mattersdorfer is a well-off business man who comes to the Allied Armies.
3. He contacts, together with a Dr. Schaffner, the Austrian Committee which has its quarters in Rue de Walbourg, Algiers. This group is formed of Austrian refugees from France. Its financial backing is excellent, as Mattersdorfer has no difficulty in supplying it with the necessary money.
4. This Committee which has no political colour at all sees its main task in relief actions. It is careful to avoid any line not approved by the Allies. This organization is trying to get in touch with other local Austrian Committees of a democratic type.
5. It therefore asked for a report on the Home organization which seems to have been forwarded by someone who stressed that Berge-Waldenag has particularly good relations with the Allied military authorities and that the Committee as a whole enjoyed the favour of the Allies.
6. Since then it is understood that a further ^{cautionary} ~~cautionary~~ report has reached Mattersdorfer which is said to give a broader picture of the position in Rome.
7. The Home Opposition hope to contact Algiers later through the Allies and want to invite Mattersdorfer to take part in the Committee. In this case the financial question would be easily solved.
8. (Opposition Committee's intentions.)
 1. The non-political Opposition want now to act, with the advice of the Allies, as soon as possible, probably through the Italian police in the first place. They are concerned lest, with the fall of the Committee, the left wing opposition might attempt to take over backed by the London Committee and some form of publicity campaign. (The revelations in American papers - see Part 3 - lend colour to this point of view.) It would seem therefore that some decision will be come to, in the next few days.

PART III. The "Austrian Committee"

A. (The Article in "Aufbau")

1. The New York German language newspaper "Aufbau" (Reconstruction) published June 16th, 1944 an article on the Home Austrian Committee under the headline "A committee of Austrian Fascists in Rome". Another heading in the article ran "Fascists seek alibis".

2. "Aufbau" bases its article on facts reported from New York.

with the Allies. Butterfield is a well-off business man who contributes for the Allied Armies.

3. He founded, together with a Mr. Schaffer, the Austrian Committee which has its quarters in rue de Valenciennes, Algiers. This group is formed from Austrian refugees from France. Its financial position is excellent, as Butterfield has no difficulty in supplying it with the necessary money.
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8. (Opposition Committee's intentions.)

1. The non-political Opposition went now to act, with the advice of the Allies, as soon as possible, probably through the Italian police in the first place. They are concerned less with the fall of the Committee, the left wing opposition might attempt to take over backed by the London Committee and some form of publicity campaign. (The revelations in American papers - see Part 3) - leave colour to this point of view.) It would seem therefore that some decision will be come to, in the next few days.

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2. "Aufbau" bases its article on facts reported from "New York Herald Tribune".

3. The points made in this article are not all accurate. (Its main points are reported in Appendix I.) But for Austrians here the ⁴⁹⁰³ ~~main~~ ^{list}

=5=

fact is not its ^{truth} ~~truth~~ or otherwise, but that direct publicity has now been incurred by the Committee in a form most likely to please the opposition in Rome.

4. This office has made a complete copy of the whole article which can be presented when necessary. (The reference to a von Neumann in the article is inaccurate. Von Neumann is, however, a doubtful character on whom this office will be able to report later.)

5. ~~although~~ "Aufbau" itself cannot be said exactly to represent the views of any particular Austrian party in Italy.

B. (Father Faller)

1. Father Faller is direct Jesuit adviser to the Vatican for all countries of German language. His superior, the Jesuit Vicar General, is dead, leaving Father Faller with immediate access to the Highest Authorities.

2. Father Faller has been advising Austrians to keep away from Bishop Hudal and Berger-Waldeneck, but has stated on the other hand, that Baron Fröhlichsthal is absolutely reliable.

NOTE: 1. Father Faller is also reported to have told an Austrian that the post-war occupation of Germany by the Allies will take place as follows:

Northern Germany as far as the Elbe (Hamburg included) by the Russians; Southern Germany and Austria exclusively by the Americans; Western Germany by the British.

2. Father Faller was quite positive that the above decisions had been taken and were final. He is generally credited in Rome with having close relations with high American personalities.

(F.V.I. Exactly the same rumour on the partition of Germany has been given wide circulation in the Foreign Press Association, also through Peter Leiber, librarian to the Pope, and is being repeated throughout the Austrian Community in Rome.)

3. Fröhlichsthal's political reliability before the annexation was held in doubt by a certain section of opinion. Connections with the Heimwehr and possible connections with the Nazis were hinted at. But he seems now to have lived most of that down, and it is generally conceded that with a wife and four children to keep a man can be forgiven if he makes a mistake sometimes.

C. (Dr. Schwamm)

1. Dr. Schwamm, Austrian, international lawyer. Was the official advocate of the Rumanian Government in Vienna. He is personally connected with ~~Max~~ Max Aus ~~St.~~ and other highly placed pro-Allied Rumanians.

2. His personal history as a refugee is the usual one of concentration

4. This office has made a complete copy of the whole article which can be presented when necessary. (The reference to a von Neumann in the article is inaccurate. Von Neumann is, however, a doubtful character on whom this office will be able to report later.)

5. ~~Although~~ "Aufhor" itself cannot be said exactly to represent ~~the~~ any particular Austrian party in Italy.

B. (Father Peller)

1. Father Peller is direct Jesuit adviser to the Vatican for all countries of German language. His superior, the Jesuit Vicar General, is dead, leaving Father Peller with immediate access to the Highest Authorities.

2. Father Peller has been advising Austrians to keep away from Bishop Hudal and Berger-Waldersee, but has stated on the other hand, that Baron Frölichenthal is absolutely reliable.

NOTE: 1. Father Peller is also reported to have told an Austrian that the post-war occupation of Germany by the Allies will take place as follows:

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C. (Dr. Schwann)

1. Dr. Schwann, Austrian, international lawyer. Was the official advocate of the Rumanian Government in Vienna. He is personally connected with ~~Max~~ Max ~~Aus~~ ^{Recht} and other highly placed pro-Allied Rumanians.

2. His personal history as a refugee is the usual one of concentration camps and escapes, although certain Jews in Rome believe that he may have allowed at one time some large number of refugees in Rome to fall into the hands of the Gestapo. There is some proof of this although the story has never been properly substantiated. From present informa-

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tion it is as possible that his son, now in German hands, may have done it as Dr. Schwamm himself.

3. Dr. Schwamm seems greatly impressed by the Committee, its identity cards, its offices and by the Allied backing which it claims. He has, however, no clear knowledge of the Austrian political position in Rome.

4. The "Austrian Committee" (probably Berger-Waldenegg) asked Dr. Schwamm to draw up a statement on the difference between German and Austrian law. This statement was delivered and members of the "Committee" told Dr. Schwamm that this and other reports had been requested by the American authorities. Dr. Schwamm received 500 Lire for his work.

5. The additional reports Dr. Schwamm will be asked to make will include details on state-monopolies in Austria before and after the annexation and on Austrian tributary law. These reports will, be presented to the American authorities through the "Committee".

6. Recently Berger-Waldenegg has asked Dr. Schwamm to submit a report on the legal provisions which might be issued once the Allies enter Austria.

7. It appears to be the Committee's policy to submit plans for the future to Allied authorities (including AUC) whether they have been asked for or not. By these means, it is understood, they hope to give an impression of good will and competence to the Allies, while giving Austrians the impression that backing by the Allies is growing stronger (particularly towards Berger-Waldenegg).

(NOTE: Berger-Waldenegg has already had translated into English at least one report on Austrian law which, although almost certainly Dr. Schwamm's, he claimed to be his own work. One part of the translator's account of the matter, as related to this office, is interesting as an illustration of Berger-Waldenegg's approach. Towards the beginning of the report Berger-Waldenegg found and quoted aloud the following by way of illustration to the translator: "The difference between Austrian and German law is in the traditional tolerance of the Austrian. As Franz Joseph said: 'In meinem Land kann jeder nach seiner Façon selig werden...'." - (roughly) 'In my country every man can fulfill his destiny in his own way' -." Whereupon the translator informed him that the above was not said by the Austrian Emperor but by Frederick the Great of Prussia. "Very well, then," replied Berger-Waldenegg, "take out the inverted commas".

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REPORT IV. Writer's appreciation (together with latest details up to Saturday, 26th August)

1. Outside agencies have investigated and reported on the General Austrian position here, in particular the Poles, the French and the Russians. The Italian police are aware of the situation and are more or less holding the "Committee" suspect.
2. Within the "Committee", it seems that Berger-Waldenegg is now hoping to supplant Hudal with Dobretsberger from Cairo; while Baron Froehlichthal is claiming to oppose both the "Committee" and Hudal, but declares himself convinced that Hudal is backed by the Vatican and so must be retained never-the-less. Hudal, himself, is telling Austrians flatly that he is backed by the Allies. *(NOTE: Hudal's article "Europe's Religious Future" - see Report I - is mentioned in Appendix II of this report.)*
3. The Austrian left-wing Group here is working almost entirely on its own, but would use the non-political opposition if it could. It has not approached this or apparently any other Allied office.
4. The non-political opposition is working openly with the Allies. Dr. Koller will work with this opposition as long as the present "Committee" remains, and then turn to his chief task of discussing and then organising ~~pre-arranged~~ direct technical aid to the Allies. Dr. Bambas, who is still somewhat suspected in certain refugee quarters of "Heimwehr" and "Vaterlandische Front" activities, is however working straightforwardly with CIC. He has also suggested that he should call on the undersigned, but has not done so yet.

(NOTE: When Dr. Koller was visiting the Refugee Branch of ACC, he was introduced to a journalist, believed to be UP, to whom he gave an idea of the broad situation in Rome as it now stands. How the journalist used this information is not yet known.)

Conclusion:

From the point of view of this office, the Austrians in Rome are of no great use. Probably a non-political committee would do more good to individual Austrians than the present one, so long as it does remain non-political, but in view of the type and numbers of the Austrians in Rome and of our clear directive on Freedom Committees it is not thought likely that we could draw much help from any such committee that could be constituted in Italy under the present circumstances. It should also be noted that Dr. Bambas, although definitely anti-Nazi, is not quite absolved from being at one time apparently pro-fascist.

On the other hand there are a few individual Austrians whose records are good and who could be of some use to the Allied cause. On these, this office will submit reports for each case as soon as full details are available.

It is pointed out by Dr. Koller that thorough and practical

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to Saturday, 26th August

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3. The Austrian left-wing Group here is working almost entirely on its own, but would use the non-political opposition if it could. It has not approached this or apparently any other Allied office.

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It is pointed out by Dr. Koller that thorough and practical aid to the Allies can be achieved only by drawing on Austrians in

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- 8 -
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This could not be done by a local committee in some representative only the few hundred Austrians now living here.

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-2-

Under the headline of "Rudal, the man who built bridges", the Bishop is presented as an even more doubtful anti-Nazi. He is said to be the one Austrian pro-Nazi bishop, spoke of himself as "the man who built bridges" for the reconciliation of the Church with National Socialism. He has been often attacked by the Catholic newspapers "Reichspost" and "Christlichen Ständestaat" and he is reported to have protested against sheltering persecuted German Catholics on Austrian soil.

As far as the Rome "Austrian Committee of Liberation" is concerned, its political reliability ~~seems~~ appears to be extremely doubtful. No Austrian Democrat and anti-Fascist will be able to recognize a follower of Mussolini and a pro-National Socialist Bishop as representatives of a free, independent and democratic Austria.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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APPENDIX I.

"Aufbau" (Reconstruction) is a weekly German-language newspaper published in New York by the New World Club, Inc., 67 West 44th Street, New York City. The paper is an independent organ of German and Austrian refugees, first published January 30, 1940. It is chiefly anti-Nazi and has a strong Jewish character.

On June 16, 1944 "Aufbau" published an article on the "Austrian Committee" in Rome under the headline "A Committee of Austrian Fascists in Rome - Former Austrian Minister Baron Berger-Waldeneck at the Head" (Ein Komitee Österreichischer Faschisten in Rom - Der frühere Österreichische Gesandte Baron Berger-Waldeneck an der Spitze).

In this article, "Aufbau" quotes a report from "New York Herald Tribune" according to which Baron Berger-Waldeneck has reopened the former Austrian Legation in Rome, hoisting the flag of the former Austrian Republic; a plate is said to be fixed on the entrance with the inscription in German, Italian and English, "Austrian Legation to the Italian Government" (Österreichische Gesandtschaft bei der Italienischen Regierung). The founders of the "Committee" are said to be Dr. Earl Dachez, founder and president of the "Österreichische Kampfbewegung", Bishop Alois Hudal, supposed to be in close connection with the British and American Ambassadors to the Vatican and Dr. Erich Walter von Neumann, who has been interned during the last three years in German concentration camps. "Aufbau" represents the situation as created by the Rome "Austrian Committee" as an attempt by Austrian fascists to obtain an alibi before the final rendering of accounts. But Berger-Waldeneck and Hudal will not be able to prove their democratic attitude. Berger-Waldeneck, a prominent representative of the Heimwehr and Prince Starhemberg, was Landeshauptmann of Styria, Minister of Justice under Dollfus and Foreign Minister with Schuschnigg. He backed the pro-fascist policy and the close relations of Austria to Italy. When the " gentlemen's agreement" between Schuschnigg and Hitler was signed in May 1938, he and Starhemberg resigned. Berger-Waldeneck, as quoted by Guido Verardo's "Die Wahrheit über Cesterreich" ("The Truth about Austria"), could not see how to reconcile pro-German with pro-Italian policy at a moment when "the Western powers showed no comprehension for Austria's policy".

As Berger-Waldeneck could not be considered an anti-Nazi, he was allowed to stay on in Rome even after the annexation and had no trouble from the Gestapo, though the German police proceeded with extreme severity against the "entemias of the State" (Staatsfeinde).

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ALLIED FORCES HEADQUARTERS
Information and Censorship Section
P.W.B. UNIT No. 12 APO. 512 U.S. Army
(Austrian Section)

Sept. 12.44

REPORT ON AUSTRIAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN ROMANIA.

It is credibly reported that Dr. Karl Bambas, after conversations with Major La Masa of S.I.M., sought agents to recruit Austrians in view to join a para-military force for use on the Austrian-Italian frontier. It was suggested that this was to be some sort of paratroop body.

Dr. Bambas asked KADEN DU PAUK, a note on whom is appended, to visit suitable young Austrians with a view to enrolling them. C.I.C. sent for Dr. Bambas and instructed him to cease this activity forthwith. He has done so.

Capt. Coames visited P.W.B. on Sept 7th to ask if anyone here had any part in authorising Dr Bambas and K. du Pauk to do such recruiting. Capt. Coames was assured that this was not the case. He asked that P.W.B. would assist in suppressing the activity, but it was found on immediate enquiry that CIC had already done this.

Dr. Bambas visited this office on Sept 7th to inform Capt. Brown and myself that he was about to approach Bishop Hudal and inform the prelate that he, Bambas, intended to set up an opposition party. Dr. Bambas disclosed that C.I.C. had no objection to this. It was indicated to him that this office could not recognize or hinder such opposition.

The matter was checked with CIC (Mr Leahy and Mr Kehy) who pointed out that Bambas had submitted a list of eleven names, apparently expecting Allied authority to nominate. He seems to

REPORT ON AUSTRIAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN ROME.

It is credibly reported that Dr. Karl Bambas, after conversations with Major La Roca of S.I.A., sought agents to recruit Austrians in Rome to join a para-military force for use on the Austrian-Italian frontier. It was suggested that this was to be some sort of paratroop body.

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The matter was checked with CIC (Mr Leamy and Mr Heghy) who pointed out that Bambas had submitted a list of eleven names, apparently expecting Allied authority to nominate. He seems to have been told that while nobody would hinder his oppositional activity CIC would have no part in it at all, nor would they receive any Austrian if he appeared as a member of it.

Bishop Hudal is said on good authority to be writing a letter to all members of the "Austrian Committee" in which he will

recommend :

- 1) that the committee be disbanded,
- 2) that all political activity cease,
- 3) that work be not taken up again until Allied Armies enter Austria or until some committee is recognized.

It is probable that Bishop Hudal's letter will make the following arrangements for the winding up or suspension of the "Austrian Committee" and the "Austrian Office" :-

- 1) Baron von Brechlichstiel will handle outstanding matters and then close the "office" down.
- 2) Dr Breyche will deal with outstanding financial affairs
- 3) Baron Berger von Waldenegg will act similarly in respect of legal matters on the higher plane.
- 4) Dr Schömann will handle ordinary legal matters.
- 5) Dr Lenard will be dropped.

Dr Breyche is said to be the author of a brochure entitled "Austria's independence" which has been passed to Mr. Edman with a short summary of contents for his comment.

Some members of the "Austrian Committee" have compiled a list of State officials in Austria who went over to the National Socialists at the annexation. This has been passed to C.I.C. for O.S.S. who will, it is understood, transmit it to A.A.I. who requested it.

Similar lists have been made in this office and are available. Lists of persons said on fairly reliable authority to be anti-Nazi and ready to render such help as they can, have also been compiled.

Lieut. van Kipper of "A" Force suggested on Sept. 5th that there might be some point in allowing Baron Berger von Waldenegg to make

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- 2) Dr Freycha will deal with outstanding financial affairs
- 3) Baron Berger von Waldenege will act similarly in respect of legal matters on the higher plane.
- 4) Dr Schuma will handle ordinary legal matters.
- 5) Dr Lenard will be arrested.

Dr Freycha is said to be the author of a brochure entitled "Austria's independence" which has been passed to Mr. Gannap with a short summary of contents for his comment.

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Lieut. von Ripper of "A" Force suggested on Sept. 5th that there might be some point in allowing Baron Berger von Waldenege to make a broadcast appeal to the Austrians in accordance with P.W.S. instructions on propaganda to Austrians.

On advise, Lt. von Zipper was told that such a request should be committed to ^appör and addressed to Mr. Kayner. Capt. Seames, visiting the office next day, informed me that the idea of allowing Baron Berger von Weltschegg access to a microphone has been abandoned.

Note on

BARON DU MAUR

This man is a Viennese, and claims to have served in the former Austrian Army in the counter espionage section under Colonel Adam. He worked in Germany for this branch and apprehended by Gestapo, was imprisoned at Dachau. Escaping thence to Italy, he was arrested and handed over to the German authorities at via Passa. Later was freed or escaped about the time the Allies entered Rome. He has since visited this office to attack the "Austrian Committee" and various Austrians resident here.

Though this man has undoubtedly suffered at Nazi hands, there is no reason to believe all his story. He has been found unreliable and it is quite likely that he is mentally unbalanced. No contact has ever been maintained with him.

Ja. Turner.

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
INFORMATION AND COMORHIE SECTION
DWH- UNIT No 12
APO 512 -D, S.A.M.
(Austrian Section)

September 5th, 1944.

DOMINANT AUSTRIAN IN ROME

Baron Victor Fröhlichsthal

Born in Trieste on July 5th, 1899, lived in Vienna, Doctor of Law, Austrian State official and later Chief of Cabinet (Präsidentialesekretär) of Schuschnigg. Held administrative but no political positions in former Austrian governments. Politically independent, joined the Fatherland Front in 1933 as this was requested for all Austrian State-Officials. Dismissed from service after the Annexation by Seyss-Inquart, came to Italy. Lest Austrian (German) nationality and became an Italian subject. Lived in the Vatican from 1940 to 1944; translator of notes speeches into German. Saw local and administrative adviser to the "Austrian Office" in Rome. (Curriculum vitae available).

When accused in some quarters of former pro-Fascist and pro-Nazi leanings and attacked by the German newspaper "Mein Kampf" in London of having taken part in Nazi underground activities before 1938 in Vienna, stated that the person was not he but a relative of the same name, a judge in the former Austrian State and a well known National socialist. This seems to be true. He has lived with his wife and four children in very straitened circumstances all these last years.

He is generally credited by the Austrians in Rome with having the full support of the Vatican. This, however, is not yet certain. On the other hand it is known that Father Jaller, direct Jesuit adviser to the Vatican, an on German-speaking countries and chief of the Vatican Refugee Office, has pressed on several occasions the absolute reliability of Fröhlichsthal as opposed to the sceptical character of both Hudel and Berger-Walzenegg. The Catholic Austrians in Rome believe that Fröhlichsthal will have a leading part in any Austrian organization which might be formed in Italy. Having a sound knowledge of his former Austrian administration, he could be of use for administrative tasks.

Although not very intelligent, he is being forced into greater prominence in some the stronger the opposition grows. As a man of probable honesty and some personal prestige, inherited from the days of the Austrian Empire when the name was well-known and respected, he is seen by many Austrians as the possible alternative head to any Austrian Freedom or Relief Group. In that his role as civil servant rather than politician can be substantiated, this assessment of Fröhlichsthal's importance is probably true at the present time.

September 5th, 1944.

DOMINANT AUSTRIANS IN ROM

Karen Victor FRÖHLICHSTHAL

Born in Trieste on July 5th, 1899, lived in Vienna. Doctor of Law. Austrian State official and later Chief of Cabinet (Präsidentialesekretär) of Schuschnigg. Held administrative but no political positions in former Austrian Government. Politically independent. Joined the Fatherland Front in 1933 as this was requested for all Austrian State-Officials. Dismissed from service after the Anschluss by Seyss-Inquart, came to Italy. Lived in Austrian (German) nationality and became an Italian subject. Lived in the Vatican from 1940 to 1944; translator of Pope's speeches into German. Now legal and administrative adviser to the "Austrian Office" in Rome. (Curriculum vitae available).

When accused in some quarters of former pro-Fascist and pro-Nazi leanings and attacked by the German newspaper "Zeitungsiegel" in London of having taken part in Nazi underground activities before 1938 in Vienna, stated that the person was not he but a relative of the same name, a judge in the former Austrian State and a well known National Socialist. This seems to be true. He has lived with his wife and four children in very strained circumstances all these last years.

He is generally credited by the Austrians in Rome with having the full support of the Vatican. This, however, is not yet certain. On the other hand it is known that Kather Waller, direct Jesuit adviser to the Vatican on German-speaking countries and chief of the Vatican Refugee Office, has expressed on several occasions the absolute reliability of Fröhlichsthal as opposed to the deceptful character of both Hudal and Berger-Walzenegg. The Catholic Austrians in Rome believe that Fröhlichsthal will have a leading part in any Austrian organization which might be formed initially. Having a sound knowledge of the former Austrian administration, he could be of use for administrative tasks.

Although not very intelligent, he is being forced into greater prominence in Rome the stronger the opposition grows. As a man of probable honesty and some personal prestige, inherited from the days of the Austrian Empire when the name was well-known and respected, he is seen by many Austrians as the possible alternative head to any Austrian Freedom or Relief Group. In that his role as civil servant rather than politician can be substantiated, this assessment of Fröhlichsthal's importance is probably true at the present time.

4858

ALLIED FORCES HEADQUARTERS
INFORMATION AND RESEARCH SECTION
PUBIC UNIT NO 12 APO 512 U.S. AMST
(Austrian Section)

Sept. 2nd 44

NOTE ON DR. KOLLER.

Austrian Jew, 40. Head of the Austrian, German, Rumanian, Bulgarian and Hungarian Jews in Rome under the world Jewish organization DEKASHA centred in New York. Chemist. Had factories in Vienna. Close contacts with leading personalities in Russia and Austria. Has no personal ambition as a politician. Related to Teletov's family. Not a communist. Imprisoned after annexation of war. When France fell was again imprisoned on outbreak of war. When France fell was transferred to concentration camp in "Freeze" zone, but released to build and run a new chemical industry. Eventually imprisoned a second time.

Lived in hiding in Rome with wife till June 4th 44. After the Italian armistice escaped to Italy.

Koller has declared himself ready to assist Allies, and makes the following suggestions:

"A) No Austrian group of any particular colour should be the first to enter Austria"

"B) Austrians of absolute reliability with technical qualifications might be gathered to handle with the Allies the initial problems in the country (i.e. organizing and engineering problems, food distribution, transport and administrative problems, municipal services.) Even if any or several political groups were to be recognized and allowed to enter Austria, this non-political organization would be still needed.

C) Dr. Koller suggests that the method of forming this organization would be for him to collect a small group of qualified men who would forward the Allies for their approval the names of reliable Austrian engineers and technicians. As a Jew, Dr. Koller feels he would do so very much better to take no part in such an organization once it has been formed.

D) He has the opportunity if agreed by the Allies of going to New York in September as a delegate to the Jewish DEKASHA meeting. If his plan is approved, he could on this occasion contact the right people in New York and subsequently in London.

E) He is well aware that approval would carry no further prerogative and he would himself inform all participants that they were to expect no Allied political backing and, after their task has been performed, no further Allied support whatever. (See Report on ~~Dr. Koller~~ Austrian Minority, August 15th, Page 11).

F) Dr. Koller emphasizes that qualified Austrians of the right type are not available in sufficient numbers in Rome, Cairo or Algiers. Recruiting would have to be carried out mainly in London and New York or Washington.

NOTE ON DR. KOLLER.

Rumanian, Bulgarian and Hungarian Jews in Rome under the world Jewish organization DEIASM centered in New York. Chemist. Had factories in Vienna: close contacts with leading personalities in Russia and Austria.

Has no personal ambition as a politician. Related to Tolstoy's family: met a communist. Imprisoned after annexation. Was released and went to France where he was again imprisoned on outbreak of war. When France fell was transferred to concentration camp in "Green" zone, but released "to build and run a new chemical industry". Eventually imprisoned a second time.

After the Italian armistice escaped to Italy. Lived in hiding in Rome with wife till June 44.

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F) Dr. Koller emphasizes that qualified Austrians of the right type are not available in sufficient numbers in Rome, Cairo or Algiers. Recruiting would have to be carried out mainly in London and New York or Washington.

Bishop Hudal

See Reports August 15th, Page 3 and August 26th Appendix I and II) Provisional head of "Austrian Committee" in Rome, though supposedly by the impressive number of Austrians in Italy and abroad. Former Pan-Germanist and pro-Nazi. Wrote books and articles supporting a reconciliation of the Church with National Socialism. Prepared opposition to the "Atlantik Charta" by a German "Charta Europa" supposed to have issued Austrian identity cards to Germans. The Vatican is officially shocked by him but will not act directly at the moment, as he remains always within the limits of "ecclesiastic law". Anticipating directly in public life for the first time.

Baron Leon Berger-Waldenegg

(See report August 15th page 3/4 and Aug. 26th, Appendix I) Belonged to leading group of Heimwehr, Foreign Minister and Minister of Justice under Schuschnigg, then Ambassador to the United States. Supported pro-Nazi policy in opposing Nazi attempts to get control of Austria. Politically a nonentity, is assessed by Austrians on account of his past. Head of "Austrian Committee Office". Seems desirous of getting rid of the Bishop.

Dr. F. Freyha

Became partner with an Italian lawyer in the firm of "F.I.R.S.T." in Rome, after the annexation. This firm deals in industrial equipment, recovery material and transport. After the German occupation of Rome attached himself to the German Purchasing Office and is said to have arranged the black market transfer of currency and gold to neutral countries on behalf of German officers. Though his trading with enemy is possible it is understated that the first offer to services to the Allies. Has given considerable financial support to the "Austrian Committee". Is now in charge of the administration of the "Austrian Office". (See Report August 15th, page 4)

RODOLPH

Member of the "Austrian Committee" having taken over the part of the "Communist representative" though played no large part in Austria public life before the annexation. Believed to have earned considerable sums of money collaborating with the Germans during the occupation of Rome. The proper authorities have been informed of this.

Erich von NEUMANN

20, Viennese, half-Jewish. Spent several years in German and Italian concentration camps. Wrongly reported by "Aufbau" (see Report II/ August 26th, page 5.4) as member of "Austrian Committee" Will, however, be appointed by Bishop Hudal as a committee member on next occasion. Is mistrusted by Julius Freund of the left wing opposition. Says he is an experienced Social Democrat leader in spite of his youth. Has offered to give information on "Fifth Columnists", of which subject he claims to have particular knowledge. Two reports have been submitted on this case to CIC.

BAMBA

Dentist in Rome. Social Democrat. Was a Committee member, but went into secret opposition to the Committee from the moment he joined it; had opposed it from the start, but appealed for unity on its formation. Later found it impossible to reconcile himself to the "Committee" one time leader of the "Vaterlaendische

seen opposition to the "Austrian identity cards tavernmans." Supposed to have issued Austrian identity cards to tavernmans. the Vatican is officially shocked" by him but will not act directly at the moment, as he remains always within the limits of "Ecclesiastic law". articulating directly in public life for the first time.

Baron Jean Berthier-Valdeney.

(See report August 19th page 3/4 and Aug. 26th , Appendix I)
 challenged to leading group of Heimwehr, Foreign Minister and Minister of Justice under Schuschnigg, then Ambassador to the Quirinal. Supported pro-Fascist policy in opposing Nazi attempts to get control of Austria. Politically a renegade, is opposed by Austrians, on account of his past. Head of "Austrian ~~Political~~ Office".
 Seems desirous of getting rid of the Bishop.

Dr. P. Breycha.

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HÜHNOSTIK

Member of the "Austrian Committee" having taken over the part of the "Communist representative" though played no large part in Austria's political life before the annexation. Believed to have earned considerable sums of money collaborating with the Germans during the occupation of Rome. The proper authorities have been informed of this:

Strich von NUTZANN

20, Viennese, half-Jewish. Spent several years in German and Italian concentration camps. Wrongly reported by "Aufbau" (see Report 17/ August 26th, Page 24) as member of "Austrian Committee" Will, however, be appointed by Bishop Hudal as a committee member on next occasion. Is mistrusted by Julius Freund of the left wing opposition. Says he is an experienced Social Democrat leader in spite of his youth. Has offered to give information on "Fifth Columnists", of which subject he claims to have particular knowledge. Two reports have been submitted on this case to CIC.

PA13AB

~~100-300~~ Dentist in Rome. Social Democrat. Was a Committee member, but went into secret opposition to the Committee from the moment he joined it; had opposed it from the start, but appealed for unity on its ~~formation~~ formation. Later found it impossible to reconcile himself to the "Committee" one time leader of the "Vaterlaendische Front" in Rome and apparently pro-Fascist, has now adopted a violently anti-totalitarian attitude. Reported to be unintelligent ~~and~~ un-
frused, though there seems to be little doubt even among his opponents, that he is honest and a true patriot. Though ambitious politically, he will only work with the Allies (particularly UIC).

Castalia Michs

A surgeon in the 50 British General Hospital in Italy who has served with the British Forces in the Middle East. According to Freud Tuchs is the representative of the left-wing "Free Austrian Movement" in Italy and intrusted with the job of establishing an Italian branch. Reported to have carried out similar activities when in Palestine. (See Report 11 August 26th, Page 2);

Polina Zuyeva

In Bari apparently still with FWS. Communist. Escaped a few months ago from German concentration camp in 1947. Northern Italy. Understood to have been in Yugoslavia for FWS. Claims to represent Capt. Fuchs. Came to Rome to collect a reference for the left-wing "Free Austrian Movement". His methods of persuasion were reported to be a combination of cringings and threats. Stated he is a skiing teacher and a mountain guide from Austria, and a journalist and correspondent of Vienna left-wing papers as well. (See Report 11 August 15th, page 5/8/10A)

DISCUSSION

Austrian, now resident in Rome, friend and collaborator of Freund, supposed to be an observer on behalf of the London "Free Austrian Movement" ~~which~~ ^{displayed} considerable activity in attempting to remove Bishop Hudal from his place as head of the "Austrian Committee". Claims to in possession of a cable from the London "Free Austrian Movement" which contains Hudal's dismissal. (See Report II, August 26th, page 1/2). Cable has not yet been produced and almost certainly does not exist.

ment in Italy and instructed him the job of establishing an Italian branch. Reported to have carried out similar activities when in Palestine. (See Report II August 26th, page 2):

Julius FUCHS

In Bari apparently still with FNB. Communist. Escaped a few months ago from German concentration camp in ~~Italy~~ Northern Italy. Understood to have been in Yugoslavia for FNB. Claims to represent Capt. Fuchs. Came to Rome to collect a adherence for the left-wing "Free Austrian Movement". His methods of persuasion were reported to be a combination of cringing and threats. Stated he is a skiing teacher and a mountain guide from Austria, and a journalist and correspondent of Vienna left-wing papers as well. (See Report IX August 15th, page 5/8/104)

SCHMITZLER

Austrian, now resident in Rome, friend and collaborator of Freund, supposed to be an observer on behalf of the London "Free Austrian Movement" ~~which is supposed to be an observer on behalf of the London "Free Austrian Movement"~~. Disputed considerable activity in attempting to remove Bishop Hudal from his place as head of the "Austrian Committee". Claims to in possession of a cable from the London "Free Austrian Movement" which contains Hudal's dismissal. (See Report II, August 26th, page 1/2). Cable has not yet been produced and almost certainly does not exist.

MC
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The Embassy at Madrid presents its compliments to the United States Member of the Advisory Council for Italy and has the honor to enclose a letter in German with English translation from the "Free Austrian Committee" of Barcelona, addressed to Baron von Berger-Waldenegg, Austrian Embassy, Rome, Italy, which the Committee through our Consul General at Naples has requested the Embassy to forward to Rome. It appears that there are approximately 40 Austrian refugees in Barcelona and our Consul General there reports that he has not yet been able to determine to what extent the new Committee actually represents these refugees. Of the four members of the Committee, Billig is Catholic, Glas, Protestant, and the other two Jewish.

Should there be no objection, however, the Embassy suggests that the letter be duly forwarded to its destination.

Madrid, August 23, 1944.

Enclosure:

1 letter and translation.

800.

4834

The United States Member of the Advisory Council for Italy presents his compliments to the American Embassy at Madrid and acknowledges receipt of its memorandum dated August 23, 1944, in which was enclosed a letter from the Free Austrian Committee in Barcelona for transmission to "His Excellency, Baron von Berger-Waldenegg, Austrian Embassy, Rome", should there be no objection to such action.

It is not considered appropriate at this time to cause delivery of the letter which is returned herewith. The reasons for this decision are:

- (a) the Allied authorities make no distinction between Austrians and other enemy aliens;
- (b) the Austrian colony of some 250 members has organized an "Austrian Liberating Committee" which has not been recognized by the American or the British Government; and
- (c) Baron von Berger-Waldenegg is not the leader of the Austrian Movement in Rome. The more democratic and socialist Austrians forming the "Committee" reject his leadership because, as a former prominent figure in the "HEIMWEHR" and when Austrian Ambassador to the Quirinal, he was close to the Fascist Regime and the "Committee" is in doubt as to the sincerity of his present democratic outlook.

ARMED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
INFORMATION AND CENSORSHIP SECTION
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH-JUNE 1912
(Austrian Section)

CONFIDENTIAL

August 15th 1944

REPORT ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION OF THE
AUSTRIAN REFUGEE MINORITY IN ICHE (AND
ITALY.)

Part 1. Situation up to the beginning of August 1944.
Part 2. Personalities involved.
Part 3. Recent developments.
Part 4. Subsequent proposals.
Short appreciation by the writer.

Introductory Note:

1. Most of the subject matter in Parts 1 and 2 has already been reported at different times. It is re-stated here to give continuity to the report as a whole, and to assist anyone to whom it may be passed who has been unable to follow the situation closely.
2. Parts 3 and 4 consist mainly of important developments not previously reported.

August 15th 1944

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2. Parts 3 and 4 consist mainly of important developments not previously reported.

4898

-2-

Part 1. Situation up to the beginning of August 1944.

1. The following types of refugee collected, mainly in Rome, after the Italian armistice:
 - a) In hiding: Jews, deserters and those who were fit for service in the army, and/or those already taking refuge from Nazi regime for political reasons.
 - b) Those who stayed officially in Rome though not necessarily in agreement with the Nazi regime, e.g. priests, diplomats, and those who made their permanent residence in Rome, and their families.
 - c) Those Austrians who, as members of the greater Reich, worked in Rome under the Nazi regime and stayed on after the liberation.
2. All these came into the open after June 4th, with the exception of many deserters who did not come forward until supplied by the "Austrian Relief Committee" with "identity cards".
3. Austrians then set about employing themselves in the following ways:
 - a) Members of all above classes of refugee found employment with various Allied departments, which positions the majority still retain.
 - b) A Committee was set up ostensibly for the relief of Austrian nationals in need. This Committee was at first housed in one room of the Majestic Hotel. It proceeded immediately to canvass as many Austrians as possible to appear at a general meeting to select a working committee.
 - c) There were many Austrians who employed themselves in both capacities.
4. The above Committee, as already reported by this department, did not have at the time and has not since obtained the backing of the majority of Austrians, due to the doubtful manner in which its officials were "elected" and to the equally doubtful character of the officials themselves. Although there are, of course, still many who adhere to it.
5. Therefore from the first moment, Austrians, including Jews, Catholic Social Democrats and private citizens, began agitation among themselves for some more reasonable alternative.
6. However (as reported by F.W.E.) the general meeting took place, no opposition was offered and the members appointed by Bishop Hudal were "elected" and took their oath on the Austrian flag. 15 days later, the "Committee" established itself in imposing and well equipped quarters in the Via Mercadante, 15. An "Austrian Office" was formed at the same address to carry out the instructions of the Committee.

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6. However (as reported by F.W.D.) the general meeting took place, no opposition was offered and the members appointed by Bishop Hudal were "elected" and took their oath on the Austrian flag. 15 days later, the "Committee" established itself in imposing and well equipped quarters in the Via Mercadante, 15. An "Austrian Office" was formed at the same address to carry out the instructions of the "Committee".

-3-

7. Immediately after the formation of the "Committee":
 a) the opposition became concentrated,
 b) members of all the shades of opinion contacted the appropriate U.S.S.R. office.
8. This state of affairs (as in 7b) has continued and developed, thus giving the Department the overall picture it now has.

Part 2. Personalities involved.

1. Austrian "Committee" and "Filio" members:
 (some reports concern only "Filio" personalities who have a direct bearing on the present situation and some not pertinent previous reports and notes already submitted)
- a) Dr. Alois Hühm, Minister of the Interior.
 Extremely Catholic, authoritarian, totalitarian leanings, Pan-Germ. From 1924 up to the Anschluss, first of all backed the Heimwehr push and then its subsequent policy, remaining aloof from any personal responsibility regarding to play the part of the "strong behind the scenes". After the Anschluss adopted himself to the new situation with ease and attempted to obtain power in the National Socialist movement. He was unable to do this, although as early as 1926 he had published "Die Christliche Sozialistische Bewegung" (The basis of National Socialism) which attempted to reconcile the Church with the National Socialist ideas. When these attempts failed, he became a violent anti-Nazi, but in 1941 he published in Rome the article "Europas religiöses Schicksal" (Europe's religious future) in answer to an article in the Marxist monthly review "Kultur". Copies of his manuscript were not sold to the public, but made available by the author himself. This article, which has been seen by this office (extents made and in which a fuller report will be forthcoming) was pro-Axis throughout and continued the Bishop's old policy of attempting to reconcile the Church with National Socialism. It was anti-Ally and anti-Russian, and advocated a "Christian Europe" in opposition to the "Atlantic Charter". As a skilled diplomat, he has adapted himself with his usual ease to the new situation and for the first time is playing his full part in public life. He is not a person of great stature. He has some small following among Jews and others whom he hid during the occupation, but none among the remaining refugees to whom he refused help.

- b) Baron Egon BERNHARD VON WALDENBURG.
 Of limited intelligence; an original member of the Heimwehr. Through party connections he obtained under the Dollfuss-Schuschnigg

a) the opposition became concentrated,
b) members of all the shades of opinion contacted the appropriate R.G.B. office.

3. This state of affairs (as in 75) was continued and developed, thus giving their Government the overall picture it now has.

Part 2. Personalities Involved.

1. Austrian "Germans" and "Austrian" Germans:
These people were the only important personalities who have a direct bearing on the present situation and does not duplicate previous reports and have already submitted) a) in the situation of 73.

Extremely conservative, authoritarian, totalitarian, fanatical, in 1934 and in the 1930s, first of all he was the Heimwehr leader and then the subsequent policy, extending also from any revisionist responsibility and trying to play the part of the "strong behind the scenes". After the revolution adopted himself to the new situation with grace and grace to all power in the National Socialist Government. He was capable of up to the mark, although as early as 1936 he had published "The National Socialism and National Socialism" (the basis of National Socialism) which attempted to reconcile the Church with the National Socialist ideas. When these attempts failed, he became a violent anti-Nazi, but in 1941 he published in Rome the article "The National Socialist 'idiot'" (Germany's religious future) in answer to an article in the "Vierteljahrsschrift" review "Germania". Copies of his manuscript were not sold to the public, but made available by the author himself. This article, which has been seen by this office (attracts more and on which a further report will be forthcoming) was pro-Axis throughout and contained the Bishop's old policy of attempting to reconcile the Church with National Socialism. It was anti-allied and anti-Russian, and advocated a "Charter European" in opposition to the "Atlantic Charter". As a skilled diplomat, he has adapted himself with his usual ease to the new situation and for the first time is playing his full part in public life. He is not Kersene Grata at the Vatican. He has some small following among Jews and others whom he had during the occupation, but none among the remaining refugees to whom he refused help.

- b) Baron Egon BERGER VON WALDENBURG.

Of limited intelligence; an original member of the Heimwehr. Through party connections he obtained under the Dollfuss-Schuschnigg regime the post of Minister of Justice and then Ambassador to the Quirinal. Pursued for Austria a pro-Italian Fascist policy.

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After the annexation disappeared from public life, becoming an Italian citizen which presumably he still is. Was picked by Mussolini to head the "Austrian Office", though not becoming a "Committee" member himself.

c) Dr. N. BAZZANI.

An Austrian who, after the annexation, became partner with an Italian lawyer in the firm of "V.I.B.S.", Rome. This firm deals in industrial equipment, recovers material and transport. After the German occupation of Rome, he attached himself to some activity to the German purchasing officer and is said to have arranged the black market transfer of currency and gold to neutral countries on behalf of German officers. It was said to be giving considerable financial support to the "Austrian Committee" (one transfer of 140,000 lire has been reported by Dr. Koller -see below). Now holds a post in the "Austrian Office".

d) ROMANOVICH.

Communist representative in the "Austrian Committee". Played no part in Austria's public life before the annexation. Believed to have earned considerable sums of money collaborating with the Germans during the occupation of Rome.

e) Dr. ANTONIOLOTTI.

Lived in Cairo in spite of repeated attempts by the Committee to communicate with him and inform him of his appointment as a leading member of the "Austrian Committee" in Rome. (See previous reports).

f. Opposition leaders:

a) Dr. KARL BARELAS.

Democrat in Rome, a Social Democrat. Was a Committee member but went into secret opposition to the "Committee" from the moment he joined it; had opposed it from the start, but appealed for unity on its formation. Later found it impossible to reconcile himself to the "Committee" and has since left it.

b) Dr. N. KOLLER.

An Austrian Jew, became head of the Austrian, German, Rumanian, Bulgarian and Hungarian Jews in Rome under the Italian organization which is centered in New York. A chemist, has run factories in Vienna. Related to Tolstoy's family, has spent several years in Russia, has had close contacts with leading personalities in Russia and Austria. Is not a communist. A man of considerable

After the annexation disappeared from public life, becoming an Italian citizen which presumably he still is. Was picked by Mussolini to head the "Austrian Office", though not becoming a "Committee" member himself.

c) Dr. M. BARTOLINI.

An Austrian who, after the annexation, became partner with an Italian lawyer in the firm of "F. B. B. B.", Rome. This firm deals in industrial equipment, recovery material and transport. After the German occupation of Rome, he attached himself to some activity in the German propaganda office and is said to have arranged the black market transfer of currency and gold to neutral countries on behalf of German officers. It was said to be giving considerable financial support to the "Austrian Committee" (one transfer of 100,000 lire has been reported by Dr. Koller - see below). Was holding a post in the "Austrian Office".

d) ROBERTO.

Communist representative in the "Austrian Committee". Played no part in current public life before the annexation. Believed to have earned considerable sums of money collaborating with the Germans during the occupation of Rome.

e) Dr. BERNARDINI.

Was in Rome in spite of repeated attempts by the Committee to communicate with him and inform him of his appointment as a leading member of the "Austrian Committee" in Rome. (See previous reports).

f. Opposition leaders :

a) Dr. Karl BARTAS.

Democrat in Rome, a Social Democrat. Was a Committee member but went into secret opposition to the "Committee" from the moment he joined it; had opposed it from the start, but appealed for unity on its formation. Later found it impossible to reconcile himself to the "Committee" and has since left it.

b) Dr. M. KOLLER.

An Austrian Jew, became head of the Austrian, German, Rumanian, Bulgarian and Hungarian Jews in Rome under the Italian organization which is centered in New York. A chemist, has run factories in Vienna. Related to Tolstoy's family, has spent several years in Russia, has had close contacts with leading personalities in Russia and Austria. Is not a communist. A man of considerable culture and control. Imprisoned after the annexation, was released after such ill-treatment and went to France where he built up

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a new chemical company, but was confined to the Paris concentration camp after war broke out. He lived in concentration camps for some time in the Free Zone, but was released, his plan to establish a chemical factory using waste stuffs being considered of high importance. In 1943 he was living at Nice until the Germans took over control of the coast. He then escaped to Italy, was imprisoned again together with his wife whom he had married in 1942 (a highly intelligent woman from a well-known German Jewish family). When eventually released, the pair came to Rome where they lived hiding till June 4th, 1944.

Dr. Koller has been asked repeatedly by Bishop Hudal to join the Committee, but has always refused. Has given valuable information to P.W.B., including bringing to the notice of this office Bishop Hudal's article "Europe's religious Zerkunft" which can be obtained from Dr. Koller at any time.

Dr. Koller is now 48, appears older. Has no personal ambitions as a politician. Has declared himself ready to hold himself at the disposal of the Allies.

c) LAMPAL, BENJAMIN.

Two Austrians in Rome also in opposition to the Committee. The latter reported full details of Hudal and the "Committee" to the Russians whom he showed great interest and asked for a written report. He was restrained by Dr. Koller. (See part 3)

3. Opposition Leaders on behalf of the London "Austrian Committee"

a) Julius FREUND

From Bari, apparently still with P.W.B. Escaped a few months ago from German concentration camp in Northern Italy, arrived at Bari. Understood to have been in Yugoslavia for P.W.B., but in any case is impressed by the Partisan organization. It seems probable that the Yugoslav mission to London has put him in contact with the London "Committee" which he claims to represent. He is the typical politician with leftist views, has all the necessary phrases at the tip of his tongue. His methods of persuasion are reported to be a combination of cringing and threats. States he is a skilful teacher and mountain guide from Austria. To which of the two main Austrian Committees in London he is attached has not yet been clarified.

b) SCHNITTLER

Austrian, now resident in Rome. Accompanies Freund and it is reported that he is probably engaged in canvassing opinion in Rome on behalf of the London "Committee". A very new arrival and

a new chemical company, but was confined to the Paris concentration camp after war broke out. He lived in concentration camps for some time in the Free Zone, but was released, his plan to establish a chemical factory using waste stuffs being considered of high importance. In 1943 he was living at Nice until the Germans took over control of the coast. He then escaped to Italy, was imprisoned again together with his wife whom he had married in 1942 (a highly intelligent woman from a well-known German Jewish family). When eventually released, the pair came to Rome where they lived ⁱⁿ hiding till June 4th, 1944.

Dr. Koller has been asked repeatedly by Bishop Hudal to join the Committee, but has always refused. Has given valuable information to I.W.B., including bringing to the notice of this office Bishop Hudal's article "Europas religiöse Zukunft" which can be obtained from Dr. Koller at any time.

Dr. Koller is now 48, appears older. Has no personal ambitions as a politician. Has declared himself ready to hold himself at the disposal of the Allies.

c) LAMPAL, BENJER.

Two Austrians in Rome also in opposition to the Committee. The latter reported full details of Hudal and the "Committee" to the Russians whom he showed great interest and asked for a written report. He was restrained by Dr. Koller. (See part 3)

3. Opposition leaders on behalf of the London "Austrian Committee"

a) Julius FREUND

From Bari, apparently still with P.W.B. Escaped a few months ago from German concentration camp in Northern Italy, arrived at Bari. Understood to have been in Yugoslavia for P.W.B., but in any case is impressed by the Partisan organization. It seems probable that the Yugoslav mission to London has put him in contact with the London "Committee" which he claims to represent. He is the typical politician with leftist views, has all the necessary phrases at the tip of his tongue. His methods of persuasion are reported to be a combination of cringing and threats. States he is a skilful teacher and mountain guide from Austria. To which of the two main Austrian Committees in London he is attached has not yet been clarified.

b) SCHNITZER,

Austrian, now resident in Rome. Accompanies Freund and it is reported that he is probably engaged in canvassing opinion in Rome on behalf of the London "Committee". A very new arrival and therefore little is known of him as yet.

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4. Austrian sources of information available to E.W.D.:

a) Private Dr. KARLHAUT, British Army.

Austrian Jew of middle age, acute observer of Austrian and European life through business contacts. Before the war primarily interested in the design and manufacture of pre-fabricated houses which brought him into close relation with British and French firms. A member of no political party. In concentration camps from the annexation onwards, eventually landing up in North Africa where he was released and joined the British Pioneer Corps. Since then has been employed in the E.W.D. monitoring service. Highly intelligent, great knowledge of the Austrian political scene and has personal knowledge of most of the leading Austrians in Rome. Reliable. Feels strongly his position as an Allied soldier and from that point of view is glad to help this office whenever he can.

b) Fred COMBARKHALL

Editor and writer from Vienna. Carried on a large business in publishing books in Austria, including English books which brought him into contact with editors and writers in England and America as well as Rome. In 1943 confined to Sachsen concentration camp. Escaped and lived in Yugoslavia where he married a girl from Prague. 1941 joined the Partisans together with his wife. Fought with partisan units till spring 1944 when he got wounded for the third time. His wife was killed, when a nurse in a partisan hospital, by the Germans 8 months ago. Evacuated to Bari, was referred to Special Balkan Section for which department he reported on the situation in Yugoslavia. Acted as Major Churchill's interpreter at Tito's Headquarters. As he did not know Hungarian and was not a communist, was dismissed and came to Rome. Continues to do special intelligence reports for G 2. At present employed in the A.C.C. library where he works on secret documents.

Knows many former leading persons in Austrian political life. Politically independent. Has been in Rome to publish books, but will not do so for as long as he feels his service will be required for the Allied cause. Is happy to continue giving reports to this office, which are valuable while not directly implicating P.W.D.

Part 3. Recent developments.

"Austrian Committee" and "Austrian Office":

1. The "Committee" is now using a heavy hand with those who do not agree with it or join it. It is reported in this connection that Dr. Koeller is listed as being no longer an Austrian citizen.

a) Private Dr. RAPPAPORT, British Army.

Austrian Jew of middle age. Acute observer of Austrian and European life through business contacts. Before the war primarily interested in the design and manufacture of pre-fabricated houses which brought him into close relation with British and French firms. A member of no political party. In concentration camps from the extermination centers, eventually landing up in North Africa where he was released and joined the British Pioneer Corps. Since then has been employed in the I.W.O. monitoring service. Highly intelligent, great knowledge of the Austrian political scene and has personal knowledge of most of the leading Austrians in Rome. Reliable. Feels strongly his position as an Allied soldier and from that point of view is glad to help this office whenever he can.

b) Fried KUNWALDNER.

Editor and writer from Vienna. Carried on a large business in publishing books in Austria, including English books which brought him into contact with editors and writers in England and America as well as Rome. In 1938 confined to Dachau concentration camp. Escaped and lived in Yugoslavia where he married a girl from Prague. 1941 joined the Partisans together with his wife. Fought with partisan units till spring 1944 when he got wounded for the third time. His wife was killed when a nurse in a partisan hospital, by the Germans 8 months ago. Evacuated to Bari, was referred to Special Balkan Section for which department he reported on the situation in Yugoslavia. Acted as Major Churchill's interpreter at Tito's Headquarters. As he did not know Hungarian and was not a communist, was dismissed and came to Rome. Continued to do special intelligence reports for G 2. At present employed in the A.C.O. library where he works on secret documents.

Knows many former leading persons in Austrian political life. Politically independent. Has been in Rome to publish books, but will not do so for as long as he feels his service will be required for the Allied cause. Is happy to continue giving reports to this office, which are valuable while not directly implicating P.W.B.

Part 3. Recent developments.

"Austrian Committee" and "Austrian Office":

1. The "Committee" is now using a heavy hand with those who do not agree with it or join it. It is reported in this connection that Dr. Koller is listed as being no longer an Austrian citizen owing to his refusal to join the Committee.

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2. Pressure has been brought to bear by Bishop Kudal personally in order to obtain permission to publish an Austrian newspaper and propagate the Committee's views. (He already reported by Mr. Turner). The Committee itself has approached the P.W.B. Publication Board on the same subject.
3. The "Committee" is reported to have sent representative to Bari and Naples to canvass for support.
4. Notices have appeared in the Italian papers urging all Austrians to register with the "Committee", in this connection the "Austrian Office" is presented as an Austrian relief organization.
5. Participation on behalf of the "Committee" has been attempted by two allied officers, i.e., von Ripper, 30ance (and Hunter) - 20 sec. "A" force (see previous reports).
6. The undersigned, in connection with propaganda to Austria, is using a Dr. LEONARD as an Austrian courierist. Dr. Leonard also holds a subordinate position in the "Austrian Office". Temperamentally a Bohemian, it is almost certain that he is unaware of any of the political ramifications herein reported.
It is clear that he informed Berger von Waldeneck of his relations to the undersigned and what further investigations he may have had on the Austrian Section P.W.B. On his next visit he therefore devised a verbal invitation to see with Berger-Waldeneck, as soon as was convenient. Von Waldeneck would be pleased to receive any information we could give him on the general functions of A.S.G., A.C.C. and A.S.P.A. This was represented as an informal talk through mutual acquaintances on an interesting subject about which the host was keenly and sufficiently informed. To the undersigned the invitation also carried the unspoken question, "How would all three services apply to me (Berger-Waldeneck) if I should obtain power in Austria?"
The above was reported to the proper P.W.B. authorities who advised against accepting the invitation in the present circumstances. A note of apology was prepared but not delivered, as Dr. Leonard, who was to conduct the undersigned, did not turn up. It is almost certain that he forgot.
7. It is now the general opinion obtained from all sources open to his office that Berger von Waldeneck considers himself to be embarrassed by the presence of Bishop Kudal in the Committee, and will probably try to get rid of him.

The OPPOSITION.

I. Dr. BAMBAS:

2. Pressure has been brought to bear by Bishop Hudal personally in order to obtain permission to publish an Austrian newspaper and propagate the Committee's views. (As already reported by Mr. Turner). The Committee itself has approached the F.W.B. Publication Board on the same subject.
3. The "Committee" is reported to have sent representative to Bari and Naples to canvass for support.
4. Notices have appeared in the Italian papers urging all Austrians to register with the "Committee". In this connection the "Austrian Office" is presented as an Austrian relief organization.
5. Persuasion on behalf of the "Committee" has been attempted by two allied officers, Drs. von Ripper, Doerner (and Hunter)-to sec. "A" force (see previous reports).
6. The undersigned, in connection with propaganda to Austria, is using a Dr. BERNARD as an Austrian cartoonist. Dr. Bernard also holds a subordinate position in the "Austrian Office". Temperamentally a Bohemian, it is almost certain that he is unaware of any of the political ramifications herein reported.

It is clear that he informed Berger von Waldenegg of his relations to the undersigned and what further investigations he may have had on the Austrian Section F.W.B. On his next visit he therefore carried a verbal invitation to tea with Berger-Waldenegg, as soon as was convenient. Von Waldenegg would be pleased to receive any information we could give him on the general functions of F.W.B., A.D.C. and F.W.B., A.A. This was represented as an informal talk through mutual acquaintances on an interesting subject about which the host was intermittently informed. It was undersigned the invitation also carried the mistaken question, "how would all three services apply to me (Berger-Waldenegg) if I should obtain power in Austria?"

The above was reported to the proper P.W.B. authorities who advised at first accepting the invitation in the present circumstances. A note of apology was prepared but not delivered, as Dr. Bernard, who was to conduct the undersigned, did not turn up. It is almost certain that he forgot.

7. It is now the general opinion obtained from all sources open to his office that Berger von Waldenegg considers himself to be embarrassed by the presence of Bishop Hudal in the Committee, and will probably try to get rid of him.

THE OPPOSITION.

1. DR. BAMBAS:

On Saturday, August 12th, Dr. Bamba invited to his flat leading

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members of the opposition of all types, in order to discuss ways and means for the removal of the "Committee".

2. Dr. KOLLER

The undersigned met Dr. Koller on several occasions to receive information which the doctor was willing to give and to hear concrete proposals by Dr. Koller for forwarding to the proper quarter.

Koller also made clear that he did not wish to proceed against the "Austrian Committee", without the full knowledge of the Allies and asked the undersigned to bring this information to the notice of the correct authority.

3. The undersigned was asked by Dr. Koller to give his personal answer, yes or no, to the following question: "Should he (Dr. Koller) or should he not at this point inform the Italian police of his intentions?" After making clear the position of the undersigned, of which Dr. Koller was already informed, and deciding that it were better that Allied Authority should hear of the situation from one source in the first place, the undersigned gave the answer: "NO". This was taken by Dr. Koller as a purely personal view, but as it is almost certain that Dr. Koller has followed this line, it must be reported.

Dr. Koller attended the meeting in Dr. Bambas's flat.

3. BAMBAS

Was at the meeting in Bambas's flat where he informed all present of the fact of his having reported the situation, as he knew it, to the Russians. Dr. Koller insisted at this juncture that the Russian requirement for a written report be not met, at least until the Allies were informed. There is strong evidence that the report was not forwarded.

4. LAIDL

Also at the meeting, elected member of sub-committee, with Koller and Bambas to obtain further evidence against the "Austrian Committee" and "Office".

5. Julius FRAUEN and COMMITTEE

Both attended the meeting on the invitation of Dr. Bambas. Freund claimed to have come from London apparently direct. This seems unlikely. His warning against opposing the "Austrian Committee" which he hastened to make at the meeting, can be taken to mean that he wishes to appear later publicly as having broken the "Committee" himself, and that it is not intended by the "London Committee" that the "Rome Committee" should be replaced by another one which would be harded to get rid of. To observers at the mee-

members of the opposition of all types, in order to discuss ways and means for the removal of the "Committee".

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4. TREUND

Also at the meeting, elected member of sub-committee, with Koller and Bambas to obtain further evidence against the "Austrian Committee" and "Office".

5. JULIAN FREUND and SCHNITZLER

Both attended the meeting on the invitation of Dr. Bambas. Freund claimed to have come from London apparently direct. This seems unlikely. His warning against opposing the "Austrian Committee" which he hastened to make at the meeting, can be taken to mean that he wishes to appear later publicly as having broken the "Committee" himself, and that it is not intended by the "London Committee" that the "Rome Committee" should be replaced by another one which would be hard to get rid of. To observers at the meeting he and Schnitzler appeared to advocate a policy of secrecy and intrigue. Both had been introduced to Dr. Bambas in the first place by a British Captain who spoke bad German, and ~~could~~ for the moment, be traced.

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6. Dr. RAPPAPORT.

Was asked by Berger von Waldenegg to visit him. Inquired from this office whether he should go. Was clearly informed of the situation of the "Committee" through previous knowledge of the personalities, but did not wish to give unnecessary offense. He was also asked to the Bambas meeting and again asked for advice. In both cases the invitation was to Dr. Rappaport as a prominent Austrian. It was decided that as his presence at either place would commit no one, he should go to both places. It was agreed that he would take no part in any negotiations himself, but would make a report to this office. He attended the Bambas meeting but after having read Dr. Koller's copy of Hudal's "Europas religiöse Zukunft", he asked that he might be excused from having any association with the "Committee". He has therefore not seen Berger von Waldenegg.

7. Short report on the Bambas meeting. (Comprising the main points as gathered by this office: Sources - Dr. H. Koller, Dr. Rappaport, Mr. F. Schwarzwald)

Bambas first announced his intention of breaking the "Committee" with the help of as many Austrians as possible. Many, he thought, would be forthcoming. Freund strongly opposed this, saying that he had influence in London, that time was needed and that a list should be drawn up of all Austrian citizens in the first place. Bambas countered this by a strong attack on the "Committee" members particularly Hudal, von Waldenegg and Breycha, on their methods and on the source of their funds. In this way he layed himself open to Freund's rejoinder why had he therefore associated himself with them? Bambas made an unsteady reply in which he stated that the Allies did not want to overthrow the "Committee" directly, but hinted that they would prefer it to be done through himself and those present. He attempted to prove this point by sitting in some way those Allied officers staying with Hudal or seemingly closely connected with the "Committee", including a certain Major Redman (?). This last point was used more as a form of pacification, than stated as an established fact.

Freund then launched into a political address which he appeared to have practiced several times before. The result was inconclusive except to show that Rome was now the focal point for all Austrians. Freund seems then to have distributed order-forms for the "Zeitungsägel", organ of the "Austrian Committee" in London. Not all observers understood the significance of Freund's suggestion not to attack the "Committee" yet, but they obtained the general impression that he wanted in the long run to pack Rome with Austrians and carry them forward as a body into Austria.

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It is probable that Dr. Koller then established order, after which the opposition sub-committee to get further evidence on the

"Austrian Committee" and "Office" was formed of Dr. Koller, Dr. Bambas and Mr. Lemuel. At the very end, as the meeting was about to break up, Schnitzler tried to sabotage the agreement reached with an attack on those present in a speech which carried further along the lines already set by Freund. As a result a further meeting was arranged later at the Caffé "Greco" to which neither Schnitzler nor Freund turned up. However there is to be a further meeting of all parties which will be reported later.

- Note: 1. P.W.D. was neither mentioned nor implicated throughout.
2. Dr. Koller considers that the meeting as such was a farce, but that he should continue for as long as there is hope that some good may come of it.

Part 4. Subsequent proposals.

1. There has been no direct proposal from Freund nor has he visited this office. His arguments however are strong and are likely to influence Austrians here if they have no other alternative. It is probable that he proposes to report directly to London if he can, gaining thereby some personal prestige. But for the moment it is not thought likely that he would bring any "Committee" here directly under London. The most serious hint he made was that it might be possible for the present "Austrian Committee" here to be shown up in London first, thus causing a larger scandal with perhaps questions in the House of Commons or Congress. It must be emphasized that this was never directly stated. Freund has now left for Bari, having first established close relations with the German Anti-Nazi Organization in Rome who appear to think highly of him.

2. The "Opposition Committee" in Rome for all its present disorganization seems to have considerable support: with this it proposes to confront the "Committee" in Rome, exposed it and replace it. It is influenced by Dr. Koller who insists in this case that it is an Austrian matter which must be rectified by Austrians but about which the Allies must be kept informed though not implicated. The "Opposition Committee" is however in great need of information from the Allies not from a political point of view, but more on the question of legality and of how exactly the Allies would like them to proceed.

3. Dr. Koller's position is twofold. He is a member of the "Opposition Committee" because he feels that the "Rome Committee" is not the Allies' agent.

"Austrian Committee" and "Office" was formed of Dr. Zoller, Dr. Dembas and Mr. Lempel. At the very end, as the meeting was about to break up, Schnitzler tried to sabotage the agreement reached with an attack on those present in a speech which carried further along the lines already set by Freund. As a result a further meeting was arranged later at the Caffé "Greco" to which neither Schnitzler nor Freund turned up. However there is to be a further meeting of all parties which will be reported later.

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3. Dr. Zoller's position is twofold. He is a member of the "Opposition Committee" because he feels that the "Rome Committee" must go. Except for advice, he wants to leave the Allies out of this entirely. He has however certain definite proposals to the Allies, listed as under:

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- a) That what ever may happen in Rome or among Austrians elsewhere no Austrian group of any political colour should be the first to enter Austria.
- b) He proposes on the other hand as quickly as possible to gather conveniently in Italy men of absolute reliability, Austrians, with technical qualifications to handle with the Allies the initial problems in the country; i.e. bridging and engineering problems, food distribution, transport and administration, health and municipal services.
- c) In this he has no personal ambition and, in fact, considers that as a Jew he would do very much better to take no large part in such an organization once it had been formed.
- d) If the Allies should decide to recognise any or several political groups and allow their entry in Austria, he never the less proposes that the non-political organization as outlined should still be formed as it would still be needed.
- e) He suggests that the method of forming his organization would be for him to collect a small group who would forward to the Allies for their approval the names of reliable Austrians engineers and technicians.
- f) Dr. Koller has the opportunity, if agreed by the Allies, of going to New York in September as a delegate of the Jewish DELAWARE world meeting. If his plan is approved he could on this occasion contact the right people in New York and subsequently London.
- g) It should be emphasized that this plan is of more importance to Dr. Koller than local political activity, which he would drop immediately when necessary.
- h) Dr. Koller is well aware that approval would carry no further prerogative and he would himself inform all participants that they were to expect no Allied political backing and, after their task has been performed, no further Allied support whatever.
- i) Dr. Koller is clear on Allied policy towards all freedom committees as a result of his own observation. He is also clear that the military situation must in the end influence any decision taken, but he is prepared to wait or prepare the ground work as requested.
- j) Without committing the Allies thereby, he would like to be put in touch with the proper authorities.
- (Dr. Koller's references are attached.)

Short Appreciation by the Writer.

1. The Opposition to the Committee.
It is probable that proceedings against the "Committee" may be started soon, either a) through the Italian police or, b) through C.I.O. to whom the material and evidence may be referred.

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where no Austrian group of any political colour should be the first to enter Austria.

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It is probable that proceedings against the "Committee" may be started soon, either a) through the Italian Police or, b) through C.I.C. to whom the material and evidence may perhaps be submitted with a

request for advice on further action. This office has so far kept in touch with the local situation so that the authorities would receive relevant details in time.

2. It is realized by the undersigned that the proposals of Dr. Koller and his high-standing in the Community will take the matter outside the scope of this office.

3. It is emphasized that in all cases the personalities mentioned go into touch with this office of their own accord. In each case the function of F.W.D. in these matters was clearly explained. No promises whatsoever were given nor was the impression created that any promise might be forthcoming.

4. From information reaching this office it is fair to say of the rank and file of Austrians in Rome a) that from them will not come much material which could be of use to the Allies in comparison to New York and London and b) that as refugees of long standing they are likely to succumb to any "Pressure group" which might be allowed to develop in order to avoid becoming political refugees in their own country once again.

(signed)

Patrick St. J. Brawn, Capt. R.E.

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(signed)

Patrick St. J. Brown, Capt. R.E.

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APPENDIX

Translation of letter of Reference sent by
Dr. HOLLER to this office.

Dr. H. Koller
Plaza Ariano, 5
Rome

August 11th, 1944

The following names of gentlemen as my reference in London are submitted:

1. C. T. GOODEWIN (Consulting Eng.) Offices - 7/8 Pool Lane
2. Mr. FRENTH Director of the Research Department, I.C.I.
3. Mr. MALLABAR of Messrs. Mallebar & Co. Ltd.
(Good, Mallebar & Co.), synthetic resins.

I knew also Gen. GOUGH and Gen. CHARTERS. As I saw them last in 1937 I am not sure that they will remember my name.

Mr. CHARLESSON, President of the VERMOREL FORT. CO. LTD., came in 1939 twice to see me in Paris. He will too be able to give information on me.

(signed)
Dr. H. Koller

Translation of letter of Reference sent by
Dr. KOLLER to this office.

Dr. H. Koller
Piazza Adriano, 3
R o m e

August 11th, 1944

The following names of gentlemen as my reference in London are
submitted:

1. C. I. GOODWIN (Consulting Eng.) Offices - 7/8 Adel Lane
2. Mr. PRYTH Director of the Research Department, I.C.I.
3. Mr. MALLABAH of Messrs. Mallebar & Co. Ltd.
(Wood, Mallebar & Co.), synthetic resins.

I knew also Gen. GOUGH and Gen. CHARTERS. As I saw them last in 1937
I am not sure that they will remember my name.

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in 1939 twice to see me in Paris. He will too be able to give in-
formation on me.

(signed)
Dr. H. Koller

4850

0 2 2 4

Bishop Dr. Alois Hudal

Rome, 15th of August 1944
Via della Pace 20

To A. M. V. Rome

Sire,

Since the occupation of Austria I have as a bishop incessantly and successfully been working from the numerous religious and racial refugees from Austria, in closest contact with the "Viertel" which the "Viertel" is an organization. By my recommendations many Austrians were given permits to go to Spain, Portugal and USA. Others I was able to shelter in colleges, convents and Catholic families in Italy. - I continued this work inside of the assistance work during the German occupation. The last no knowing the assistance work never hindered it owing to the Vatican, but allowed refugees to maintain contact with it through social "improvements".

It goes without saying that I am to continue this social help work now that at Rome has been liberated. I have already been registering in Rome alone more than 400 Austrians. Many more live in Naples, Salerno, Bari and Campagna. They, too, will be registered in the next days. When Florence and Bologna will follow. - With the assistance work in Rome a campaign for the supply of clothes, an Austrian Public Kitchen and a gratis medical ambulatory are connected.

In order to better organize this work and to inspire Austrians in Italy to collaborate for the liberation of their country according to the decisions of the Moscow Conference I must have a means of communication, namely the above-mentioned "Informations", to be published gratis every fortnight under my personal editorship and responsibility.

The first number, I am sorry to say, has not yet been approved by I. W. B. though I originally had asked for approval. That provoked a painful disappointment among Austrians, since many important informations could not be published in time.

I therefore beg a second time most respectfully to allow me personally to publish, beginning with the 16th of August, the "Mitteilungen des österreichischen Hilfswerks in Italien" (Informations of the Austrian Assistance Work in Italy - Informations in Italien) (Informations of the Austrian Assistance Work in Italy) without mentioning the Austrian Committee for the Austrian Office. - It is no question that I desired I am ready to submit each number before publication to the Allied censorship authority.

The top of each number would be the following:

Mitteilungen des österreichischen Hilfswerks in Italien.
(Informations in Italien) opera di assistenza per gli Austriaci in Italia)
Rom, 15. August 1944 - Nr. 1 - Via Mercuriada 15
Herausgeber: Bischof Dr. Alois Hudal
(Editore)

Sirs, since the occupation of Austria I have, as a bishop increasingly and successfully been working from the numerous political and social refugees from Austria, in closest contact with the great Italian refugee assistance organization. My recommendations have been given permits to go to Spain, Portugal and USA. Of course I was able to shelter in colleges, convents or Catholic families in Italy. - I continued this work inside of the rest of the country during the German occupation. The rest no knowing the assistance work never hindered is only to the Vatican, but allowed refugees to maintain contact with it through special "Informations".

It goes without saying that I am to continue this social help work now in Rome. I have already been registering in Rome alone more than 100 Austrians. Many more live in Naples, Palermo, Bari and Cambrana. They, too, will be registered in the next days. Then Florence and Bologna will follow. - With the Assistance Work in Rome a campaign for the supply of clothes, an Austrian Public Kitchen and a gratis medical ambulatory are connected.

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Mitteilungen des oesterreichischen Hilfswerks in Italien.
(Informazioni dell'opera di assistenza per gli Austriaci in Italia)
Rom, 16. August 1944. - Nr. 1 - Via Mercadante 15
Verantwortlicher: Bischof Dr. Alois Hudal
(Editor)

Very respectfully yours
Bischof Alois Hudal 4871

Bishop Dr. Aloys Hudal,
Via della Pace 20,
Rome

August 12, 1944.

Political Section A.C.C.,
R o m e

According to the prevailing regulations I have applied to the Chief Censor of the P.W.B. in order to obtain the permit for the publication of a News Service for the Austrians living in Rome. I am now informed that the Political Section would not consider favourably such an enterprise.

I feel that I should give to the Political Section the following explanations refuting the eventual reproach that I had tried some action being in contradiction to the regulations and directions:

1) the publication in question has been regularly submitted to the Chief Censor before taking in consideration its distribution among the Austrians in Rome. Only a few copies have been taken along by Austrians who started for the south of Italy, to give them to their countrymen, since the Chief Censor had promised the permit for the next days.

2) this News Service does not bear the characteristics of any kind of publicity for the following reasons :

a) it was to be reserved for a certain limited circle of readers,
b) it should not be sold,
c) it was to be issued solely from time to time, when necessary communications to the Austrians would require it.

I thought to follow best the directions of the Political Section in avoiding all publicity by communicating directly to the Austrians certain informations (for instance : distribution of milk for children, of clothes, of food etc.), without inserting these informations into the public press sheets.

3) It was my intention to have this News Service bring to the Austrian circles general Allied propaganda items, as most of the Austrians don't know enough Italian to be able to follow up the Italian press and, being not informed about

Bishop Hudal called on August 14 and was told that no answer to our request to higher authority regarding the whole Austrian question yet had been received, hence we were unable to meet his request. *never replied*

*Done - met staff
to discuss
Austrian
HAC 26/8*
*At next P.W.B. meeting should list
a/c censorship if they have the
staff to censor - see para 5 page 2
showing such publication might
be allowed in USA/UK - Depending
on censorship answer we might push
up to 15/8 HAC 17/8*

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- 2 -

important political events, unconsciously could become victims of the propaganda of the 5th column.

4) My intention, fully corresponding with the Three Powers Declaration at Moscow, further was to invite all Austrians residing in Rome to collaborate against nazism, at the same time representing to the Austrians their political situation in conformity with the present circumstances as resulting from Nr.4-9 on page 3 of the News Service issue, entitled "What has every Austrian to know?" This is more in the interest of the Allied authorities and, especially of the Political Section, than in the interest of the Austrians themselves.

5) My demand was based upon the fact of precedents and it was not to be supposed that there should be special regulations for the Austrians living in liberated Italy, these regulations being in contradiction with those valid for the Austrians residing in other Allied countries.

An entire library of publications issued by Austrian circles in Great Britain and the United States, are lying before me, among them several regularly weekly appearing journals, publicly sold. Even a comparatively small group of Austrians in Algier publish a monthly News Service of the same size as the one submitted by me.

6) Finally, I was of the opinion that private informations to the Austrians about assistance matters could, by no means, be in contradiction to the wishes of the Political Section, the more so as informations in the Italian daily news papers prohibited from the very first, consequently there was no other possibility to reach those Austrians who after six years of nazi oppression, many of them having escaped from concentration camps and prisons, were in need of being protected by me, the Austrian Bishop - therefore, I was ready to take personally upon myself the full responsibility for the contents of this News Service issue.

7) Regarding the propagandistic enlightenment of the Austrians here, there has been done nothing up to now, and this situation continuing, it will be seen that the underground propaganda will have free hand to bring disunion among the Austrians, first condition for the intentions of our enemies.

I have considered it to be my duty to give to the Political Section the above explanations, in order to refute an eventual reproach as to an omission which really has not taken place. Provided that this is recognized, I shall submit without further discussion to the orders of the competent authorities.

Faithfully Yours

Bishop Alois Hudal

Enclosed 1 copy of the News Service to your information.

COPY for CENSOR

The title of the News Service is perhaps not rightly chosen.

I would propose to name the News Service issue "Nachrichtenblatt für Österreicher" (News Service for Austrians) and to omit entirely the words "Austrian Committee" and "Austrian Office".

August 12th, 1944.

Hudal
Bishop Fr. Hudal

4876

Austria Erit In Orbe Ultima

»FREIES ÖSTERREICH«

MITTEILUNGSBLATT FÜR ÖSTERREICHEN IM BEFREITEN ITALIEN

Erscheint fallweise

Redaktion: Rom, via Mercadante, 15 - Tel. 81727

Unverkäuflich

Nr. 1

Donnerstag 10. August 1944

ÖSTERREICHISCHES KOMITEE

ÖSTERREICHISCHES BUREAU

Rom, via Mercadante, 15
(Tel. 81727)

G E L D E I T W O R T !

Mehr als sechs Jahre Unterdrückung sind für uns Österreicher in Rom zu Ende gegangen. Die segregierte und Verfolgung und so Manchem brachte die heissersehnte Befreiung von Nazi-Geißel und dem. Jeder Einzelne, dem es gelungen ist das ständige Zittern noch in den Gliedern und der Verschleppung zu entgehen hat eine positive Leistung vollbracht. Manigfach sind die Erlebnisse jedes Einzelnen Österreichers auf dem Wege zur Befreiung und vielen von uns sind hierbei die Qualen der Nazi-Geißelung so nicht erspart geblieben. Schon vor der Befreiung durch die Alliierten gab es beherrschte Patrioten, welche den Kampf gegen die Unterdrückung aufgenommen haben und gleichzeitig die Grundsteine für jene Organisation schufen, welche nunmehr offen in Erscheinung tritt und auf demokratischer Basis am 2. Juli d.J. bestätigt wird.

Die Ziele dieser Organisation sind klar: Bekämpfung des Nazi-Terrors an Seite der Alliierten und Befreiung unseres heissgeliebten Vaterlandes. Welche parteipolitische Einstellung jeder Einzelne besitzt ist für die Verfolgung des grossen Zieles gänzlich bedeutungslos und müssen daher ausser Acht gelassen werden. Dieser Art auf jenen Zeitpunkt verlegt werden, welcher nach Wiederherstellung der parlamentarischen Institutionen in Österreich wieder gesamt sein wird. Die obgenannte Zielsetzung ist also gewissermassen der gemeinsame Nenner aller österr. Patrioten ohne Rücksicht auf ihre politische Einstellung. Nur jene Österreicher, welche diesem Postulat voll entsprechen und ihre persönlichen Ambitionen der gemeinsamen Zielsetzung vorüberlassend unterstellen, dienen der Sache. Eine zweite Voraussetzung für die Mitarbeit jedes Einzelnen ist die Erziehung zu freiem politischen Denken und zu politischem Verantwortungsbewusstsein. Die Jahre des totalitären Regimes und die Geringschätzung des Individualismus haben die Bevölkung aller unterdrückten Völker politisch verfügt. Der Rückweg zur demokratischen Auffassung setzt voraus, dass jeder Einzelne, auf dessen Meinung es ankommt, sich über die Verantwortung bewusst werde, welche seiner Stellungnahme zu den politischen Problemen des Staates ankommt. Wie schon gesagt, können jedoch Fragen dieser Art für uns Österreicher derzeit noch nicht zur Diskussion stehen, doch soll auch in diesem Belange die Zeit nicht unnütz verstreichen und soll jeder unbeflügelte sich jene politische Einstellung einstellen und soll er später zu vertreten in der Lage sein.

= Des Österreichische Komitee = in Italien mit dem Sitz in Rom und des Österreichische Bureau (Anteil) = in Italien mit dem Sitz in Rom und des

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ÖSTERREICHISCHES KOMITEE

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G E L E I T W O R D

Mehr als sechs Jahre Unterdrückung sind für uns Österreichler in Rom zu Ende gegangen. Die österreichischen alliierten Armeen brachten die heissersehnte Befreiung von Nazi-Terror und Verfolgung und so Manchem steckt das ständige Zittern noch in den Gliedern. Jeder Einzelne, dem es gelungen ist das Über der Freiheit zu erreichen und der Verschleppung zu entgehen hat eine positive Leistung vollbracht. Manigfach sind die Erlaubnisse jedes Einzelnen Österreichers auf dem Wege zur Befreiung und vielen von uns sind hierbei die Qualen der Nazi-Gefangnis- so nicht erspart geblieben. Schon vor der Befreiung durch die Alliierten gab es beherrschte Patrioten, welche den Kampf gegen die Unterdrückung aufgenommen haben und gleichzeitig die Grundsteine für jene Organisation gaben, welche nunmehr offen in Erscheinung tritt und auf demokratischer Basis am 2. Juli d.J. bestätigt wurde.

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= Das Österreichische Komitee = in Italien mit dem Sitz in Rom und das Österreichische Bureau (Austrian Office) = sind als jene Organisation aufzufassen, welche als einzige hierzu berufen sind jene österreichischen Interessen, welche gewillt sind, das eingangs erwähnte Ziel zu verfolgen und den Aufbau des so schwer geprüften Vaterlandes vorzubereiten. Gleichmässig obliegt es dieser Organisation im Rahmen der bestehenden Möglichkeiten die in Italien lebenden Österreichler zu betreuen und ihre Interessen wahrzunehmen.

Diese Aufgaben sind unter Berücksichtigung der mannigfachen Schwierigkeiten wahrlich nicht einfach und bedarf es der entschlossenen Mitarbeit aller, um den hohen Erfordernissen gerecht werden zu können; anderseits ist seitens unserer Landsleute jenes Verständnis für die schwierige Lage in der wir uns befinden, notwendig, falls nicht alles so unverzüglich erreicht und durchgesetzt werden kann, wie es unser Wunsch wäre.

Anregungen sind uns immer erwünscht und können jederzeit im österreichischen Bureau schriftlich vorgebracht werden und auch gegen Kritiken haben wir nichts einzuwenden, falls sie uns vorgebracht werden. Es wäre aber durchaus unangebracht Kritikern hinter unserem Rücken herumzutragen, da auf solche Weise der Grund einer abfälligen Beurteilung nicht beseitigt werden könnte und so bestenfalls jenen Kreisen gedient wäre, welche aus einem oder dem anderen Grunde gegen die Ziele der österreichischen Organisation eingestellt sind.

Um alle Österreicher über die Tätigkeit der österreichischen Organisation am Laufen zu halten und zu jenen Problemen Stellung zu nehmen, die für unsere Landsleute von besonderem Interesse sind, wurde beschlossen ein Nachrichtenblatt herauszugeben, welches nach Bedarf fallweise erscheinen wird.

Die Redaktion des Nachrichtenblattes wird auch für alle jene Mitteilungen denkbar sein, welche österreichische Landsleute in Besonderen betreffen und für die stets eine Spalte in diesem Nachrichtenblatt vorbehalten sein wird. Alle, für die Redaktion bestimmten Mitteilungen sind im österreichischen Bureau Zimmer Nr. 1 während der Amtsstunden von 10-12 Uhr abzugeben.

Wir wollen dem Wunsche Ausdruck verleihen, dass diese unsere Initiative von allen Landsleuten und auch jenen österreichischen, die in den Reihen der alliierten Gruppen kämpfen, mit Wohlwollen aufgenommen werden wird und dass damit ein Sündenbild geschehen werde, welches die Österreicher im breiten Italien näher einander bringen möge, um die in so schweren Zeiten über alles erforderliche Einnahme zu pflegen, welche allein unserer Zielsetzung zum Erfolg verhelfen kann, und das ist:

Der Kampf um ein freies, selbstständiges und demokratisches Österreich, trenn unserem Wahlanspruch:

" Austria erit in orbe ultima ! "

OH, DU MEIN ÖSTERREICH !
.....

HYMNUS

NEU ERSTANDEN AUS BLUTIGEN WUNDEN,
BIST DU MEIN THEURES ÖSTERREICH.
LASSE FREUD' UND JUBEL UNS BEAUNDEN,
DAS EINER NUN DEM ANDERN GLEICH.
REICHT GLÜCKLICH EUCH ZUM BUND DIE
HÄNDE,
SCHLIESSET IHR UM EUCH DEM BRÜDERKREIS;
UM TREU' ZU HALTEN OHNE ANHEIM,
FÜR UNSER THEURES ÖSTERREICH !

DIE WAFFEN NIEDER, SIE SÖLLEN ZERBRECHEN,
EIN EINIGER FRIEDE SEI AUF DIESER WEIT.
LASST NUR DIE HERZEN ZU DEN HERZEN
SPRECHEN,

DAS IST DIE SPRACH' DIE GOTT GERÄLT.
ERREDET DIE IHRER PREIST DIE MUSEN,
STATT JEDEN BLUT'IGEN SCHWERTESTREICH.
ERLÄSSEN SOLL IN UNSEREN BUSTEN :
DAS SCHÖNE LIED AUS ÖSTERREICH !

NUN, DA WIR FREI VON NOT UND PLAGEN
BLÜHEN WIE DANIEL AUF ZU DIR MEIN GOTT ;
GIBT IHR IHR ALLES, AUCH IN WUNDERN GOTT.

in der wir uns befinden, notwendig, nicht alles so unüberlegt zu er-
reicht und durchgesetzt werden kann, wie es unser Wunsch wäre.

Anregungen sind uns immer erwünscht und können jederzeit im österrei-
chischen Bureau schriftlich vorgebracht werden und auch gegen Kritiken
haben wir nichts einzuwenden, falls sie uns vorgebracht werden. Es wäre
aber durchaus unangebracht, Kritiken hinter unseren Rücken herumzutragen,
da auf solche Weise der Grund einer abfälligen Beurteilung nicht beseitigt
werden könnte und so bestenfalls jenen Kreisen gedient wäre, welche aus ei-
nem oder dem anderen Grunde gegen die Ziele der österreichischen Organisa-
tion eingestellt sind.

Um alle Österreicher über die Tätigkeit der österreichischen Organisa-
tion am Laufen zu halten und zu jenen Problemen Stellung zu nehmen, die
für unsere Landsleute von besonderem Interesse sind, wurde beschlossen ein
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wird.

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lungen dankbar sein, welche österreichische Landsleute im Besonderen betref-
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dass damit ein Endergebnis geschaffen werde, welches die Österreicher im be-
freiten Italien näher aneinander bringen möge, um die in so schweren Zei-
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REICHT GLÜCKLICH EUCH ZUM BUND DIE
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UM EFFE: ZU HALTEN OHNE ENDE !
FÜR UNSER TEURES ÖSTERREICH !

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EIN EINZIGER FRIEDE SEI AUF DIESER WELT.
LASST NUR DIE HERZEN ZU DEN HERZEN
SPRECHEN,
DAS IST DIE SPRACH' DIE GOTT GEFÄLLT .
ERHEBT DIE HEIER PREIST DIE MUSEN,
STATT JEDEN BLUT' GEN SCHWERTESTREICH.
ERLÄSSEN SOLL IN UNSEREN BUSSEN,
DAS SCHÖNE LIED AUS ÖSTERREICH !

HUI, DA WIR FREI VON NOT UND PLAGEN
DANKEN WIR DANKBAR AUF ZU DIR MEIN GOTT ;
STEH BEI UNS AUCH IN FERNEN TAGEN .
GUTREULICH WOLLEN WIR TUN WAS DEIN GEBOT .
FÜHR UNS AN DEINER HAND DEM LICHT ENTGEGEN ,
UND GIB UNS KRAFT UND MUT ZUGLEICH .
WIR STEHN NUN JETZT DEINEN SEGEN ,
FÜR EIN GLÜCKLICH = ÖSTERREICH = .

==

sog. illegale national-sozialistische Partei am Tage des Einmarsches der deutschen Truppen höchstens 20 % der Bevölkerung umfasste, welcher sich grösstenteils aus arbeitslosen unversetzten, die von Leuten angeführt wurden, welche deutsche national-studentenverbände angehörten.

Der Anschluss ist somit als eine durch Terrorakte und Wankelmütigkeiten vorbereitete Vorgehensweise anzusehen, welche gegen den Willen der österreichischen Mehrheit der österreichischen Bevölkerung vollzogen wurde.

2.) Dass die vorstehende Behauptung an sich die österreichische Bundesregierung für den 13. März angesetzte wahre Volksbestimmung seinen Plänen entsprechend unbedingt verhindern musste und daher in aller Eile zwei Tage vorher im Österreich einmarschierte, ferner dass die sogenannte Abstimmung am 10. April 1938 unter gänzlich falscher Missdeutung der für eine geheime Abstimmung erforderlichen Voraussetzungen durchgeführt wurde.

3.) Dass die Moskauer Dreimächte-Erklärung hinsichtlich der österreichischen Frage folgenden Wortlaut besitzt:

"Die Regierungen des britischen Empire, der Sowjetunion und der Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika sind sich darüber einig, dass Österreich, das als erster Staat unter den freien Ländern den Angriff Hitlers zum Opfer fiel, von der Gemeinschaft der Deutschen zu befreien ist. Sie betrachten die Österreich im 13. März 1938 von Deutschland angetragene Annexion als null und nichtig. Sie betrachten sich in keiner Weise an irgendwelche Veränderungen gebunden, die sich von diesem Zeitpunkt an in Österreich ergeben haben. Sie erklären, dass sie die Wiederherstellung eines freien und unabhängigen Österreich wünschen, wodurch den österreichischen Volk selbst wie auch den Nachbarstaaten, die ähnlichen Problemen gegenüberstehen werden, der Weg zu jener politischen und wirtschaftlichen Stabilität freigesetzt werden soll, welche die einzige Grundlage für einen dauerhaften Frieden bildet. An Österreich ergicht jedoch wegen seiner Teilnahme an Krieg an der Seite Hitlers Deutschlands die Drängung, dass es eine Verantwortung hat, der es sich nicht entziehen kann, und dass besagter endgültiger Regelung der Bestrafung Österreich zu seiner eigenen Befreiung geleistet hat, unausbleiblich in Deutschland die Drängung, dass es eine Verantwortung an der Rückversicherung genügen werden wird."

4.) Dass es demzufolge auf die aktive Mitwirkung der Österreich an der Befreiung des Vaterlandes in besonderer Weise ankommt.

5.) Dass es eine Widerstandsbewegung in Österreich gebe (siehe nachfolgende Ausführungen unter diesem Titel).

6.) Dass wir Österreich im freien Ausland nicht die Stellung von alliierten = beanspruchten können inselange Österreich an der Seite der Deutschen gegen die alliierten Armeen kämpfen.

7.) Dass demzufolge jede wie eingetragene Begünstigung als ein besonderer Entgegenkommen der Alliierten anzusehen ist, dessen wir uns in unseren persönlichen Verhalten und Gebaren würdig und dankbar erweisen müssen.

8.) Dass wir weiters demzufolge nicht insinuiert stellen können, welche mit der vorbereiteten Sachlage von vorne herein als unvermeidbar betrachtet werden würden.

9.) Dass Unmöglichkeit unter den Österreichern im freien Ausland nicht nur den Alliierten gegenüber untragbar ist, sondern sich letzten Endes zum Schaden der Österreichern selbst auswirken würde.

10.) Dass persönliche Zwistigkeiten zwischen Österreichern vor dem österreichischen Limit zu ausgeglichen werden sollen und falls dem Anlass zu heftigen Angelegenheiten bilden können.

Unterlassen Sie es daher nicht, von immer gegenüber ihren Standpunkt auf die vorbeschriebene Art und Weise mit allem Nachdruck geltend zu machen!

=====

GIBT ES EINE WIDERSTANDSBEWEGUNG IN ÖSTERREICH?

Wir Österreicher im Ausland sind oft von der Welt abgeschnitten, dass uns die wichtigsten Dinge, die in unserer Heimat vorgehen, unbekannt sind. Ja, es gibt eine Widerstandsbewegung und zwar eine Bewegung, die bereit ist, die Befreiung unseres Vaterlandes mit ihrem Leben zu beschließen. Den Hinweis dafür liefern unsere Feinde selbst. Nach Veröffentlichungen der deutschen Presse sind im Laufe des letzten Jahres 206 Österreicher wegen Hochverrats hingerichtet worden. Das ist die Zahl der = offiziellen = Hinrichtungen, von denen durch Anschläge an Beamten und Lichtsäulen berichtet wurde. Wieviele ausserdem noch erschossen wurden, lässt sich nur mutmassen.

Wie immer, wenn auf dem Kontinent etwas geschieht, was den Deutschen unangenehm ist, sind Juden oder Kommunisten schuld. Das ist ebenso wahr wie die meisten anderen deutschen Meldungen. Die Widerstandsbewegung in Österreich ist eine einheitliche, umfasst alle Kreise von links nach rechts und das leitende Comité, das sich in Österreich selbst befindet, hat Männer aus allen Klassen des Landes in seiner Mitte.

Österreicher grüssen einander demonstrativ mit = Grüsse Gott = oder = Kapf =, was in diesem Falle = Kaput durch Führer = bedeutet. Kein Land wird von den Deutschen unter stärkerer Polizei-Kontrolle gehalten als Österreich. Unsere Heimat sieht mehr denn je wie ein grosses Gefängnis aus, das von der Aussenwelt fest hermetisch abgeschlossen ist. Mitte Oktober sind S.A. und SS Verstärkungen herangeführt worden. Österreichische Nationalsozialisten werden von der Gestapo als unverlässlich angesehen, und alle wichtigen Stellen sind mit Reichsdeutschen besetzt.

Die aktivste Form des Widerstandes leistet die Arbeiterschaft. Zusammenstösse werden unter anderem aus der Hirtenberger Munitionsfabrik, aus den Floridsdorfer Lokomotivwerken, den Köflacher Kohlengruben und den Linzer Maschinenanlagen gemeldet. Die vielen zehntausende Arbeiter fremder Nationalität bedeuten eine grosse Mißo. Sabotageakte sind an der Tagesordnung und Morden von den Deutschen nicht verhindert werden. Im Wiener Kunsttätter und Weinbrenner Bezirk kam es zwei Tage nach der Moskauer Deklaration zu Strassenkämpfen.

Um die wachsende Unzufriedenheit zu regeln, sind in der Umgebung Wiens allein fast 30.000 SS-Leute konzentriert, die kein Geheimnis daraus machen, dass sie für den Fall des Bürgerkrieges bereitgehalten werden.

Massendesertionen österreichischer Truppen an allen Fronten und Zersetzungserscheinungen innerhalb der Truppe sind an der Tagesordnung. Die Bestände der österreichischen Regimenten werden mit Deutschen aufgefüllt und in manchen Regimenten beträgt die Anzahl der Österreicher nicht mehr als 30 %.

Natürlich kann in diesem Moment nur wenig und nur Allgemeines über unsere Widerstandsbewegung gesagt werden. Aber eines Tages, wenn die Geschichte des unterirdischen Kampfes der Österreicher gegen die Nazi-geschriebenen werden wird, wird es sich zeigen, dass die Opfer die wir für unsere Freiheit gebracht haben, verhältnismässig oben so gross sind, als die anderer Nationen, ja vielleicht noch grösser.

Wie wir Österreicher auch gefühlt haben mögen, wir haben für unser Fohlor bitter bezahlt und haben gelernt, dass nur die Einigkeit im gemeinsamen Willen zum Kampf für die Freiheit die Zukunft eines Volkes gewährleistet.

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5 MINUTEN VOR 12h

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Der 25. Juli Witters ist angebrochen. 10 Jahre nach dem ersten nationalistischen Attentat, mit welchem die Terrorwelle in Österreich seinen Ausgang nahm, und ein Jahr nach der Sturze des Komplizen Mussolini erfüllt sich schicksalhaft der Beginn jener politischen Umwälzung, welche der Untergang

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denen durch Anschläge an Bauern und Lichtfässchen berichtet wurde. Wieviel ausserdem noch erschossen wurden, lässt sich nur raten.

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Wie wir Österreicher auch gefühlt haben mögen, wir haben für unsere Fehler Bitter bezahlt und haben gelernt, dass nur die Einheit im gemeinsamen Willen zum Kampf für die Freiheit des Volkes gewährleistet ist.

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Die sogenannte fünfte Front - wie sie Rosenberg selber nennt - hat ihre Offensive begonnen. Die Tatsache, dass Hitler noch nicht ins Jenseits befördert wurde, ist für den Fortgang der Entwicklung mehr oder minder bedeutend.

tungslos. Russland führt fünf Millionen Mann in die Endoffensive und sieben Millionen Amerikaner und Engländer stehen für den Vormarsch nach Europa bereit. Diesen zwölf Millionen können von Deutschland in besten Fall drei Millionen Mann gegenüber gestellt werden. Die Luftwaffe Deutschlands hat ihre praktische Bedeutung eingebüßt und reicht nicht einmal mehr zur Verteidigung gegen die täglich wachsenden alliierten Luftangriffe aus. Die deutsche Kriegsmarine existiert bereits seit langem nicht mehr.

Auch die Rückwirkungen dieser Zustände, auf die mit Deutschland Verbündeten, sowie auf die neutralen Staaten sind bereits deutlich zu erkennen: die Krise der deutschfreundlichen Regierung in Japan, die Regierungsumbildung in Finnland, der Abbruch der diplomatischen Beziehungen mit Deutschland seitens der Türkei sind ein Beweis hierfür.

In diesem Augenblick nun, knappe vier Überschreiten der deutschen Staatsgrenze durch die russischen Streitkräfte, nach Befestigung und Ausweitung des alliierten Brückenkopfs in der Normandie und während des unaufhaltbaren Rückzuges der Armees Kesselungs in Italien platzt im wahrsten Sinne des Wortes die Bombe.

Die entschlossene Tat des Oberst von Stauffenberg, welche von der nationalsozialistischen Berührungsspropaganda zunächst als ruchloser Anschlag einer bedeutungslosen Clique einiger weniger Offiziere bezeichnet wurde, führte bereits am nächsten Tag zur Festnahme von 5.550 Offizieren, unter denen die Namen der besten deutschen Heerführer aufscheinen. Goering ist gezwungen seine Offiziere zu verurteilen, jeweils eine Bestätigung über die Legitimität der ihnen gegebenen Befehle bei Himmler anzufragen, dem Mann, auf den die nationalsozialistische Verbotsverbände ihre ganze Aufmerksamkeit, letzte Hoffnung liegt. Inzwischen nähern sich die Galgen, deren Stricke die Halsen von abtrünnigen Feldmarschällen und Generälen umfassen, an der gleichen Stelle, an der Ritterkreuze stolz baumelten.

Man weiss bereits, dass in vielen Gebieten Deutschlands und der besetzten Gebiete eine offene Militärvolte ausgebrochen ist und werden speziell aus Süddeutschland und Österreich Kämpfe zwischen SS und WM, sowie Volkskundgebungen für den Frieden gemeldet. Ähnliche Erscheinungen spielen sich bereits in Ungarn und Bulgarien ab.

Ob es Hitler oder vielmehr Himmler gelingen wird, selbst mit Einsatz eines Teiles der Luftwaffe, diesen offenen Aufruhr zu unterdrücken, ist für die allgemeine Betrachtung ebenfalls bedeutungslos. Wesentlicher ist, wie sich das entstandene Chaos an den verschiedenen Fronten auswirken wird, wenn einmal der preussische Patentklebstoff = Disziplin = die Wehrmacht nicht mehr zusammenhält und gewisse Bruchstellen anklaffen beginnen.

Zusammenfassend kann jedoch nicht der geringste Zweifel darüber bestehen, dass die letzten fünf Minuten vor 12 Uhr begonnen haben, und wenn selbst Hitler seinen Grundsatze zufolge bis fünf Minuten nach 12 Uhr zu kämpfen bereit ist, ändert dies nichts an dem Umstand, dass das Ende des Naziterrors vor der Tür steht.

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M I T T E I L U N G E N :
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MILIONATION FÜR KINDER !

Von geistlicher Seite wurden der Marschgestelle eine beschränkte Anzahl von Dosen mit Condensmilch kostenlos zur Verfügung gestellt. Sie gelangen zur Verteilung. Anspruch darauf haben Kinder österl. Eltern bis zum vollendeten fünfzehnten Lebensjahre und zwar erhaltenes V.

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Zusammenfassend kann jedoch nicht der geringste Zweifel darüber bestehen, dass die letzten fünf Minuten vor 12 Uhr begonnen haben, und wenn selbst Hitler seinen Grundsatz auf Folge bis fünf Minuten nach 12 Uhr zu kämpfen bereit ist, ändert dies nichts an dem Umstand, dass das Ende des Naziterrors vor der Tür steht.

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M I T T E I L U N G E N :

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MILCHKARTEN FÜR KINDER !

Von geistlicher Seite wurden der Fürsorgestelle eine beschränkte Anzahl von Dosen mit Condensmilch kostenlos zur Verfügung gestellt. Sie gelangen zur Verteilung. Anspruch darauf haben Kinder österl. Eltern bis zum vollendeten fünfzehnten Lebensjahre und zwar erhalten Kinder bis zum vollendeten sechsten Lebensjahre je zwei und Kinder vom vollendeten sechsten bis zum vollendeten fünfzehnten Lebensjahre je eine Dose. Die Dosen können gegen Vorweis der österl. Ausweisakte der Eltern und der Geburtsbescheinigung der Kinder täglich zwischen 10 und 12 Uhr Vormittag im Austrian Office, Via Mercandante 15 behoben werden.

BEREIDUNGSSAMTION !

Von geistlicher Seite sind dem Fürsorgereferat in sehr beschränkter Umfang Anträge und Scheine für Männer, gegebenenfalls auch etwas Leibwäsche in Aussicht gestellt worden.

Im Falle grosser Bedürftigkeit, die eingehend zu begründen ist, können solche Bekleidungsgegenstände im A.O. schriftlich angefordert werden.

STELLENVERMITTLUNG !

Alle beschäftigungslosen Österreicher, die wegen Arbeitsvermittlung noch nicht an das A.O. herangetreten sind, werden eingeladen, ehestens ihren Lebenslauf = (unter besonderer Angabe ihres Studienganges, der Spezial- und Sprachkenntnisse) dem A.O., Via Mercadante 15 vorzulegen.

PRIVATUNTERRICHT !

Einer Anregung aus dem Kreise unserer Landsleute folgend, ist die Erteilung von Unterrichts in der deutschen Sprache an Kinder von Österreichern beabsichtigt.

Wir bitten alle Interessenten, zu diesem Zwecke im A.O. Via Mercadante 15 Zimmer Nr. 7 in den nächsten Tagen vorzusprechen.

Registrierung der durch das Naziregime geschädigten Österreicher !

Vom Naziregime geschädigte Österreicher werden aufgefordert, im Austrian Office, Via Mercadante 15 (Zimmer Nr. 7) vorzusprechen. Die Vorlage genauer, schriftlicher Unterlagen ist erwünscht, welche Angaben über die Art der Schädigung, insbesondere durch Vermögensverlustrichtung, Verlust von Stelle oder Ruhegenuss, Haft in Kerkern oder Konzentrationslager, Ermordung von Angehörigen, Beraubung durch Nazisten u. dgl. enthalten.

Vorsprache nach Anfangsbuchstaben und Tagen jedesmal zwischen 9,30 und

11 Uhr Vormittag :

A 14.; B 16.; C D E 17.; F 18.; G 21.; H 22.; I J 23.; K 24. und 28.;

L 29. und 30.; M 31. August; N O 1.; P 4.; R 5.; S 6.; Sch 7.; Sp und

St 8.; T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z 11. September.

VERLAUTBARHEIT !

a.) Der ständige Sitz des österr. Komitees und des österr. Bureau's in Rom ist in der Via S. Mercadante 15, Telefon 31 727.

Parteienverkehr Wochentags von 10 - 12 Uhr.

b.) Alle Österreicher, welche die österr. Erkennungskarte in Ermangelung von Dokumenten, welche die Staatsbürgerschaft am 10. März 1938 unter Beweis stellen, lediglich auf Grund einer eidstattlichen Erklärung ausgestellt erhalten haben, werden in ihrem eigenen Interesse ersucht, bis spätestens

fang nötige und Schube für Männer, gegebenenfalls auch etwas Leibwäsche in Aussicht gestellt worden.
In T. alle grosser Bedürftigkeit, die eingehend zu begreifen ist, können solche Einkaufsgüterstände im A.O. schriftlich angefordert werden.

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Merkblätter für Lebensmittelzuschüsse !

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In eigenen Interesse werden alle Österreicher, die bisher das Merkblatt für Lebensmittelzuschuss noch nicht ausgefüllt haben, eingeladen, zu diesem Behufe in der allernächsten Zeit an Wochentagen zwischen 10 und 12 Uhr im A.O., Via Mercadante 15 (Zimmer 7) vorzusprechen .

NACHRICHTEN ÜBER ÖSTERR. LANDSLEUTE !

Mittwoch, den 9. August 1944 wurden in der Kirche zum Hl. Herz Jesu Herr Erich Walther Neumann aus Wien und Fräulein Gabriella Colletti getraut. Dem jungen Paar unsere aufrichtigsten Segenswünsche. (Ann.d.Red.: Herr Erich Walther Neumann ist einer jener Österreicher, welcher die Schrecken der Via Tasso über sich ergehen lassen musste) .

HUMORISTISCHE ECKE !

.....

= Grossrechnenmachen im Reich =
(oder ein kleines Missverständnis) !

Bist Du verrückt geworden ?
Du schliesst auf ein eigenes Flugzeug !

Habe sieben vom Himmel telefonische Weisung erhalten alle Junkers abzunehmen .

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NACHTRAG :

Betrifft Registrierung ! Wegen Verhinderung des Referenten werden alle zwischen 14.8. und 21.8. vorgeladenen gebeten, an den entsprechenden Tagen der Woche von 11.9. incl. 16.9. vorzusprechen .=====

ANN. D. RED.:-

Wir bitten alle Landsleute uns verständigen zu wollen, wenn einer oder der andere unter ihnen das Nachrichtenblatt nicht zugestellt erhalten hätte ! - Vergessen Sie keinesfalls uns allfällige Adressänderungen rechtzeitig bekannt zu geben . (Zimmer Nr. 3) .

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The Austrian question.

It is not only love towards my dear mother country Austria, the external and internal situation of which I have been studying since my activity as Free University Professor in intimate friendship with Chancellor Schuschnigg which never ceasing attention, but also my vision as a provisional chairman of the Austrian Committee of liberation in Rome that had induced me to present you the following memorandum, respectfully asking you to transmit it to your Government.

I. Austria and the Anschluss.

There is no doubt that Austria has to fulfil a great task in the Central Europe peace reconstruction work of the World Powers. But the political situation with regard to Austria, the sovereignty of which has been and is still in the Moscow Declaration must not be affected by the mass psychosis for the Anschluss to which the Austrian people finally succumbed in March 1938 inside of the violent anti-Nazi fighting from 1930 to 1938. Since 1925 no other people has fought under the highest losses as energetically against the Anschluss and Nazism as the Austrians. Whereas in Germany the Socialists and the Centre party lost the national stage almost without resistance - true fighters were only the communists and some conservative Germans, Benito Mussolini's Austria continued to fight courageously and before the eyes of the whole world the struggle for her existence. More than 500 defenders of Austrian liberty were murdered in my mother province Styria alone from 1933 to 1938 by the illegal Nazis, being supplied in the beginning to Germany, later by Mussolini (through the German General Consulate Trieste, Laibach and Salzburg) even with arms. It suffices to recall the martyr death of the Austrian Chancellor Dollfuss that happened at a time when not a single European land power was doing the least bit against unbridled Nazism. Austria had to face Hitler's policy of force, defenceless and abandoned by all states, whereas an enormous propaganda machine and unlimited financial resources were at Hitler's disposal. Then came the treason of Mussolini, one of the most shameful felonies in the history of modern Italy. I know the private letters Mussolini wrote in 1933 and 1934 under continuous assurances of unconditional loyalty for Austria's liberty to Dollfuss. Their publication would prove historically that the Austrian people in its struggle for freedom was completely left in the lurch by all European Powers.

In order to understand the pro Anschluss psychosis well, it is necessary to keep in view the following facts:

1) The Peace Treaty of St. Germain was so bad and superficial that even without Nazism it would have led either to the Anschluss or to Austria being divided by her neighbouring states, in order to create at least peace and order in the Danubian Basin. That is why Germany skillfully exploited every commercial treaty with Austria trying to extort from her measures of interior policy. Austria had to vie repeatedly to illegal Nazis in internal affairs to obtain concessions of vital economic necessity. All neighbours of Austria, transferring

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their antipathy against against old Habsburg Monarchy on post-war Austria made without exception a short-sighted and egoistic policy in foreign and economic affairs as soon as the question of the maintenance of Austria arose. Continuously revealing among themselves they very often attacked Dollfus' reconstruction policy from behind regardless that in the end Austria's fate was to become theirs, too. Chancellor Seipel repeatedly spoke to his friends about this tragedy and so did Dr. Victor Adler, leader of socialists and excellent expert in foreign policy. Both condemned the St. Germain treaty as a diplomatic humbling, an opinion that some since 1925 has been openly uttered by leading circles of the British Labour party. Both Austrian politicians inside of their different political and well-knowning attitude clearly foresee that one day Austria would have to face the alternative: either a Danubian Federation (customs and monetary union with at least one of the neighbouring states: Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia) or the Anschluss which, however, was to become automatically the end of the freedom of the other Danubian states from the moment when Germany became the strongest military power in Europe, using Austria, as for national but for military purposes as a springboard to attack the other Danubian states. In this fatal attitude brought by the Vienna Convention the Allied Governments to no use. He so says Austrian independence by more or less new-made paper loans. What was no doubt a very unfavourable foreign policy. Such a policy does not help states in the long run, it speeds their downfall. Moreover states cannot be created without their vital needs and their economic duration being secured.

2) After Mussolini's reversal for Germany's help in the Abyssinian War had betrayed Austria, no other country was in the decisive months from January to March 1938 entirely abandoned even by England and France. Nothing can prove that better than the resultless intervention of Pope Pius XI after the moving letter of Cardinal Schuschnigg most urgent in entering the Holy Father to recommend to his great authority in London an active policy in favour of Austria. The same letter was directed by the whole Austrian Reichsrat to competent authorities. The result was a complete failure. The St. Germain Convention of 1919 was in active force in the military policy recovery to the Austrian already answered the Austrian external diplomatic move that England was not immediately interested in the Austrian question. France, however, once more in a cabinet crisis, declined to join Mussolini's policy. Thus Austria was caught dead as Hitler who had a very easy way to isolate the Austrian masses, abandoned, as they knew, by the great powers, suffering from unemployment and economic oppression, by the Anschluss, as the last way out from economic and political miseries of the years 1919 to 1938. Austria has become the victim of Mussolini's treason and French and English inactivity in these last days were then the present world war was being prepared. This was not begin with the Italian Campaign in 1935 but with Austria's downfall that automatically caused the rest. This is an historical fact well to be taken into consideration before accusing the Austrians for a 95% voting in favour of the Anschluss.

Whoever wants to build up a new Austria must not forget that this country, by its geographical situation in the Danubian basin, is of the greatest importance to all its neighbours and that therefore its reconstruction must be done in such a way that Austria is and remains really, not only seemingly, free.

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II. Austria's Mission in the Danubian Basin.

Austria is a catholic country; 95 % of her population belongs to the Roman-Catholic Church. What means, what Austria is for her nature forces a spiritual barrier between east and west. Therefore she has an important cultural mission to fulfill in Central Europe. That is why she cannot be incorporated into the expansive tendencies of pan-slavistic imperialism, nor into the political ideology of the east. Communism and sovietism are too hostile to the character of the Austrian people nor to the geographical situation of her country. On the other hand Austria must no longer run the risk of being absorbed into a German cultural imperialism of different colour (German national socialism). Both dangers can only be avoided by strengthening Austrian catholicism with the help of the Vatican, by creating internal stability on a democratic basis when the collaboration of Christian parties as well as of those of different political attitude. Economically Austria must so firmly be set into the Danubian Basin that her interests are not leading to the north (Berlin-Berlin) but to the south. The only possibility of reaching that is, in my opinion, a free federation of the Danubian states, at least of those bordering on Austria.

The Danubian Basin forms politically and ideologically an economic unit which is the argument for wealth and security of all nations living in it. That is why from a economic standpoint the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy was neither an arbitrary creation nor the result of a merely imperialistic policy but the expression of an absolutely necessary economic orientation in the Danubian Basin, not only according to wealth and security to the states taking part but also to finding a centre of political stability in Central Europe. Even today, no doubt, cannot be called back, but on the other hand with some good will it is not too difficult to be connected and Danubian states at least economically so that they secure themselves mutually against any separation and preservation of their independence. Therefore the re-establishment of a free Austria is also in the interest of all neighbouring states, that is to say of Hungary, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and finally of Italy. That, it is true, is not always obvious to many, but never for small Austria could be expected from the present catastrophe.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Please return
by return for file

SECRET

Headquarters,
A.A.I. (Adv).

AAT/1073/2/GSI(a)

20 July 44

Dear *Caccia*

You may care to have the attached 2nd Edition
of Cottlieb's views.

Yours sincerely
Charles Hove!

H. CACCIA Esq.,
Joint President, Political Section,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.

4863

B.G.S. (Ops)

You had the first edition of the attached paper on Austrians in R.M.

Messrs CACCI and RILEY have asked their governments whether the Austrian Movement is to be recognised but have had no answer and expect none.

I feel the movement is much too small still to make a song and dance about, and your P.W.B. and S.O.A. are apparently already in touch with the individuals. It might be a good thing if some notice was taken of BALDWIN merely to keep him sweet, but the appointment of an Allied organisation to look after 250 individuals seems a little unnecessary.

Do you agree?

C.H.
B.G.S. (I).
16/7

B.G.S. (I)

I sent the last report to Harold CACCI; I suggest this goes as well.

If you agree will you send it or shall I?

H.N.
(B.G.S. (Ops))

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TOP SECRETOFFICER ONLY

Copy 01:1.

The Free Austrian Movement in ROME1. GENERAL

Closer, but by no means exhaustive study of the AUSTRIAN movement which appears to have existed for some time and emerged publicly on the day of the liberation of ROME, reveals the following situation:-

A number of AUSTRIAN personalities, representing almost every section of the population of former AUSTRIA, took immediate steps to re-assume their original nationality. Some of them are now GERMAN subjects, some ITALIAN, others have no passport or papers. This action was caused by a wave of optimism and enthusiasm when the text of the MOSCOW declaration became known.

It is not quite clear to what extent all these AUSTRIANS had been in touch with each other and whether the opening of an AUSTRIAN OFFICE on 7 June 44 was the result of a coordinated plan. The fact is that on that day, a former AUSTRIAN flag was pinned on the wall of Room 50, HOTEL MAESTOSO, VIA VENETO and that all GERMAN or ITALIANS as well as passportless individuals who wished to re-assume their former AUSTRIAN nationality, began to register there on proformas which had already been printed.

At the time of writing, some 250 individuals have registered. They can roughly be divided in the following categories :-

- (a) AUSTRIANS domiciled in ITALY for a number of years before the ANSCHLUSS, who saw no reason to return to Greater GERMANY. Some of them are married to ITALIAN wives.
- (b) AUSTRIANS who emigrated to ITALY after the ANSCHLUSS, as there they were not subjected to racial or other discrimination until the arrival of the GESTAPO.
- (c) AUSTRIANS who were NOT immediately affected by the ANSCHLUSS; people who did not really mind what the political set up was as long as they were not molested and were allowed to continue their former life. Although they prefer to be AUSTRIANS they will always be on the winning side.
- (d) AUSTRIAN deserters from the GERMAN Army, some of which deserted in September 1943 and have been hiding since, and some who decided to remain behind when the Germans evacuated ROME.

It might be worth mentioning that there is a considerable number of AUSTRIAN women married to Italians. Although they cannot officially be classed as AUSTRIANS, they represent a certain AUSTRIAN element.

The AUSTRIAN OFFICE appears to be entirely self-appointed, possibly under the auspices of the AUSTRIAN Bishop HUDAL at the VATICAN (see Para 2 (b)).

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The AUSTRIAN OFFICE appears to be entirely self-appointed, possibly under the auspices of the AUSTRIAN Bishop HUDAL at the VATICAN (see Para 2 (b)). The original staff was supplied by the former AUSTRIAN COMMITTEE which was formed some time after the ANSCHLUSS by Herr BAMRAS (see Para 2(d)). There are, however, some personalities now working there who, although they have probably been active for AUSTRIA's liberation by different channels were not originally in the COMMITTEE. At the moment, personal or political controversies are, although they already exist, not serious, as the general enthusiasm for a re-born AUSTRIA is still stronger than internal rivalry. It is understandable though deplorable that BAMRAS's chief concern is to remain at the head of his committee and not to be ousted by more prominent or brilliant newcomers.

- 2 -

At the moment, the AUSTRIAN OFFICE is acting as a news REGISTRY OFFICE. There is talk of holding a meeting to elect a committee when the Allied attitude towards the movement becomes clearer.

The ultimate aim of all concerned is the liberation of AUSTRIA. They also want to form a military body or formation which is to carry on a partisan war under Allied command.

Some valuable information (on German defences, personalities, etc) have already been furnished to Allied Intelligence staffs. AUSTRIAN military personnel have been rounded up and forwarded to CSDIC.

Also, various Allied officers, representing their branches (GSI, PWB, SOE, CSDIC, etc) either officially or privately, have established contact with individual AUSTRIANS or the Office.

At the moment, there appears to be no form of coordination, as there seems to be no Allied directive on this matter. Thanks to RAMRAS, FROELICHSTHAL (see para 2 (c)) and their assistants, routine work is carried on in the Office.

There is, however, the danger of all these AUSTRIANS who irrespective of creed or political opinion are now, for once, more or less united in the desire to liberate their country, splitting up into various petty parties, each under the special protection of some Allied officer or department. Furthermore, there is the danger of disappointment at the lack of interest or directive on the Allied side. This applies in particular to individuals who have carried on underground activities at great risk, in the hope of being welcomed by our advancing armies. The fact that now nobody seems to know what to do with them must have a somewhat chastening effect.

A short description of the more prominent personalities involved, as well as suggestions for temporary measures are attached.

2. PERSONALITIES

The following personalities deserve separate mention :-

(a) Baron Dr E HERGER-WALDENBERG

Prominent member of the AUSTRIAN WEHR. Minister for Foreign Affairs under the DOLLFUS - STARHemberg regime. Prominently involved in the action against the Social Democrats in February 1934 and against the Nazis at the time of the attempted putsch in July 1934. Therefore on the Socialist and Nazi blacklists. Was appointed Minister to ROME under SCHUSSNIG. After the ANSCHLUS obtained ITALIAN nationality within 24 hours. Has been hiding at the VATICAN since September 1943. His son is ITALIAN officer PW in Allied hands.

A good AUSTRIAN patriot, but too heavily compromised politically to obtain the support of AUSTRIAN workers and liberals.

(b) Bishop HEDAL

A somewhat mysterious figure. Appears to have done a lot to help persecuted AUSTRIANS by hiding them at the VATICAN irrespective

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Published a book on "The Soul of National Socialism", dedicated to the "Inner Peace of the German Nation" in 1935.

...../3

- 3 -

(c) Dr V von FROELICHENHAL

Secretary of SCHUSCHNIGG's who managed to escape at time of ANSCHLUSS. Since then, made a living in ROME by giving lectures and private lessons. Obtained ITALIAN nationality(?).

Level-headed, reliable and hard-working. Recommends no action of any sort without Allied approval. Sincere and honest AUSTRIAN patriot.

A "Social Christian" with liberal tendency.

(d) Herr BAMRAS

Has been living in ROME for many years. Dental mechanic by profession. Formed AUSTRIAN COMMITTEE after ANSCHLUSS. Tried to organise all poor and displaced AUSTRIANS. Ran some sort of underground organisation since September 1943. Offered shelter to a number of escaped Allied PW.

Anxious to remain head of new AUSTRIAN COMMITTEE or organisation and therefore inclined to denounce all possible competitors.

Fanatic patriot, but somewhat restricted in outlook. Victim of AUSTRIAN failing to wage petty wars amongst each other. Instead of jointly fighting the common enemy. At the moment, it is difficult to assess how much support he commands, but there is no doubt that he has, at considerable risk, done a lot for helpless and persecuted AUSTRIANS as well as for escaped Allied PW.

Possibly not a sufficiently strong personality to command universal respect, but should by no means be neglected or pushed aside.

(e) Dr F von FREYCHA-ZILLIANY

Enterprising business man. Used to be honorary attaché with some AUSTRIAN consulates or legations. Interests in N ITALY (TRIESTE). Friend of BERGER WALDENEGG whom he helped while he was hiding from the Germans. Carried on his business under the German occupation. Now attacked by BAMRAS who accuses him of having been employed as local Purchase Official by the Germans. This may be untrue. Said to always have declared himself AUSTRIAN when speaking to Germans. Probably chiefly concerned in his own business. Said to have put some funds at the disposal of AUSTRIAN organisation.

Ambitious and anxious to play a part in new AUSTRIAN movement. Considered harmless and helpful by most AUSTRIANS except BAMRAS.

3. SUGGESTED ACTION

The decision regarding the official status of these AUSTRIANS, as well of those who will no doubt be found in every liberated area in EUROPE, will obviously be made on a very high level. No decisive action can therefore be taken before this decision or directive is known. The following suggestions are made to cover the

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The decision regarding the official status of these AUSTRIANS, as well of those who will no doubt be found in every liberated area in EUROPE, will obviously be made on a very high level. No decisive action can therefore be taken before this decision or directive is known. The following suggestions are made to cover the interim period :-

- (a) An Allied organisation with intimate knowledge of AUSTRIA, AUSTRIAN politics and personalities should be appointed to act as a coordinating unit for all AUSTRIAN matters. Allied Departments and organisations - GSI, SOE, FWD, etc, - interested in AUSTRIAN affairs should NOT deal directly with individual AUSTRIANS, but ONLY through this coordinating organisation which will keep a record of all AUSTRIANS and be in a position to advise on their reliability.

- (b) All persons claiming AUSTRIAN nationality must be made to register with this Allied organisation which will keep a check on them pending investigations of every individual case. It is suggested that persons with permanent domiciles are allowed to continue living there, provided they report with this authority at certain intervals (48 hours). Persons with no fixed domiciles (deserters and displaced persons) would have to be collected and concentrated at a camp under Allied supervision.
- (c) The organisation will have to examine all doubtful cases and investigate the reliability of denunciations of which there will be many.
- (d) Existing underground channels should be investigated and, if found useful, coordinated with possible special operations.
- (e) Possible candidates for an AUSTRIAN Special Force should be examined. These would also include AUSTRIANS at present in Allied PW Camps.
- (f) Some sort of welfare organisation for destitute victims of Nazi persecution should, if possible, be organised. Here a number of ITALIAN ladies of AUSTRIAN origin, some of which are not without means, might be approached.
- (g) This Allied organisation, which, apart from officers, should include one or two reliable AUSTRIAN civilians, to be set up at the earliest possible moment. Its seat should, for the moment, be in ROME, but later, N ITALY would be preferable.

Whatever the Allied decision may be, care should be taken NOT to offend or disappoint any large section of the population IN AUSTRIA, by favouring any individual who is politically compromised, what-ever his party may have been.

If possible, the cooperation of all those who are now sincerely offering to work for the liberation of their former country, should be encouraged on a STRICTLY NON-POLITICAL basis, with a promise (?) of an election in AUSTRIA, when the country is free. They may be told that, until the country is finally free, they cannot be considered as representative of the AUSTRIAN people, however sincerely they wish to help them.

Only proved AUSTRIAN Nazis should be arrested and tried as war criminals.

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21 June 1944

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PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH
INFORMATION AND CENSORSHIP SECTION

SECRET

German Political Intell. Section

July 18th 1944

INTERIM REPORT ON AUSTRIAN PERSONALITIES IN ROME

from J. A. Turner

1. The following notes concerning Austrian personalities in Rome are submitted. It is suggested that they have a reliability B. The informant referred to as (1) is a Viennese industrialist about 40, D. Sc., prominent social position Vienna, active Social Democrat. Knows Austrian personalities now in Rome from Vienna period, and has preserved contact without taking part in activities, though offered place on Committee.
2. DR. HUDAL. Some time Professor at Graz University. Bishop of Elia in part. 4. fid. It is said that this prelate had a part in the Heimwehr activities of February 1934 in Vienna.
3. It may be remembered that the Social Democrats in Vienna, under the not ungrounded impression that violence was about to be used on them, attempted to prevent the searching of their houses and arrest of their persons. They resisted military attack and were defeated.
4. There is a conviction in some quarters that from 1934 onwards the Bishop stood very near Dr. Dollfuss. (The expression "Graue Eminenz" is used). If this is so, it is perhaps remarkable that no record can be found of his taking an official or semi-official position in the Government.
5. "A reactionary intriguer, who is amazingly clever... A very skilful diplomat... Has close relations with the Jesuit Vicar General."
6. Further statements: Bishop Hudal supported for some time the Austrian Legitimist movement but, it is said, only for political and personal reasons. "He will support any and every movement which will give him the opportunity of satisfying his enormous ambition."
7. After the Anschluss the Bishop repeatedly made attempts to act as a mediator between National Socialists and the Vatican. It may not without

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7. After the Anschluss the Bishop repeatedly made attempts to act as a mediator between National Socialists and the Vatican. It may not without interest to note that in 1937 the Bishop had already published a book called "Die Grundlagen des Nationalsozialismus", the dedication of which runs:

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- 2 -

"Dieses Volk, das ich mit meinem Konsulat geschrieben habe, weihe ich dem inneren Frieden unerschütterlichen Volkes."

It may be fair to say that the book represents an attempt to reconcile National Socialism and Christianity and is an interesting work. (Material available).

The Bishop, when reference was made in conversation to this book, said sadly that all copies had been destroyed by the National Socialists.

6. "When attempts to act as a mediator between the Nazis and the Roman Catholic Church failed, the Bishop became a ferocious anti-national Socialist."

7. This informant proceeds to indict the so called "Austrian Committee" as "a mere screen behind which Bishop Hudal will try to play his personal game."

It is alleged that he had great difficulty in finding men who would allow themselves to be nominated for the "Committee" as "representatives" of the Austrian parties. The member named, for instance, who is said to represent the Social Democrat Party is merely a master in a list of members of the same Party in 1938. He has never taken any part in the politics of his Party. The same can be said of the Committee member Maximilian Neufeld, and certainly the others are complete nonentities."

10. Bishop Hudal has had no success in persuading former Austrian political leaders, now in exile, to join the 'Committee' though he made what are described as "enormous efforts" to persuade them to do so.

11. There was an allegation that Bishop Hudal's main support came from "some thousands" of Austrian deserters living in and about Rome. This has now been investigated and it seems that such deserters number perhaps twenty.

12. It is stated that the Bishop, acting for the "Austrian Office," has issued Austrian papers to German officers who had deserted from the German Army.

13. In recent months, according to report, the Bishop has been preoccupied with the Russian reaction to Dr. Henes' policy. He is said to have been in a very gloomy mood about the time that Dr. Henes went to Moscow.

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8. "Then attempts to act as a mediator between the Church and the Roman Catholic Church failed, the bishop became a ferocious anti-national Socialist."

9. This informer pretends to insist that he called "Austrian Committee" as "a mere screen behind which Bishop Hudal will try to play his personal game." It is alleged that he had great difficulty in finding men who would allow themselves to be nominated for the "committee" as "representatives" of the Austrian parties. The number of men, for instance, who is said to represent the Social Democratic Party is merely a number in a list of members of the same party in 1938. He has never taken any part in the politics of his Party. The same can be said of the Committee member Maximilian Neufeld, and certainly the others are complete nonentities."

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14. The same source sums up Bishop Hudal's activities thus: "He sets himself

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- (a) against the spreading democratic and communist influence among free Austrians.
- (b) He is against the influence of the Austrian organization in the United States of America, which is headed by Julius Deutsch who, continues the informant, is said to have the support both of the Americans and the Russians.
- (c) He opposes any possible influence of the Austrians living in London, among whom are former leaders of the Austrian Social Democrats.

15. "It is the Bishop's mission to have, in every possible way, a leading part in the political reconstruction of Austria. (It is noticed that Rudal signs the official documents of the Austrian Committee as "Bishop Rudal". This is said to be the first time in his whole career that Bishop Rudal allows himself to appear as having any official part in political life.)

16. "Bishop Rudal often stresses that his efforts are supported by Starkenberg and in recent weeks he has repeatedly announced the imminent arrival of Starkenberg (former leader of the Heimwehr) in Rome."

17. In anonymous report submitted to A.C.C. praise the Bishop's work in saying that he gave much assistance to allied escaped prisoners of war.

18. A very reliable source reports that the Bishop was instrumental in obtaining a postponement of the persecution of Jews in Rome and intervened with general assistance on their behalf.

19. Freiherr Baron Eugen von Salisberg.

Source 1: (Austrian, is reliability "uu")

"A man of the Heimwehr. Since 1938 this organization has represented reactionary factions of the 'Sturmabteilung', former officers of the U.S. Army, officials of the old U.S. provincial administration etc. The Heimwehr rapidly found itself in opposition to the Pan-German Party (almost completely identified with the Deutsche Club in Vienna). To this latter belonged the best elements of Austria's intellectual and economic life and nearly all the

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The informant goes on to recall that the Heimwehr was much smaller than the Pan-German Party and probably had 5% of the parliamentary representation. He points out that in 1933 the Heimwehr received considerable financial support from Jews and attributes the anti-National Socialist policy of the Heimwehr in part to this.

20. "Berger von Waldeneck comes from an aristocratic Carinthian family. His place in Austrian political life was never important. He was sent to Rome when Mussolini had definitely established his control on the whole Heimwehr movement. His part as Minister to the Quirinal was to receive and transmit orders." The source characterizes Berger von Waldeneck as an unintelligent man. Alleges further that the former Minister is a mere instrument in the hands of Bishop Radel.

21. Source II:

"Baron Berger - Waldeneck, the last Austrian minister to Rome.

A prominent figure in the Heimwehr and Foreign Secretary and Minister of Justice in the Dollfuss - Starhemberg regime. He played an important part in the Heimwehr campaigns against the Socialists in February 1934 as well as against the Nazis in the attempted Putsch of July 1934. With Starhemberg, he was largely responsible for Italy's 'protective' attitude to Austria up to 1937. After the Anschluss and the massacre of many Heimwehr personalities like Major Fey, etc., he obtained Italian nationality within 24 hours. His son was an officer in the Italian Army and was later a P/W in Allied hands. (June 1944)."

"Although there is no doubt that Berger - Waldeneck is a sincere Austrian patriot, the more democratic and socialist Austrians, in other words the 'Committee', regard him with great suspicion. His offer to assume leadership of the 'Committee' was not accepted, as his connections with Mussolini, Ciano etc. raised doubt as to the sincerity of his present democratic outlook."

22. It seems from a casual statement made by Berger von Waldeneck that his son has been allowed to enlist in the British army. Berger v. Waldeneck visited his son at Bari about June 20th and was accorded considerable privilege in travel for this purpose by local British Army Authorities.

The informant goes on to state that the Pan-German Party and probably had 5% of the parliamentary representation. He points out that in 1935 the Heimwehr received considerable financial support from Jews and attributes the anti-National Socialist policy of the Heimwehr in part to this.

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23. A later note on Pickop HUAL is added here:

"a well informed Vatican spokesman expressed the view that the Vatican was 'astonished' at the behaviour of Bishop Hudal. Other informants close to the Vatican have also stated that Hudal's personal authorisation of 'Austrian Committee identity cards' had caused misgivings and embarrassment to the Vatican authorities."

24. Note on Dr. Josef Dobrowsky.

The "Austrian Committee" has chosen Dr. Dobretsberger as its new chairman. In recent years he has been living in Ankara. Bishop Andral will give up his leadership of the "Austrian Committee" when Dobretsberger arrives, but will remain a member.

25. Dr. Dobretshager is now about 42. He comes from Styria. First public post was as Professor of Sociology in the University of Graz, 1934. He became an exponent of "Catholic action" and a stout defender of the "Fatherland Front". Spoke in public on behalf of both these movements frequently.

His friend Prof. Johannes WIESNER, who was the sociological adviser of Chancellor Dollfuss and the one of the originators of the idea of a "Christian Guild State" brought Bobretzberger to Chancellor Schuschnigg (1936). Publications of Bobretzberger's, notably articles in the Government organ "Reichspost" and in the "Monatsschrift für Kultur und Politik" supported Schuschnigg's policy.

25. In 1937 Dobretshberger was made "Minister für Soziale Verwaltung" (Minister of Social Administration, covered in England by the Ministry of Health and Home Office).

26. The new Minister disappointed even colleagues to some extent, at least in practical matters. He was not popular with the working classes, and there were increasing administrative and executive difficulties. Dobretsberger's attempts to reach an understanding with the Social Democrats failed repeatedly. He resigned after some months of office.

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- 6 -

27. An outward cause of his withdrawal from the Schuschnigg Administration may perhaps be found in his share in the "Phoenix" scandal.

(It is recalled here that it was proved that the General Director of this bankrupt insurance company, BERLINER, had made costly presents to Dobretsberger. It may well be that the responsibility for this rests rather on Dobretsberger's young wife).

28. Shortly after the Anschluss Dobretsberger found himself called to the University of Ankara to take the place of the German Sociologist Prof. Wilhelm ROEHKE (now at Geneva).

29. Dr. Dobretsberger remains at Ankara.

30. Dr. von FRÖHLICHSTHAL

Source I: "A former Chef du Cabinet of Dr. Dollfuss."

31. Source II: "An Austrian who, in a semi-diplomatic capacity, has been at the Vatican for some years. Scientist and lecturer. A prominent member of the Christian - Socialist Party. After some initial hesitation, he was accepted by the Committee." (Allied military authorities have spoken well of Baron von Fröhlischthal). "Also he has assisted RSI by earmarking all Austrians capable of giving military information on German fortifications, organizations, etc."

32. "Dr. Peter KAHNICH, who, according to the Committee, was employed as Versorgungsoffizier (Local Purchase Officer) by the German Army in Italy. He has now adopted a violently Austrian attitude and, apart from having attached himself in some capacity to Berger - Walchens, is also about to carry on his former occupation, e.g. supplying troops, for the Allied armies. This appears to cause some astonishment and resentment amongst all other Austrians."

33. Austrians who would be prepared to work with P.W.B. on propaganda. It has not yet been possible to ascertain the number of these Austrians. There have been a number of denunciations of such as have reported themselves

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33. Austrians who would be prepared to work with P.W.B. on propaganda. It has not yet been possible to ascertain the number of these Austrians. There have been a number of denunciations of such as have reported themselves to this office or have been met elsewhere, and counter-denunciations are becoming more frequent.

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34. Most of those to whom your correspondent has spoken seemed to consider anything other than a denunciation or counter-denunciation a waste of breath. There can be little doubt in some cases that the political position of the person seeking employment is ambiguous or doubtful.

35. Some cases have had to be referred, through liaison channels in P.W.B., to the proper authorities.

36. Two, Journalists, have been referred to Mr. Ryvel for possible use in Leaflet Section, one case to the Art Department, and two to the technical side of Broadcasting. It is not known whether any of these were actually taken on strength. For eighteen nothing could be done, for various reasons, and two have been engaged. Lt. Colonel Macfarlane has been informed of the engagement.

37. While it cannot be doubted that an impressive array of talent exists among the Austrians in Rome, it also cannot, it is submitted, be doubted that each belongs to one or other of the factions mentioned in the Interim Report of July 8th. The leaders of these factions would like nothing better than to put forward candidates for posts with P.W.B. and this in fact they do. Some prominent Austrians have even allowed their feelings to become visible on learning that there were two Austrians employed here whom they had not nominated, or indeed ever met.

TOP SECRET

(110/-/ld)

Mr. Caccia,

I return herewith J.A. Turner's report on the activities of the German Intelligence (Political) Section which you left with me some days ago.

2. Deputy High Commissioner wonders whether copies of this report have gone to the Foreign Office. If not, he thinks they should, and in that case perhaps I could send them by bag?

4.8.44

KA

D. H. J. Aug 9.

Mr. Caccia says that he + Mr. Roper felt that Mr. Turner's reports were not very good + sh^d not be forwarded to FO + State Dept.

4855

TOP SECRET

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF GERMAN INTELLIGENCE
(POLITICAL) SECTION from J.A. Turner

1. The undersigned arrived in Rome from convalescence on June 21st, having left P.F.P. Naples about 1030 a.m., and was accommodated at Hotel Ludovisi.

2. He reported to Dr. Hartshorne on June 22nd and understood from him that he was to work in the Department named above and generally to take over as much of the work concerning Austria as was feasible.

24. The first day was largely taken up in establishing which of the former Austrian diplomatic personalities ought to be seen at once and visiting such as were more easily accessible.

4. A visit was paid on June 23rd to Baron Berger von Waldeneck, to whom the undersigned was introduced by Dr. Breyer, who was a member of the Legation Staff before the Anschluss. It will be remembered that Baron Berger von Waldeneck was the last Minister to the Quirinal of the former Austrian Federal State.

This interview took place in the Albergo Maestoso (Hotel Majestic). Other people present included Baron von Willehismathal who, however, was called away at the beginning of the conversation.

5. (It may be worth noting that neither Minister Berger von Waldeneck nor Baron von Föhlischthal found it necessary to mention that both have been Italian subjects since 1940.)

6. Dr. Breyer spoke alone with your correspondent for some

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2. He reported to Mr. Hartshorne on June 22nd and understood from him that he was to work in the Department named above and generally to take over as much of the work concerning Austria as was feasible.
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4. A visit was paid on June 27th to Baron Berger von Waldeneck, to whom the undersigned was introduced by Dr. Freyher, who was a member of the Legation Staff before the Anschluss. It will be remembered that Baron Berger von Waldeneck was the last Minister to the Quai of the former Austrian Federal State.

This interview took place in the Albergo Maestoso (Hotel Majestic). Other people present included Baron von Frolichsthal who, however, was called away at the beginning of the conversation.
5. (It may be worth noting that neither Minister Berger von Waldeneck nor Baron von Frolichsthal found it necessary to mention that both have been Italian subjects since 1940.)
6. Dr. Freyher spoke alone with your correspondent for some minutes, expressing his enthusiasm for the Declaration of November 1st 1943 and the great eagerness of himself and others ^{148.3.4} to assist in every way possible. He urged that propaganda to Austria "should begin at once" and explained that the former Minister and the Embassy - Staff had established an "Austrian Office" which,

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it was hoped, would organise all Austrians resident in Rome and Southern Italy and later throughout Italy, and present a unified Anti - Nazi Front.

Dr. Breycher went on to refer to questions in the House of Commons on Wednesday, June 21st, when H.B.M.'s Foreign Secretary (the Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden) in answering a question referring to the hoisting of the Austrian flag on the former Austrian Legation Building in Rome, appeared to fix the blame for this on Baron Berger von Waldenege personally. Dr. Breycher began to explain the incident, when the conversation was interrupted by the former Minister himself, who sent Dr. Breycher away and personally took over the explanation.

7. Since the former Minister has already made explanations to A.C.C. as well as privately to H.B.M.'s Foreign Minister, it is not surposed here to go further into the matter, than to state that according to the Baron, he knew nothing of the incident until informed of it at his residence and immediately drove to the former Austrian Legation where, in the "fictitious enthusiasm" following the Allied occupation and the sight of "his Country's flag, he could not restrain from publicly saluting it".

He went on at considerable length to express his admiration for the Allies and to express strong hope that the incident of the flag would have no unfortunate effect on his personal relationship with Mr. Eden or on the good feeling of H.M.'s Government for Austria as expressed in the Declaration of November 1st 1943. Baron Berger von Waldenege also was good enough to show your correspondent copies both of a telegram and a letter addressed to Mr. Eden, in which the explanation just given was tendered. In taking leave, the former Minister hinted that there were those who would very gladly do him harm and seemed to be suggesting that some embassy could easily have obtained entrance to the Legation building, could have hoisted the flag, and then arranged for the

former Minister to be told

4633

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ex - Minister to be told.

8. In this connection he mentioned one Dr. Karl Bambas, who is said to be a rival candidate for the leadership of the Austrians in Rome and who might have done this and even found means to inform

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some responsible person in London - with indignation - while Vladimir Berger von Waldeneck for the act.

9. On the 24th a visit was paid to Dr. Freyner at his personal office in Via Sallustiana and much was said by Dr. Freyner in the space of about 20 minutes about the "unfortunate effect of the lack of any propaganda specifically directed to Austria from Rome." It was his opinion that German propaganda would make use of this lack. He said further that he was continually being pressed by members of the Austrian group in Rome who were willing to help and wanted action; and he wanted to be in the position to use this enthusiasm before, as he put it, "it ran out of the soles of their boots."

10. Dr. Freyner, in the same interview, also mentioned that members of another diplomatic representation in Rome, which he did not care to name, also asked him frequently whether the Austrians had formed a unified committee and what recognition it had.

is

Constitutional
and
Holy Office

11. The Austrians resident in Rome held a meeting on Sunday July 2nd, to which every Austrian was invited, under the chairmanship of Dr. HUMAL, Bishop of Als, who is the prelate responsible for the spiritual welfare of Austrians in Italy.

As will be seen from your correspondent's report of the same date, the meeting proceeded to form

(a) an Austrian Committee - "Oesterreichisches Patriarchats-Komitee" - and

(b) an Austrian Office. (No German name has been used for the latter so far).

12. The text of the invitation is added here:

4852

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10. Dr. Breysner, in the same interview, also mentioned that members of another diplomatic representation in Rome, which he did not care to name, also asked him frequently whether the Austrians had formed a unified Committee and that recognition it had.

*and Confidential
Office*

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"(1)

Rom, im Juni 1944

Mit ausdrücklicher Genehmigung der alliierten Behörden findet SONNTAG, den 2. Juli 1944 um 16 Uhr in der Via di S. Maria dell'Anima Nr. 64, I. Stock eine

VOLLVERSAMMLUNG DER OESTERREICHISCHEN

statt, zu der alle in Rom lebenden Oesterreicher herzlich eingeladen sind. Es ist im Interesse jedes Einzelnen an

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"dieser Versammlung teilzunehmen und wird deshalb mit vollzähligen Erscheinen gerechnet."

Bei Betreten des Lokals ist die österreichische Ehrenkommande erschienen.

Um pünktliches Erscheinen wird dringend gebeten.

Eine Samstagsveranstaltung in der Presse erfolgt nicht." (1)

14. As your correspondent has already reported the details of the above meeting and the principal statements made by Bishop Hudal, he will limit himself to a short statement of some remarks in regard to the leaders of the Austrian Movement and their way of countering the strong opposition they meet among their fellow-citizens.

14. During the meeting it seemed noticeable that Bishop Hudal was afraid to be interrupted by some impromptu question. He implored the audience not to show any sign of dissentment, especially in regard to the method of election of the members of the Committee and to the names of the appointed persons, in order to give the impression of a united front to the Allied authorities. Bishop Hudal stressed that "nearly every Austrian has failed sometime", but that all would be welcomed in the new Austrian Community provided that "their hands are not stained with blood".

Bishop Hudal underlined that every sign of disagreement would be a handicap for "leaders of the Fifth Column, who - one never knows - could be present even in this meeting".

15. This strong appeal for unity was supported by Dr. Rebas who made a short speech stating that unity now is indispensable for the Renaissance of Austria. The observer gained the impression that Dr. Rebas's statement suggested a leader of the opposition, who - perhaps for reasons - wished to show his agreement with the procedure adopted.

14. As your correspondent has already reported the details of the above meeting and the principal statements made by Bishop Hudai, he will limit himself to a short statement of some remarks made by the leaders of the Austrian movement and their way of summing up the strong opposition they meet among their fellow-citizens.

15. During the meeting it seemed noticeable that Bishop Hudai was afraid to be interrupted by some inappropriate question. He implored the audience not to show any sign of dissent, especially in regard to the method of election of the members of the Committee and to the names of the appointed persons, in order to give the impression of a united front to the Allied authorities. Bishop Hudai stressed that "nearly every Austrian has failed sometime", but that all would be welcomed in the new Austrian community provided that "their hands are not stained with blood".

Bishop Hudai underlined that every sign of disagreement would be a handicap for "members of the fifth column, who - one never knows - could be present even in this meeting".

16. This strong appeal for unity was supported by Dr. Berbas who made a short speech stating that unity now is indispensable for the renaissance of Austria. The observer gained the impression that Dr. Berbas's statement suggested a leader of the opposition, who - perhaps for reasons - wished to show his agreement with the procedure adopted.

17. There was no other interruption of Bishop Hudai's long speech, which was rhetorically very well put together and, though more than one hour, avoided any precise statement about the aims of the Committee and its future work.

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17. It is not easy to assess the real effect of Tishay's allocation on the assembly. It may be that the cheers, which sometimes interrupted the speaker's speech should not be taken as indicating unconditioned agreement. From information gathered by your correspondent, the attitude of Austrians living in Rome is regarded to the new Austrian movement can perhaps be characterized as follows:

18. (a) One section of the Austrians in Rome (the writer is unable to say how many) this part is larger or smaller than the others) supports the former Austrian Minister in Rome, Baron Berner von Waldeneck, and Baron Wölflschthal, but shows a strong opposition to the members of the Committee.

(b) The second "party" seems to trust the members of the Committee, but can be considered rather hostile to Baron Berner von Waldeneck.

(c) The third part of the Austrians resident in Rome is not willing to deal with the Committee and the Austrian Office at all.

(d) The first faction seems to consider that Baron Berner von Waldeneck represents the old diplomatic Austrian class, and that the former Minister could easily get in touch with the Allied authorities. These Austrians take the line that Baron B. v. W., though an Italian subject since the Anschluss, may offer a certain guarantee that the establishment of an Austrian Office will be conducted by a man with experience and a professional diplomat. It seems that such Austrians have faith in the diplomatic skill of Baron B. v. W. without stopping to consider what the political line Baron B. v. W. will follow in his further acting might be.

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This group seems to be rather reluctant to recognize the authority of the members of the Committee, who - it is frequently said - are rather colourless persons and new in political affairs. There are those who say that the members of the Committee cannot be considered as a representative body of the Austrians living in Rome.

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many Catholics went away with a feeling of dissatisfaction.

Notes:

Bishop HUBAL is resident at Via della Pace 20.

Hieron von FROMMELT lived for some years in the Vatican.

He is or was the translator of Papal speeches into German.

Said to have personal favour of Pope Pius XII. This is probably not the case with Bishop Hubal.

J. A. TURNER

Hubal - former Bishop of Bonn

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(6)

20. The second group shows a strong opposition to Baron Berger von Waldeneck, who, they say, is a mere opportunist; a man who tries to get the greatest personal advantage out of the actual situation and a reactionary who cannot be said truly to represent Austrian interests at the moment. This group gives its agreement to the Committee as a whole but with reservations. The writer is under the impression - according to the people with whom he had the opportunity to talk - that these Austrians approve the Committee as a whole because they sympathize personally with one or two of its members. The group, however, considers the influence of the members of the Committee on the whole direction of Austrian affairs to be rather slight, perhaps being persuaded that the "Austrian Office" will be the leading part of the body.

(c)

21. A third section of the Austrians resident in Rome refuses any cooperation with either the Committee or the "Austrian Office". Their view appears to be that none of the leading men are representative of a free Austria, that some of them may indeed be suspected of former pro-sect feelings and that it is impossible to speak of a Committee based on democratic principles the members of which have been appointed without any free election.

Although direct evidence of this is lacking, the impression is gained that this third faction shows an inclination towards socialism and communism.

Members of this last group go so far as to say that the actual Austrian body as constituted "is the best hiding-place for former National Socialists."

22. Objections to the election proceedings after the meeting of Sunday, July 2nd, were expressed, especially in regard to the approval of the list of Committee members as a whole instead of electing every single person proposed individually. The writer noted signs of disapproval when the chairman began to speak about the list of members of the Committee. It was also noticed that at

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21. A united section of the Austrians resident in Rome refuses any cooperation with either the Committee or the "Austrian Office". Their view appears to be that none of the leading men are representative of a free Austria, that some of them may indeed be suspected of former pro-Nazi feelings and that it is impossible to speak of a Committee based on democratic principles the members of which have been appointed without any free election.

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Bambas is thought to have strong personal ambition and has at the moment some left support.

The enthusiasm produced by the last words of Bishop Hudal's speech faded very quickly after the meeting and it seemed that

TELEGRAM
From Sir D. Osborne
To Mr. Eden
No. 319
CYPR.

File
Aaz
July 17th 1944

Your telegram No. 317.

I think that an altogether exaggerated importance is being given to the Austrian Committee in Rome. In any case there is no question of its recognition. It is so little recognised that when it recently asked permission to publish in the press a notice advising Austrians in Rome how to obtain rations, the request was refused. The Committee, which consists only of a small body of Austrians whom the Security Authorities have not thought it worth while to intern, is entirely innocuous and seems to serve some useful local purposes.

O S B O R N E.

7/18/44

The Secretary of the
Austrian Committee,
Rome, Via dell'Anima 64

File:
July 4th, 1944.

The Secretary of the
Political Section A.C.C.,
Ministero delle Corporazioni,
R o m e

I beg to inform me when the Chairman of the Committee,
Bishop Prof. Dr. Hudal and Minister Dr. Berger-Waldenegg, the
head of the Austrian Office, may be received by Mr. Reber
and Mr. Caccia.

Thanking you in advance, I remain

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

578.1

SECRET

POL SEC

2925 file

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION INCOMING MESSAGE

TO: AFHQ FOR G-5 US POLITICAL ADVISOR AND BRITISH RESIDENT MINISTER RPTD TO ACC MAIN
SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: N 71/4
FROM: ACC ADVANCED FROM STONE CLASSIFICATION: SECRET
REFERENCE No: ACC ADV 112 PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE
DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: JULY 4/1955 OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITE ADV 221

REFERENCE ACC ADV 112 JUNE 28. COMMUNICATION FROM AUSTRIAN BISHOP HUDAL DATED JULY 2 HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY POLITICAL SECTION ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION. THIS COMMUNICATION STATES THAT AN ASSEMBLY OF ALL AUSTRIANS ELECTED AN AUSTRIAN COMMITTEE OF INDEPENDENCE UNDER THE PROVISIONAL CHAIRMANSHIP OF BISHOP HUDAL DEPUTY CHAIRMAN MISTER KARL BAMBAS, AND MEMBERS ERNST BREUER, RUDOLF KRONAU, MAXIMILIAN NEUFELD, JOSEPH PODHOSTNIK, AND THAT THE ASSEMBLY CONFIRMED THE DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE TO APPOINT BERGER WALDENEGG HEAD OF AN AUSTRIAN OFFICE. ACCORDING TO THEIR PLAN THE AUSTRIAN OFFICE WILL QUOTE MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH ALLIED AND ITALIAN AUTHORITIES AND TAKE CARE OF AUSTRIANS LIVING IN FREE ITALY UNQUOTE. THE COMMITTEE PROPOSES IN COLLABORATION WITH THE AUSTRIAN OFFICE TO "PURSUE THE FOLLOWING AIMS (1) COLLABORATION IN THE INTELLIGENCE BRANCH, (2) COLLABORATION IN PROPAGANDA DESTINED FOR AUSTRIA, AND (3) UTILIZATION OF ALREADY ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH AUSTRIAN PARTISAN MOVEMENT" PARA A REPLY IS BEING ADDRESSED TO BISHOP HUDAL STATING THAT HIS COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND THE SUBSTANCE OF IT IS BEING FORWARDED FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS BUT THAT, PENDING THEIR REPLY, NO RECOGNITION CAN BE AFFORDED EITHER THE COMMITTEE OR THE AUSTRIAN OFFICE BY THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES IN ITALY.

ACC MAIN DIST

COPY

DATE and Time of RECEIPT JULY 4/1955

Distribution:

SECRET



Info - CSD
DEACC
CABR
PR BR
Tied
FLOAT(2)

Pol-Sec 2924 file

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS FOR G-5 REPEATED AFHQ ADV C.P. AND ACC MAIN

ACC ADV

SECRET

112

ROUTINE

6/28/10 a.m.

POLITICAL

FULL AIRMAIL REPORT ON AUSTRIAN ACTIVITIES IN ROME SUBMITTED BY POLITICAL SECTION
 JUNE TWO FIVE TO UNCLE SUGAR POLITICAL ADVISOR BRITISH RESIDENT MINISTER AND GEORGE
 FIVE PD PAREN TO AFHQ FOR GEORGE FIVE REPEATED AFHQ ADV COMMAND POST AND ACC MAIN
FROM ACC ADVANCED FROM STONE REFERENCE FOX XRAY SIX FOUR ZERO ONE ZERO CITE F H G G
JUNE TWO FOUR PAREN TO DATE NO MEETING OF AUSTRIAN GROUPS HAS BEEN HELD AND NO
 PROGRAM SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION ALLIED GOVERNMENTS

ACC MAIN DIST

INFO ACTION POL SEC
 INFO CSO
 DEP CC
 CA IR
 IR IR
 FILE
 FLOAT 2



L. T. MONTANT JR

4844

ACTION COPY

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

OUTGOING MESSAGE

TO: ATHQ POF 6-5, U. S. POLITICAL ADVISOR AND BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL
DATE TO ACC MAIN SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: _____

FROM: ACC ADVANCED CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

REFERENCE No: 221 PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: 7/7/44 OFFICE OF ORIGIN: ALLIED

COMMUNICATION FROM AUSTRIAN BISHOP HUBAL DATED JULY TWO HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY POLITICAL SECTION ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION PD BARRI TO ATHQ FOR GEORGE RYER TO ACC MAIN

FROM: ATHQ POF 6-5, U. S. POLITICAL ADVISOR AND BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL
DATE TO ACC MAIN SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: _____

FROM: ACC ADVANCED CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

REFERENCE No: 221 PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: 7/7/44 OFFICE OF ORIGIN: ALLIED

THIS COMMUNICATION STATES THAT AN ASSEMBLY OF ALL AUSTRIANS ELECTED AN AUSTRIAN COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES UNDER THE PRESIDENCY AND CHAIRMANSHIP OF BISHOP HUBAL DEPUTY CHAIRMAN DR. KARL REMBAE ONE AND MEMBERS HENST BREUER, HEDOLF KRONAU ONE MAXIMILIAN WITTFELD ONE JOSEPH ROEDERSTNIX ONE AND THAT THE ASSEMBLY CONSIDERED THE DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE TO APPOINT BERGER VA DEBERG HEAD OF AN AUSTRIAN OFFICE PD ACCORDING TO THEIR PLAN THE AUSTRIAN OFFICE WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH ALLIED AND ITALIAN AUTHORITIES AND TAKE CARE OF AUSTRIANS LIVING IN ITALY ON BOTE PD THE COMMITTEE PROPOSES IN COLLABORATION WITH THE AUSTRIAN OFFICE TO QUOTE PURSUE THE FOLLOWING AIMS ONE COLLABORATION IN THE INTELLIGENCE BRANCH ONE TWO COLLABORATION IN PROPAGANDA INTENDED FOR AUSTRIA ONE AND THREE UTILIZATION OF ALREADY ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH AUSTRIAN PARTISAN MOVEMENT UNQUOTE PARA A REPLY IS BEING ADDRESSED TO BISHOP HUBAL

THAT HIS COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND THE SUBSTANCE OF IT IS BEING FORWARDED FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS BUT THAT ONE DURING THEIR REPLY ONE NO RECOGNITION CAN BE AFFORDED EITHER THE COMMITTEE OR THE AUSTRIAN OFFICE BY THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES IN ITALY

Distribution:

Authenticated by _____

Originator's signature _____

578

4813

Copy 18-177-4-1-1
General Johnson
Has this communication
He has seen
J.M.
 Advanced Headquarters Allied Control Commission

July 4, 1944

Sir:
 The Political Section has received your communication of July 2, 1944, informing the Allied authorities that an Assembly of all Austrians in Rome elected a Committee under your chairmanship, and confirmed the appointment of Baron Berger-Waldeneegg as head of an Austrian Office.

The substance of your communication is being brought to the attention of the Allied Governments. You will, of course, appreciate that until the replies of these Governments are received, no recognition can be afforded either the Austrian Office or the Committee by the Allied authorities.

Joint Vice Presidents
 Political Section
 Allied Control Commission

Bishop Aloys Hudal
 Via della Pace 20,
 Rome

SECRET

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH
Rome Area Command

2nd July, 1944.

REPORT ON VISIT AS UNOFFICIAL OBSERVER TO PRIMARY MEETING OF AUSTRIAN RESIDENTS

IN ROME, SUNDAY 2ND JULY, 1944.

The meeting, for which authority had been sought and obtained from the Allied security authorities, took place in the hall of the Santa Anna, Via dell'Anima, Rome. Of the Austrian persons resident in Rome - who, I am informed, number 320 - possibly the larger number were present. The chair was taken by Bishop Hudal, who bears the title of Bishop of Elm and is responsible Bishop for Austrians living in Italy.

Baron Berger von Waldeneck, the former Austrian Minister to the Quirinal, was - with other formerly important personages - in the body of the hall.

Unfortunately the undersigned arrived late and so missed the Chairman's opening phrases. He submitted himself to the meeting and went on to insist on the necessity of a united front among Austrians in order to present the movement to the Allied authorities in Rome as one and not several. He warned his hearers against fifth column activity in the city and did not exclude the possibility of such persons being present in the gathering itself.

Before presenting the names of candidates for an Austrian Committee, the Bishop gave a brief sketch of the history of five of them, omitting one. He stressed that all had suffered in the Austrian cause, and emphasised their anti-Nazi character. This seemed to be held to be sufficient nomination. Election followed in the wise that the name of each candidate for the Committee was called out by the Bishop and the assembly was asked not whether it accepted the candidate or not, but to show disapproval by a show of hands. The speaker insisted that the candidates could only be accepted en bloc, not as individuals. The whole were thus presented, and only one person in the body of the hall raised a hand to show disapproval.

The Bishop, in a brief speech, told the meeting that the candidates submitted were elected. They were:-

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Bishop HUDAL | himself | Liberal | Film Producer |
| Max KREYER | | Social Democrat | Political Refugee |
| Rudolf RABNER | | No Party | Dental Surgeon |
| Karl BAEAS | | Christian Dem. | Artist |
| Rudolf KRONAT | | Communist | Employee |
| Josef PODOSTATH | | | |

The Chairman then went on to speak somewhat urgently of the necessity of having an executive and administrative organ of this Committee ("executives and administrative organ") to be called the "Austrian Office", which, it was suggested, might have local branches later at Naples and Florence. For this executive office he proposed Baron Berger von Waldeneck, praising the former Minister to the Quirinal in a speech of some length, which was largely applauded. The

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Bishop Hudal	himself	Film producer
Max Hufeld		Political Refugee
Rudolf Bruner	Liberal	Dental Surgeon
Paul Barnes	Social Democrat	Artist
Rudolf Kronau	No party	Employee
Josef Podosek	Christian Dem.	
	Communist	

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An oath was tendered by the four Committee members and Baron Berger von Waldeneck in his capacity as executive, and took the following form: "I take an oath to perform my office in the interest and for the well-being of a new, free, democratic and independent Austria." ("Ich gelobe mein Amt im Interesse und fuer das Wohl eines neuen, freien und unabhaengigen demokratischen Oesterreichs auszuueben.")

-2-

The oath taken, considerable *lusinga* ensued as people stood up to see the members of the Committee, and the observer was unfortunately prevented from hearing the terms of two resolutions proposed. Both seem to have been of a formal character, and it is suggested that one at least was merely the acceptance by the Committee collectively of office.

Bishop Hudal then addressed the Committee and the meeting to the effect that the new Committee and indeed Austrians at large could not expect to be treated by the Allies as an allied nation so long as Austrian soldiers are fighting against Allied troops. Austrians were, he emphasised, not allies in the sense that the Poles and Czechs and Yugoslavs were. Their attitude, he went on, ought to be one of thankfulness to the Allied nations for the declaration of November 1st, which guaranteed the independence of Austria; Austria must work towards deserving this independence. He laid it as a charge upon the assembly that they must work for this and earn their freedom. (Hudal's speech - 20th Nov 1945)

The Bishop declared himself satisfied with the new attitude of the Italian press in relation to the Austrian Committee's efforts, and underlined that the Italian policy had completely changed after the fall of Mussolini. His next remarks concerned the hoisting of the Austrian flag on the former Austrian Legation in Rome on the day following the Allies' entry into the city. He explained the incident away amid laughter by saying "they had only left their card," and that naturally no Austrian had really thought that the Legation was about to resume its normal functions again, since it was according to international law that diplomatic representation could not be founded or function at all unless set up by a King or Government."

Reference was made to the Austrian soldiers hiding in Rome and district, and the assembly was asked to convey to them the intimation that they were to report to the Allied authorities in what sounded like 95, Via Sicilia or Via Sistina.

Bishop Hudal mentioned that the first task of the Committee would be to try to help poor Austrians within the limits of financial possibilities. He suggested that "complaints" should be carried to the Austrian Office and laid there in writing, this especially where such "complaints" referred to quarrels among the Austrians in Rome themselves. The same procedure was to be adopted where persons wished to lay informations or make accusations against members of the Austrian Committee, and they were in no case to carry these to the Allied authorities. Members of the Committee, if so attacked, would be informed of the accusation or complaint and would be given every opportunity to defend themselves.

The Bishop closed his speech by calling Austrians to a sense of their dignity and quoted the last two lines of the former Austrian national hymn.

J. A. TURNER.

4860

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J. A. TURNER.

4846

N.V.: The provisional address of the Committee is:

CONTEGGIO SANTA MARIA DELL'ANIMA.

It is not yet clear whether the "Austrian Office" will also be at this address.

The Austrian Bishop

Rome, 2nd of July 1944
Via della Pace 20

Concetto Grossi, E. ATHR
2/4

Mr. Sam Reber
A.C.C.- Political Section
Rome

The undersigned Austrian Bishop permits himself to ~~in~~ inform that the Assembly of all Austrians held to-day with Allied agreement has unanimously elected the following Austrian Committee of Independence:

Provisional Chairman
Deputy-Chairman
Members

Bishop Dr. Alois Hudal
Mr. Karl Embas
Mr. Ernst Bräuer
Mr. Rudolf Kronau
Mr. Maximilian Neufeld
Mr. Joseph Fodhornik

Professor of Graz University Dr. Dobratsberger now in Cairo as a refugee is intended to be the Chairman after his arrival, the bishop then being a simple member of the Committee.

The Assembly has confirmed the first decision of the Committee: to appoint the former Austrian Minister Egon Barger-Waldenegg head of the Austrian Office.

The Austrian Office will according to plans maintain contact with Allied and Italian Authorities and take care of Austrians living in free Italy. The Austrian Office will be the executive organ of the Committee.

The Committee constitutes the initiative organ of Austrians in Italy. It will together with the Austrian Office in accordance with Allied Authorities pursue the following aims:

- a) collaboration in the Intelligence branch
- b) collaboration in propaganda destined for Austria
- c) utilization of already established contact with Austrian partisan movement.

This program knows only one aim:
to fight the Nazis and to liberate the country!

Contact with Allied Authorities competent for the above-mentioned program has already been established.

Representative of the Austrian Committee with regard to Allied Civil and Military Authorities is the Chairman. Representative of the Austrian Office with regard to Allied Civil and Military Authorities is the head of the Austrian Office.

All members of the Austrian Committee and of the Austrian Office have solemnly taken the oath to fight for the independence of their country.

If you agree with the details of the Austrian organization, as above mentioned, I beg most respectfully to inform A.C.C. and A.M.G.

Yours very truly

Bishop Alois Hudal

Austria

FOR G-5
 ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS/REPEATED AFHQ ADV C.P. AND ACC MAIN

ACC ADV

SECRET

112

ROUTINE

6/28/10 a.m.

POLITICAL

FULL AIRMAIL REPORT ON AUSTRIAN ACTIVITIES IN ROBE SUBMITTED BY
 POLITICAL SECTION JUNE TWO FIVE TO UNCLE SUGAR POLITICAL ADVISOR
 BRITISH RESIDENT MINISTER AND GEORGE FIVE PD PAREN TO AFHQ FOR
GEORGE FIVE REPEATED AFHQ ADV COMMAND POST AND ACC MAIN FROM ACC
ADVANCED FROM STONE REFERENCE BOX XRAY SIX FOUR ZERO ONE ZERO
CLIP FROMG JUNE TWO FOUR PAREN TO DATE 4 MEETING OF AUSTRIAN
 GROUPS H BEEN HELD AND NO PROGRAM SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION
 ALLIED GOVERNMENTS

L. T. MONTANT JR

4837

0296

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

SECRET

Pol Sec Rome
2361A. LIED CONTROL COM: SSION
INCOMING MESSAGE

TO: ACC MAIN INFO AFHQ ADV CP
 FROM: AFHQ SGD SACMED
 REFERENCE No: FX64995
 DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: JUN271355B

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 65/27
 CLASSIFICATION: SECRET
 PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE
 OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITE/THGEG

REQUEST EXPEDITE REPORT CALLED FOR BY OUR FX64010 RE AUSTRIAN LEGATION
 IN ROME

Sent to Rome
on 27 June

ACC DIST

ACTION - Pol Sec ✓
 INFO Secy Gen
 DEPC
 C. A. TR
 P. R. TR
 FILE
 FLAT

HEADQUARTERS
 28 JUN 1944
 A. C. C.

ACTION COPY

4856

JUN 27 1935B

DATE and Time of RECEIPT

Distribution:

SECRET

SECRET
 ALL D CONTROL COMMISSION
 INCOMING MESSAGE

POL SEC

2226

TO: ACTION ACC MAIN FOR INFO AFHQ ADV CP
 SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: N 34/25
 FROM: AFHQ SIGNED SACLED CLASSIFICATION: SECRET
 REFERENCE No: FX 64010 PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE
 DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: JUNE 24/1930 OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITE FIDEI

PRESS, BRITISH JUNE 8 CARRIED NOT THAT BORON VON BERGER-WALDENEGG, FORMER AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND AUSTRIAN MINISTER IN ITALY, HAS "TAKEN POSSESSION OF AUSTRIAN LEGATION IN ROME WITH APPROVAL OF ALLIES" AND RAISED AUSTRIAN FLAG. FOREIGN OFFICE REGARDS THE INCIDENT, WHICH HAS ALREADY GIVEN RISE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION, AS UNFORTUNATE. THOUGH ALLIED GOVERNMENTS HAVE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO SEE A FREE AND INDEPENDENT AUSTRIA, THEY DO NOT IN ANY WAY RECOGNIZE EXISTENCE OF AUSTRIAN STATE AT PRESENT MOMENT. BARON HAS NO DIPLOMATIC STANDING. FULL REPORT DESIRED

ACC DIST

ACTION POL SEC
 INFO SECY GEN
 DEP CC
 CA BR
 P.R. BR
 FILE
 FLOAT



COPY

4835

DATE and Time of RECEIPT JUNE 25/0953

Distribution:

SECRET

The Austrian Bishop in Rome
 Professor of University Dr. Alois HUDAL
 Rome - Via della Pace 20

To the ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
N A P L E S
To Mr. Reber, personally .

The Declaration of the Four Powers of Moscow states with regard to the Austrian problem :

Declaration on Austria

" The Governments of the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and the United States of America are agreed that Austria, the first free country to fall a victim to Hitlerite aggression shall be liberated from German domination .

They regard the annexation imposed on Austria by Germany on March 15 th 1938, as null and void. They consider themselves as in no way bound by any changes effected in Austria since that date. They declare that they wish to see reestablished a free and independent Austria, and thereby to open the way for the Austrian people themselves as well as those neighboring states which will be faced with similar problems, to find that political and economic security which is the only basis for lasting peace .

Austria is reminded however that she has a responsibility, which she cannot evade, for participation in the war at the side of Hitlerite Germany, and that in the final settlement account will be inevitably be taken of her own contribution to her liberation . "

This declaration grants the Austrians the right and the duty, to participate actively in the liberation of their country. Consequently the Austrians living in Rome asked the undersigned bishop, to create an organisation to plan and to carry out the following matters :

- a. collaboration in the propaganda destined to Austria.
- b. collaboration with P.W.B.
- c. exploitation and completion of already gained contact with Austrian centres of resistance .

These matters are, according to the proposal of the undersigned bishop with Allied agreement to be carried out by an organisation, consisting of an Austrian Committee and an Austrian Office .

A.) The Austrian Committee in Rome /:

A Committee consisting of Austrians living in liberated Italy, is to be formed in Rome on a broad democratic basis, so, that

under the chairmanship of the bishop, asked by the overwhelming majority of the Austrians, 4 members of different political attitudes are to be elected in a general assembly.

B. The Austrian Office.

Besides the Committee, a non-political, merely administrative organ is to be created, for the direction of which the former Austrian Minister in Rome, Egon Berger-Waldenegg is presented by the undersigned.

C. Competences of the Committee and of the Office:

a.) The committee is to be understood as a consultative organ, to represent the initiative of the Austrians living in Italy.

The definitive head of the Committee is to be the former Minister of State, Professor of the University of Graz Dr. Dobretsberger, now in Cairo; his provisional deputy is the undersigned bishop.

b.) The Austrian Office is to comprise the following departments, lead by Austrian professional officials, helped by specialized assistants, engaged by contract:

- 1.) Law and Administrative Department :
assistance for Austrians living in liberated Italy.
- 2.) Propaganda - Department .
- 3.) Economic - Department .

=====

It goes without saying that this office will work in closest contact with Allied Authorities. Consequently, Committee and Office will be at Allied service to reach the common aim :
liberation of Austria and annihilation of nazism.

The undersigned bishop begs to allow the formation of the Austrian Committee in Rome as well as to acknowledge the Austrian Office, the latter being already engaged in registering Austrians with Allied agreement.

Sure that this Austrian initiative will find a benevolent reception, I am, sirs, yours very respectfully

The Austrian Bishop

Dr. Alois Hudal

Via della pace 70

The Austrian Committee in Rome is intended to consist of the following persons :

Provisional chairman : bishop, prof. of univ. Dr. Alois H U D A L

Definitive chairman : former Minister of State, prof. of univ.
Dr. D O B R E T S B E R G E R

Members : Mr. Robert H I L T (Christian - democrat)
Mr. Wilhelm L A M P L , Employee, (democrat)
Mr. Maximilian W E U F E L D , picture-stage-manager (liberal)
Mr. Josef P O D H O S T N I K , employee (social-democrat)

Advanced Headquarters Allied Control Commission

APC 39A

June 25, 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO:

U. S. Political Advisor,
British Resident Minister,
G-5, Allied Force Headquarters

SUBJECT: Austrian Activities in Rome

Since the liberation of Rome a large proportion of the ex-Austrian colony have tried to re-assume their former nationality. In this they have been encouraged by the Moscow Declaration. The colony is believed to number in all about 250 persons and comprise a mixture of political shades from Right to Left.

They may be roughly classified in the following categories:

- a. Austrians assimilated in Italy before the Anschluss (businessmen, theologians at the Vatican, scientists) who saw no reason to return to Greater Germany;
- b. Austrian anti-Nazi refugees who fled to Italy after the Anschluss;
- c. pro-Nazi Austrian "co-operationists" who now wish to make a complete volte-face;
- d. Austrian deserters from the German Army. Among these are soldiers who deserted at the time of the Salerno landing and have been in hiding since then, and soldiers who decided to remain when the German Army withdrew from Rome.

Before the arrival of the Allied forces in Rome, there appear to have been some clandestine activity on the part of Austrian elements here, and a certain amount of aid seems to have been given to our and Allied prisoners of war.

The principal Austrian personalities concerned are an Austrian Bishop in Rome, Dr. Alois Hudal, who has close associations with Salzburg, and Dr. Benker, an Austrian refugee dentist in Rome. Baron von Berger-Aldein, who was the last Austrian Minister to Rome, and Dr. von Frischthal who was at 4831

in Schussel's Secretariat and was a prominent member of the Austrian Christian Social Party are also active in Austrian circles.

On June 5, the day after the liberation of Rome, certain of these exiles, with Baron von Burger-Waldenegg and Dr. Birkner, made their way into the ex-Austrian Legation, and Baron von Burger-Waldenegg established himself there for a few hours before the Swiss took possession of the premises as Protecting Power. The Austrians were then induced to withdraw, leaving the building in Swiss custody. In reply to their subsequent inquiries concerning the possibility of their using the premises they were informed they could not do so since neither the Swiss nor the local Allied representatives had the authority to deliver the premises to any Austrian group.

Birkner, Noddi, Dr. Birkner, Baron von Burger-Waldenegg and others later at Rome proposed to establish in Rome an Austrian Committee as well as an Austrian Office. The Committee would be a subsidiary to the Austrian Office which has been organized to register Austrian nationals. In the latter connection the Austrians have, of course, been informed that any certificate of Austrian nationality issued by them would have no legal validity. They have fully recognized this although they hope it will serve as some prima facie evidence. Allied authorities are, however, making no distinction between the treatment of Austrians and other enemy nationals who are all required to register with the police.

As regards the organization of the Committee, they have asked for permission to hold a meeting of the Austrians in Rome. Permission for a private meeting has been granted and it has been made clear that if the meeting results in the adoption of specific proposals, the local Allied authorities will be ready to forward these for the consideration of their Governments.

Political Section

C.C. B.E.S.O.P.S. A.A.F.
U. S. Representative on Advisory Council for Italy
British High Commissioner in Italy

4830

61

High Commissioner, NAUFER
His Majesty's Principal
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, etc.,

High Commission in Italy,
NAUFER.

29th June 4

Sir Noel Charles

Reference == Tel. No. 336 of 27th June 1944.

From:

Austrian Activities
in POLS.

POLITICAL SECTION,
Advanced H.Q.
Allied Control
Commission,
APO 394.

Date 25th, 1944

(communication)

4829

CopyAdvanced Headquarters Allied Control CommissionAPC 506

MEMORANDUM FOR: U.S. Political Advisor, June 25, 1944.
British Resident Minister,
APC, Allied Forces Headquarters

SUBJECT: Austrian Activities in Rome.

Since the liberation of Rome a large proportion of the ex-Austrian colony have tried to re-assume their former nationality. In this they have been encouraged by the Moscow Declaration. The colony is believed to number in all about 260 persons and comprises a mixture of political shades from right to left.

They may be roughly classified in the following categories:

- Austrians recruited in Italy before the Armistice (businessmen, theologians at the Vatican, scientists) who saw no reason to return to Greater Germany;
- Austrian anti-Nazi refugees who fled to Italy after the Anschluss;
- Pro-Nazi Austrian "cooperators" who now wish to make a complete volte-face;
- Austrian deserters from the German Army. Among these are soldiers who deserted at the time of the Salerno landing and have been in hiding since then, and soldiers who decided to remain with the German Army withdrawn from Rome.

Before the arrival of the Allied forces in Rome, there appears to have been some clandestine activity on the part of Austrian elements here, and a certain amount of aid seems to have been given to escaped Allied prisoners of war.

The principal Austrian personalities concerned are an Austrian Bishop in Rome, Fr. Alois Hudal, who has close associations with Salazar, and Dr. Imbach, an Austrian refugee dentist in Rome. Baron von Berger-Waldenegg, who was the last Austrian Minister to Rome, and Dr. von Wedekind who was at one time in Mussolini's Secretariat and was a prominent member of the Austrian Christian Socialist Party are also active in Austrian circles.

On June 6, the day after the liberation of Rome, certain of these Austrians, with Baron von Berger-Waldenegg and Dr. Imbach, made their way into the ex-Austrian Legation, and Baron von Berger-Waldenegg established himself there for a few hours before the Swiss took possession of the premises as Protecting Power. The Austrians were indeed to withdraw, leaving the building in Swiss custody. In reply to their subsequent inquiries concerning the possibility of their using the premises they were informed they could not do so since neither the Swiss nor the local Allied representatives had the authority to deliver the premises to any Austrian group.

/Bishop

3780

4828

- 2 -

Walter Rühl, Dr. Rühl, Baron von Dargatzidis and others have not formed the proposal to establish in Rome an Austrian Committee as well as an Austrian Office. The Committee would be in addition to the Austrian Office which has been organized to register Austrian refugees. In the latter connection the Austrians have, of course, been informed that any certificates of Austrian nationality issued by them would have no legal validity. They have fully recognized this although they have it will serve as some prima facie evidence. Allied authorities are, however, holding no distinction between the treatment of Austrians and other enemy nationals who are all required to register with the police.

In regard to the presentation of the Committee, they have asked for permission to hold a meeting of the Austrians in Rome. Permission for a private meeting has been granted and it has been made clear that if the meeting results in the adoption of a specific proposal, the local Allied authorities will be ready to forward same for the consideration of their Government.

(S) Walter Rühl, Dr. Rühl, Baron von Dargatzidis

Walter Rühl, Dr. Rühl, Baron von Dargatzidis

Walter Rühl, Dr. Rühl, Baron von Dargatzidis
 1. Representative on Advisory Council for Italy
 which has headquarters in Italy

Austria 17/VI 44,

Construction of the Austrian Organisation in Rome.

- 1.) The Austrian Bishop in Rome, Professor of University Dr. Alois Hudal, has been asked in a written request by the overwhelming majority of the Austrians living in Rome to set up a non-political Austrian committee on a broad democratic basis.

According to this request the Bishop will at once start negotiations with persons of any political opinion, in order to present as soon as possible to the Allied Authorities and, if they agree, to the Austrians, to be convoked into an assembly, a committee, consisting of a chairman and of 4 members.

- 2.) This Austrian Committee, after having been acclaimed by the Assembly, will in the Assembly itself reveal the decision, that the Minister of the former Austrian Government, Baron Egon von Berger-Waldenegg will be appointed head of Austrian Office.

This "Austrian Office", in its provisional stage already, having registered Austrians in concordance with Allied Chief of Safety, will be given the following competences:

a) Protection of Austrians in liberated Italy and taking care of their interests;

b) Collaboration with the Allies for the common aim of the liberation of Austria (propaganda, contact with and organization of resistance in Austria, collaboration in the Intelligence Service A.S.O.)

Members of the Austrian Office will be state officials, dismissed from service by Nazi rule and other specialists, engaged by contract.

The Austrian Committee will, with regard to the above-mentioned competences, have an initiative as well as a consultative function; the executive, however, will, according to the sense of the organization, be left to the Austrian Office. In order to maintain contact between the A.O. and the A.C., a delegate of the Office will be present in any session of the Committee without right of voting (seat without vote). The decisions of the Committee will be taken by majority of votes, the chairman voting last.

The A.C. and the A.O. will start work immediately after Allied acknowledgement, according to the declaration of Moscow, desiring, Austrians to take active part in the liberation of their country. So the A.C. and the A.O. put themselves at the disposal of Allied Authorities.

Bishop Alois Hudal
4826

FROM MEMORIA.

folgende drei Gebäude in Rom waren am 10. März 1938 österreichisches

Eigentum:

1. Die österreichische Gesandtschaft beim Quirinal, Via Pergolesini 3.
*but protection needed
hereafter needed, but Bundesne
to there*
2. Die österreichische Gesandtschaft beim Vatikan, Via Reno 9
*entirely not
Schweizer
Swiss Gen. 2. Vatikan
also protection*
3. Das österreichische Historische Institut in Valle Giulia, Viale Martiri
Fascisti. *now Swiss Embassy Rome keep it for Gen. Carabini.*

Diese drei Gebäude wurden Mitte März 1938 von den Deutschen beschlagnahmt.

Während sich bei der Wiederinbesitznahme der beiden fast gänzlich aus-
geraubten Gesandtschaftsgebäude am 5. Juni 1944 keinerlei Schwierigkeiten er-
gaben, musste hinsichtlich des Oesterr. Historischen Institutes festgestellt
werden, dass die Schweizer Gesandtschaft dieses vollkommen eingerichtete, mo-
dernst ausgebaute und daher wertvollste Gebäude bereits unter ihren diplo-
matischen Schutz gestellt hatte. 378.

Das Kommando der Alliierten in Rom wird daher gebeten, die Einweisung
der österreichischen Gesandtschaft in Rom in dieses auf Grund des Vertrages
von Moskau dem österreichischen Bundesstaat eigentümlichen Gebäudes gütigst
verfügen zu wollen.

Friedrich Heer

0303

Folgende drei Gebäude in Rom waren am 10. März 1938 österreichischen

Eigentum:

1. Die österreichische Gesandtschaft beim Quirinal, Via Pergolesi 3.
*but protection needed
already located, but Bombone
is there*
2. Die österreichische Gesandtschaft beim Vatikan, Via Reno 9
*but
Schulthess 3
Swiss Ges. in Vatikan*
3. Das österreichische Historische Institut in Valle Giulia, Viale Martiri
an important

Pascisti. now Swiss Embassy Rome keep it for gas. Carabinieri.

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verfügen zu wollen.

Friedrich Kral

4823

*W. J. J. J.
for gas
0303*

Grundlage, hinsichtlich dessen Berger-Waldenegg von Anfang an erklärt hat, seine Person nicht in Vorschlag bringen zu wollen, da er sich lediglich auf die rein administrative Agenden des sogenannten "Austrian Office" beschränken möchte, dessen Kompetenzen es sein sollen, als ausführendes Organ des Komités zu fungieren und die Betreuung der österreichischen Staatsbürger in befreiten Italien zu ermöglichen. Auch um Bestätigung dieses "Austrian Office" wurde bei den zuständigen alliierten Behörden angesucht und bestand von Anbeginn an die Absicht, die österreichische Organisation im befreiten Italien in den Dienst der Alliierten für die gemeinsame Zielsetzung der Befreiung Oesterreichs und der Vernichtung des Nazismus zu stellen - und dies in Befolgung der in der Moskauer Viermächte-Erklärung enthaltenen Aufforderung.

In Erwartung der Entscheidung der alliierten Behörden werden die hier gemeldeten Oesterreicher provisorisch vom österreichischen Bischof in Rom, Univ.Prof.Dr. Alois Hudal, betreut.

Ein aufklärender Bericht an die kgl.Brit. Regierung in diesem Sinne wäre daher dringendst erforderlich, da die heute erschienenen Veröffentlichungen nicht nur Verwirrung und Unsicherheit in den bisher einigen österreichischen Kreisen des befreiten Italiens zu schaffen geeignet sind, sondern auch einen willkommenen Anlass für die Nazi-Propaganda bilden werden. Aus gleichen Gründen wird dringendst gebeten, tunlichst umgehend eine sinngemäße Richtigstellung in der römischen Presse veröffentlichen zu wollen.

Rom, am 22 Juni 1944

Bischof Dr. Alois Hudal

H.C. Cope, Hon. Sec. of State, London, 14 March 1938, re Austrian flag hoisted on St. Peter's Basilica

I n f o r m a t i o n

Die in der heutigen Tagespresse veröffentlichte Erklärung des königlich-britischen Ausseministers Eden im Unterhaus muss offensichtlich auf irrtümlichen Berichten von unzuständiger Seite beruhen.

Richtig ist, dass die österreichische Fahne während des Einmarsches der alliierten Truppen in Rom von österreichischen Patrioten und ohne Anwesenheit des ehemaligen Gesandten Baron Berger-Valdenegg auf dem ehemaligen Gesandtschaftsgebäude in der Via Pergolesi 5 gehisst wurde, jedoch war diese Aktion als ein symbolischer Akt im Sinne der Viermächte-Erklärung von Moskau über Österreich gemeint, wonach die am 13. März 1938 erfolgte Annexion und die sich daraus ergebenden Veränderungen als null und nichtig anzusehen sind.

Unrichtig ist, dass das Gesandtschaftsgebäude für Zwecke der Österreicher in Verwendung genommen wurde, es wurde vielmehr nach gegenseitigem Einverständnis mit den alliierten Behörden lediglich ein Zimmer im Hotel Majestic gemietet, um dort selbst österreichische Staatsangehörige zu registrieren und diesen im Falle von Bedürftigkeit Unterstützungen zukommen zu lassen.

Unrichtig ist ferner, dass der letzte österreichische Gesandte in Rom, Baron Berger-Valdenegg, welcher, sobald es möglich war, mit der Political-Section des A.M.G. in Rom in Verbindung trat, eine wie immer geartete Funktion bereits aufgenommen hat, sondern erwartet derselbe die Entscheidungen der zuständigen alliierten Behörden hinsichtlich der bereits unterbreiteten Vorschläge für die Wahl eines österreichischen Komitees auf breiter demokratischer

Mr. Reber

Confidential

PARAGRAPH

The following is a summary of the Department's telegram
No. 336, July 10, 1:00 p.m.

For Mark (reported to Algiers for filing).

Sweden's 24th July 1941 gives the following information
regarding Baron Hagerfeldt: Carl Hagerfeldt, the last
Swedish Minister to Turkey and now a Swedish citizen, considers
his wife impossible to be a spy. He states that Hagerfeldt
for only one of Sweden's former ambassadors in the
American Secret Service, former Minister to Italy to act as
Minister to Sweden, as the Swedish Government's continued
as an instrument of Italian policy in Austria depended upon the
Baron's support. He states that Hagerfeldt after the
Anschluss, Hagerfeldt was asked to resign by Mussolini and
as a result of this Hagerfeldt was forced to leave
Sweden in 1938 and has been living in Italy since that
time.

3000

4823

Rome the 12th. 5. 44.
Statement from Mr. Carl Bambas, leader of the Austrian liberation committee in Italy!

Soon after the forced occupation of Austria a few Austrians living in Rome united themselves with the purpose to do everything they could for the liberation of their country.

After the entrance of Italy in the war the committee had the task to spread the allied propaganda, especially for all those Austrians who were serving in the German army, by passing leaflets and pamphlets.

On the day of the Italian armistice on the 8th. of September 1943, all Austrians living in Rome, or at least all those of which we could get in contact, were informed of the committee, our headquarters was in the apartment of Mr. Carl Bambas, Via Gregoriana 12.

We divided amlets and passed the Austrian flag, made lists of all faithful Austrians. It was decided to occupy the former Austrian legation, where had been installed the headquarters of the N.S.D.A.F. they were still the German troops in around Rome. Warned by Monsignore O'Flaherty who was in closed contact with the British Embassy in the Vatican our section had to stop and really on the same day the Italian troops capitulated to the Germans. A few hundred persons in Rome did know of the existence of our committee, all the same we did continue our work till the 4th. of November with the purpose to hide Italian anti-fascists from the German occupation forces. Mr. Carl Bambas was warned by Monsignore O'Flaherty, a lawyer of the German military tribunal and of the minister of the German embassy that he would be arrested, and he took refuge in the Vatican. On the 4th. of November members of the S.S. arrived to arrest him and from that day he was on the blacklist of the S.S.

By living next door to Monsignore O'Flaherty it was possible to keep up contact with all the others members of his committee and to develop the following work for the allied war cause.

1. To continue the propaganda for the Austrians serving in the German army
2. To hide British and American prisoners of war and to bring them in contact with the English Major Samuel Berry alias Tony Patrick.
3. To help these prisoners of war by procuring civil clothes and secure possibilities of hiding, by persons known to us.
4. Helping all persons persecuted by the Germans, specially Jews.
5. We procured a few hundred of false documents to aid these poor persecuted persons, produced by Mr. Carl Bambas and his collaborators.

Through contact with Peter Borg, we worked together with Italian partisans

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5. We procured a few hundred of ~~the~~ false documents to aid these poor persecuted persons, produced by Mr. Carl Bambas and his collaborators.

Through contact with Peter Borg, we worked together with Italian partisans under great danger we smuggled high antifascistic personalities in the Vatican and who were hidden for the first time in the rooms of ~~Bambas~~ ^{Finzi}. For instance: General Cappa of the Italian Air-force, head of all the partisans belonging to the Air-force. Engineer Gregoretti of the band ~~Borg~~ Finzi etc.

Major Domenico Lo Faso, chief of the department information of the anti-fascistic military centre in Rome, was continuously informed of important military information and we brought Major Mander in contact with this group, which transmitted their reports to Naples.

H.E. Osborne British Ambassador to the Vatican was continuously informed. On Italian side very intimate collaborators were Colonelle Andrea Lo Faso his son Domenico Lo Faso and the Duca Serra di Falco.

On Austrian side, Mr. Wilhelm Lampi, Rolf Weiser and later Captain Schorr, Kronau and the Hungarian citizen Thini Horvath.

Later also we took up contact with H.E. Bishop Hudal, were we found help. As references for everything which has been said before we name the following names.

H.E. Osborne, The English Major Samuel Derry, the English Major Mander, Monsignore O'Flaherty, Peter Snedden, Pater Borg and the Italian General Cappa.

The Austrian committee has begged already December 43. at the British Embassy to the Vatican to be presented at the arrival of the allied troops in Rome to the commanding General, and to be permitted to ask for the following things.

To recognise the Austrian committee as fighting organisation which has put itself the task to collaborate with the Allies for the complete destruction of nazism and through this the liberation of their country.

2. To put all Austrians in the liberated parts of Italy, as well as their and the property of the former Austrian Republic under the protection of the Allied nations.

3. The nomination of an allied liaison-officer under whose control the committee has to work.

4. The permission of taking an apartment for this purpose, if possible the former rooms of the Austrian Legation, which is Austrian state-property.

5. The permission to start with the work of ~~many~~ an Austrian fighting organisation, specially with Austrian deserters who have been fighting already under the previous under the leadership of an allied officer and to be put in action as near as possible to the Austrian border.

6. To take up contact with all other existing Austrian organisations in the free world and with the underground organisations in our oppressed country.

7. To take steps to procure the necessary financial means, since so far all expenses have been paid for by Mr. Dembo.

In one or two days all living Austrians in Rome will receive their

On Italian side very intimate collaborators were Colonello Andrea Lo Faso his 2 son Domenico Lo Faso and the Duca Serra di Falco. On Austrian side, Mr. Wilhelm Lampl, Rolf Weiser and later Captain Schorr, Kronau and the Hungarian citizen Thini Horwarth. Later also we took up contact with H.E. Bishop Hudal, were we found help. As references for everything which has been said before we name the following names.

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5. The permission to start with the work of ~~xxxx~~ an Austrian fighting organisation, especially with Austrian deserters who have been fighting already under the partisans under the leadership of an allied officer and to be put in action as near as possible to the Austrian border.

6. To take up contact with all other existing Austrian organisations in the free world and with the underground organisations in our oppressed country.

8. To take up to procure the necessary financial means, since so far all expenses have been paid for by Mr. Lambas.

In one or two days all living Austrians in Rome will receive their identity cards, and at this occasion all Austrians will meet at our ⁴⁸²¹ advisory offices, to hear the report of the committee and we shall ask for the vote of confidence, we permit ourselves to ask at this occasion for an allied liaison-officer.

For the Austrian liberation committee in Rome

Samuel Mander

E X P O S E

von C a r l B a m b a s , Vorsitzender des österreichischen
Befreiungscomites!

Bald nach der gewaltsamen Besetzung Oesterreichs, schlossen sich einige in Rom lebende Oesterreicher zusammen, um im Rahmen der gegebenen Möglichkeiten ihren Teil beizutragen zur Wiederbefreiung ihrer Heimat.

Nach Eintritt Italiens in den Krieg setzte sich dieses Befreiungscomité die Aufgabe durch Propaganda bei der oesterröichischen und italienischen Bevölkerung ebenso bei den Oesterreichern die in deutschen Heeresdienst standen, aufklaerend zu wirken. Diese Propaganda bestand in mündlicher und schriftlicher Weitergabe von Radioberichten aus den alliierten Ländern, Uebersetzungen und Weiterverbreitung von Artikeln aus Schweizer Zeitungen, Verteilung von Flugblättern, besonders in den Eisenbahnen.

Als der italienische Zusammenbruch am 8. September 1945 eintrat, wurden alle Oesterreicher, soweit sie erfassbar waren, vom Bestand des Comites unterrichtet, dessen Sitz sich in der Wohnung des Leiters Carl Bambas, via Gregoriana 12. befand. Es wurden oesterr. Armbinden verteilt, die oesterr. Fahne gehisst und Listen der oesterreichischen Getreuen aufgestellt. Es war beschlossen, das Gebäude der Oesterreichischen Botschaft, in der sich bis zuletzt der Sitz der Landesleitung der N. S. D. A. P. befand, zu besetzen, trotzdem sich deutsche Truppen noch in Rom und deren Umgebung aufhielten. Durch Mons. O'FLAHERTY, Vertrauensmann der Englischen Botschaft beim Heiligen Stuhl, erwähnt, musste diese Aktion unterbleiben und tatsächlich kapitulierten am selben Tag die italienischen Truppen und die Deutschen zogen in Rom wieder ein. Trotz der schon einige Tausende Menschen von dem Bestehen der oesterreichischen Organisation unterrichtet waren, konnte dieselbe ihre Tautigkeit doch noch bis zum 4. November 1945 weiter ausueben, die sich nun aber 4 & 20 der

erster Linie darauf richtete, italienische Antifascisten vor dem Zugriff der Deutschen Behörden zu schützen. Der Vorsitzende Karl SAMBAS wurde von Mons. O'FLANN (F), einem Rechtsanwalt vom Deutschen Kriegsgericht und einem Unterbeamten der Deutschen Botschaft benachrichtigt, dass er sofort verschwinden müsse und flüchtete derselbe in den Vatikan. In der Tat kam am 4. November Nachmittags Angehörige der SS in Sambas Wohnung um ihn zu verhaften und wurde er fortan von diesen SS und Gestapotruppen gesucht.

Dadurch, dass Sambas Tuer an Tuer mit Mons. O'FLANN in Vatikan wohnte, war es ihm möglich, durch die übrigen Herrn seines Komitees den Kontakt mit der Außenwelt aufrecht zu erhalten und folgende Tätigkeit über die gemeinsame Sache zu entfalten:

1. Fortsetzung der Propaganda bei den Deutschen Truppen, um sie zur Desertion zu veranlassen.
2. Amerikanische und Englische Kriegsgefangenen die entkommen waren, zu verstecken und sie dem zuständigen Englischen Offizier Maj. Samuel BERRY alias Tony PATRIST zuzuführen.
3. Unterstützung dieser ankommenden Kriegsgefangenen durch Zivilkleider und Wohnungsbeschaffung bei dem Komitee bekannten und zuverlässigen Personen.
4. Unterstützung von den Deutschen verfolgten Menschen, in der Hauptsache Juden.

Es wurden viele Hunderte falsche Dokumente an diese armen Verfolgten Menschen ausgestellt, die von Karl SAMBAS und seinen Mitarbeitern ausgestellt wurden.

Durch Verbindung mit Peter BORSE, wurde Fuchlung mit italienischen Partisanengruppen hergestellt. Unter größter Gefahr wurden antifascistische Organisationen, die in unmittelbarer Lebensgefahr schwebten, in den Vatikan geschmuggelt und vorübergehend im Wohnzimmer Karl SAMBAS unterbergt. Unter anderem: General Cappa, Chef der italienischen Fliegergruppe in Rom, Ing. Gregoratti Führer der Banda Finzi usw.

Major Domenico Lo Puso, Chef der Abteilung Information der italienischen Antifascistischen Militärzentrale in Rom, erhielt fortlaufend von uns militärische Nachrichten und wurde auch das Collegamento von dem englischen Major MANDER zu dieser Gruppe hergestellt, die sodann Berichte nach Bari funkten. Über diese Tätigkeit wurden ständig der engl. Gesandte am hl. Stuhl unterrichtet.

Intime Mitarbeiter des Vorsitzenden Carl Bambas waren von italienischer Seite: Oberstleutnant Andrea Lo Puso, sein Sohn Major Domenico Lo Puso, Duca Serradifalco.

Als Österreicher, die Herren: Wilhelm Leupl, Weissner, später Hauptmann Schorr, Kronau und der ungarische Staatsangehörige Tibor Horvath.

In letzter Zeit nahm das Comité Fuchlung mit seiner Exo. den Herrn Bischof Hubal bei dem es auch Hilfe fand.

Als Referenz für das bisher Gesagte führten das Comité an:
 S. Exzellenz der Herr engl. Gesandte beim hl. Stuhl Osbourne.
 Der engl. Major Herr Samuel Derry
 Der engl. Major Herr Mander
 Monsignore O. F. A. H. R. T. Y.
 Peter Schneider
 Peter Dorff
 Der ital. General Garza

Das österreichische Befreiungskomitee hat schon im December 45 bei der engl. Gesandtschaft am hl. Stuhl, das Ansuchen gestellt, nach der Befreiung von Rom, den kommandierenden General der Befreiungstruppen vorgebracht zu werden, um folgende Bitten aussprechen zu dürfen.

1. Die Anerkennung des oesterr. Befreiungskomitees als eine Kampforganisation, die es sich zur Aufgabe gestellt hat, mitzuwirken an der Verdrängung der Nazityrannie und dadurch auch an der Befreiung der oesterr. Heimat.

2. Die Österreicher in befreiten Italien, als auch deren

4

Eigentum und das der ehemaligen Republik Oesterreichs unter den Schutz der alliierten Truppen zu stellen.

3. Die Ernennung eines alliierten Officiers unter dessen Kontrolle das Comité zu arbeiten hatte.

4. Ueberlassung von geeigneten Anstalten, womeglich die ehemaligen Räume der oesterreichischen Gesandtschaft (oesterr. Staatseigentum) , wie Pergolesi 5.

5. Die Erlaubnis mit den Vorarbeiten sofort zu beginnen, zur Aufstellung einer oesterr. Kampfgruppe mit Heranziehung von oesterr. Kriegsgefangenen, die sich freiwillig dazu melden und welche unter alliierten Kommando sobald wie möglich an der oesterr. Grenze eingesetzt werden sollen.

6. Bewilligung zur Aufnahme des Contactes mit bereits bestehenden oesterr. Organisationen in der Freien Welt, als auch in Oesterreich um den Versuch zu unternehmen dieselben zu einer Einheitsorganisation zu verschmelzen.

7. Um die Bewilligung, die geeigneten Schritte zu unternehmen zur Beschaffung der notwendigen Geldmittel, da die bisherigen Spesen von dem Vorsitzenden allein getragen wurden.

In ein oder zwei Tagen werden an die hier lebenden Oesterreicher die provisorischen Identitätskarten ausgegeben, bei diesem Anlass werden alle Oesterreicher in den Bürräumen versammelt um den Bericht des Comité's entgegen zu nehmen und es wird die Vertrauensfrage gestellt, wir bitten zu diesem Anlass einen alliierten Offizier zu delegieren.

Für das Oesterreichische Befreiungscomé

in Rom

Bernhard Kaut

Rom 4.12.6.44. provisorischer Sitz des Comité's, Albergo Maestri 4817

Einmer 50.

AIRGRAM

FROM: U. S. Representative,
Advisory Council for Italy,
Rome, Italy.

SECRET

DATED: October 16, 1944.

DESPATCHED:

RECEIVED:

Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

A-35, October 16, 4:00 p.m.

Department's A-27, September 14, 1944, 9:25 a.m.

The following report on Austrian activities in Rome
has been received from Schott, Political Section, Allied
Control Commission:

The Austrians in Rome have split into factions since the creation in July of the Austrian Committee. The various leaders have played a personal game and their activities have been marked by bitter disputes and an inability to achieve any real unity. The original committee apparently has been emasculated by constant opposition to it and has disappeared as such. C.I.C. reports that Bishop Hudal resigned on September 10. Dr. Karl Bambah previously had resigned and Joseph Podhostnik, the Committee's Communist Member, was lured away by Soviet interests to work in their behalf. Thus only three members of the original Committee remained and on September 16, Dr. Richard Baschiera was named chairman of a "Provisional Austrian Association in Rome" which appears to be but a skeleton of the original organization. Baron Berger Von Waldenegg remains, but there is an understanding that all political activity shall cease. Dr. Baschiera is described as an intelligent young lawyer who wishes to orientate the Austrian Movement in Italy towards the Movement in existence in New York, said to be led by one Czernin, and to avoid contact with the London "Free Austrian Movement" which is considered to be too radical.

Dr. Karl Bambah

4816

-2-, A-85, October 15, 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Karl Hambas, an egotistical person apparently of little real value, constituted himself a center of opposition to the Committee of which he was Deputy Chairman, and deserted it hoping to acquire sufficient strength in the Movement with which to supplant it. He stresses the non-political character of his activities and has indicated a desire to deal with and through the Allies. He is given some support by a Dr. Koller whom P.W.B. describes as an Austrian Jew, aged 48, who was engaged in the chemical industry in Vienna and in France prior to becoming a refugee in Italy, and who is said to be the leader of the Central and European Jews in Rome, working under the Jewish organization, DELASEM. Others associated of Dr. Hambas are Wilhelm Lampert (formerly a co-worker in the original committee) and Karl Bender. This faction seems of little importance.

Another group was set up by one Schnitzler who claims to be an observer in Rome of the London "Free Austrian Movement", and to have the latter's authority to replace Bishop Hudel as head of the Austrian Committee by Captain Fuchs, a surgeon in the 50th British General Hospital in Italy who reputedly served with British Forces in the Middle East and at one time represented the London Austrian Committee amongst Austrian Jews in Palestine. Fuchs claims to represent directly the London "Free Austrian Movement" and to be entrusted by it to establish a branch in Italy. In his absence from Rome he has been represented here by one Julius Freund, described by P.W.B. as a Communist and journalist who was employed by P.W.B. in Bari and came to Rome to further the political fortunes of Fuchs. This group has distinct left political views and ambitions.

The Austrian Office, it appears, was established with the support of the American O.S.S. and the British S.O.E. who financed it. The Office was encouraged to register all Austrians in Italy and to provide relief facilities to them, with a view to recruiting agents from those found reliable; to make contact with useful, dependable persons in Austria; and for other purposes incident to their operations. Certificates of Austrian nationality were issued which, however, have no legal validity and are not recognized officially by Allied or Italian authorities. The alleged appearance as a heading on these certificates of the words, "Austrian Legation, Rome", apparently was reported in error.

Baron Von Waldenegg

-3-, A-85, October 15, 4:00 p.m.

Baron Von Waldeneegg was chosen as titular head of the Office because it was felt that he was the safest person politically and because his former position as Austrian Minister to the Quirinale was hoped to give confidence to Austrians in general and to stimulate them to present themselves for registration. The actual head of the Office is one Peter Freyha who seems to enjoy the full confidence of S.O.E. by whom he is characterized as an intelligent young man who was Economic and Transport Attaché at the Austrian Consulate in Trieste until the time of the Anschluss when he was dropped for his anti-Nazi sentiments.

The utility of the Office to U.S.S. and S.O.E. now has been exhausted and their aid and support gradually being withdrawn so that the Office soon is expected to cease functioning actively.

The Austrian Office reputedly has had a monthly budget of some 100,000 Lire which was met as indicated above. It also appears that prior to Allied occupation of Rome there was an Austrian organization known as F.I.R.S.T. which purchased arms and supplies for provision to the partisan movement in Italy. Allegedly to protect itself, F.I.R.S.T. sold some of its purchases to the Germans. To this organization, C.I.C. is of the opinion that Fritz Mandl contributed money, but they do not believe in his continuance of this practice.

It is not known what financial backing supports the group led by the self-styled representatives of the London "Free Austrian Movement", but the Bambas faction presumably has none. There are hopes that financial assistance may be obtained from an Austrian group in Algiers which reputedly is well financed by Austrian refugees from France. The Algiers Austrian Committee is said to be located in Rue de Mulhouse; to be led by one Mattersdorfer, described as a wealthy business man who contracts for the Allied Armies; to have no political coloring; and to be interested primarily in relief work.

It is the consensus of the responsible American and British representatives in Rome that an exaggerated importance has been given to the Austrian Movement here. Beyond approving the July meeting of Austrians in Rome and receiving a report of the results thereof from Bishop Hudal

(which

-4-, A-55, October 16, 4:00 p.m.

(which were telegraphed to G-5, AFHQ, U.S. Political Adviser and British Resident Minister on July 4, 1944), the Political Section, Allied Control Commission, has taken no active interest in the Movement. The instructions contained in the Department's circular airgram dated January 14, 1944 (8 p.m.) and in telegram No. 227 of June 21, 1944, to U. S. Political Adviser, have been followed implicitly and, in any case, there has been no question of recognition of the Committee or of the Office. They have been so little recognized that the following actions against them have been taken since August 15, 1944, by the Political Section:

1. A request for permission to publish a news sheet by the Committee was refused.

2. A letter addressed "His Excellency, Baron von Berger-Waldenegg, Austrian Embassy, Rome", which was transmitted by the Free Austrian Committee in Barcelona through the American Embassy at Madrid, was returned.

3. Permission was refused the Office to send a photographer to refugee camps containing Austrians for the purpose of photographing them prior to issuing them "certificates of Austrian nationality."

4. In response to a request by the Regional Commissioner, Southern Region, A.C.C., for information as to whether sanction should be given a request by Captain Fuchs to form a branch of the Free Austrian Movement at Bari, Eq. A.C.C. replied telegraphically that neither the British nor the American Government affords official recognition or unofficial support to any Austrian individual or group nor does it encourage the organization of any committee representing a coalition of any existing group.

5. A communication addressed by an Austrian in Bari to the "Free Austrian Committee, care of A.C.C.", was returned.

There has been in Rome no Allied coordination of action or general directive regarding the Austrian Movement. Various Allied agencies (G.S.I., F.W.B., S.O.E., O.S.S., et cetera) in the furtherance of their activities have established contact with the Commission and the Office,

or

-5-, A-85, October 16, 4:00 p.m.

or with individual Austrians. Many of the latter were employed, and continue to be employed, by them. Some of these employees exaggerated their status vis-a-vis the Allied Agencies, to give the impression that they enjoy a privileged or protected position. Leaders of the individual factions within the Movement went so far as to claim a monopoly on positions within one or another Allied agency.

Direct publicity in the United States apparently was given the Austrian Movement in Italy by the publication of an article on the Rome Committee which is said to have appeared on June 16, 1944, in AUFBAU, a weekly German-language newspaper published in New York by the "New World Club, Inc.", 67 West 44th Street. The paper is described here as being an independent organ of German and Austrian refugees; as being strongly Jewish in character and anti-Nazi in policy. The article allegedly stated that the former Austrian Legation in Rome had been reopened by Baron Von Waldenegg; that a committee of "Austrian Fascists" had been formed and that Bishop Hudal, one of its leaders, was "supposed to be in close connection with the British and American Ambassadors to the Vatican." This publicity was highly pleasing to the Left Wing of the Movement, and S.O.S. is of the opinion that it was inspired by DELASER.

In conclusion, the opinion ^{is} that since S.O.S. and O.S.S. no longer find use of the Austrian Office and gradually are withdrawing their support, its activities automatically will cease, thus precluding any necessity to close it officially. The Austrians in Rome include a number of persons of undeniable talent. They are divided politically but, since most of them have been refugees for long periods of time, they may succumb to some particular "pressure group" for fear in future of becoming again refugees in their own country.

The question of Austrians in Italy will be watched closely and its developments reported.

KIRK

WHS:WOD/DES

4812

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

Airgram:

~~From Subot~~ 7-85, 4 p.m.

Reference Department's A-27, September 14, 1944 19:25 a.m.

German activities in Rome

to-AMDEL, Rome.

The following report has been received from Schall, President of the Austrian Communist Commission:

The Austrians in Rome have split into factions since the creation

in July of the Austrian Committee. The various leaders have played

a personal game and their activities have been marked by bitter

disputes and an inability to achieve any real unity. The original

committee apparently has been emasculated by constant opposition

and has disappeared as such.

to it, C.I.C. reports that Bishop Hudal resigned on September 10.

Dr. Karl Bamhas previously had resigned and Joseph Podhostnik, the

Committee's Communist Member, was lured away by Soviet interests to

work in their behalf. Thus ^{only} three members of the original Com-

mittee remained and on September 18 Dr. Richard Baschiera was named

chairman of a "Provisional Austrian Association in Rome" which

*organization.*appears to be but a skeleton of ~~the~~ original ~~value~~ Baron Berger Von

Waldernegg remains, but there is an understanding that all political

activity ~~has~~ ceased. Dr. Baschiera is described as an intelligent

Postscript to the Austrian Committee:

The Austrians in Rome have split into factions since the creation in July of the Austrian Committee. The various leaders have played a personnel game and their activities have been marked by bitter disputes and an inability to achieve any real unity. The original committee apparently has been emasculated by constant opposition *and has disappeared as such.* to it. C.I.C. reports that Bishop Hudal resigned on September 10. Dr. Karl Bambas previously had resigned and Joseph Podhostnik, the Committee's Communist Member, was lured away by Soviet interests to work in their behalf. Thus ^{only} ~~two~~ three members of the original Committee remained and on September 18 Dr. Richard Baschiera was named chairman of a "Provisional Austrian Association in Rome" which appears to be but a skeleton of ~~the~~ ^{organization.} original ~~value~~ Baron Berger Von Waldenegg remains, but there is an understanding that all political activity ~~has~~ ceased. Dr. Baschiera is described as an intelligent ⁴⁸⁷¹ young lawyer who wishes to orientate the Austrian Movement in Italy towards the ^{in existence} Movement in New York, said to be led by one Czernin, and to avoid contact with the London "Free Austrian Movement" which is considered to be too radical.

Dr. Karl Bambas, an egotistical person apparently of little real

value, constituted himself a center of opposition to the Committee of which he was Deputy Chairman,

and found it impossible to reconcile himself to the original committee

which he was a member, and ~~therefore~~ ^{it} deserted ~~the committee~~

opposition group (hoping to acquire sufficient strength to ~~replace~~ ^{supplant} it, in the Movement with which

~~he~~ ^{he} stressed the non-political character of

his activities and has indicated a desire to deal with and through

the Allies. He is given some support by a Dr. Koller whom P.W.B.

describes as an Austrian Jew, aged 48, who was engaged in the chemi-

cal industry in Vienna and in France prior to becoming a refugee

in Italy, and who is said to be the leader of the Central and Euro-

pean Jews in Rome, working under the Jewish organization, DELASIN.

~~described as New York~~ Other associates of Dr. Bambas are Wilhelm

Lampf (formerly a ^{co-worker in} ~~member of~~ the original committee) and Karl Bender.

This faction seems of little importance.

Another group was set up by one Schnitzler who claims to be an

observer in Rome of the London "Free Austrian Movement", and to have

the latter's authority to replace Bishop Hudal as head of the Austrian

Committee by Captain Fuchs, a surgeon in the 50th British General

~~was not mentioned~~. He stresses the non-political character of

his activities and has indicated a desire to deal with and through the Allies. He is given some support by a Dr. Koller whom P.W.B. describes as an Austrian Jew, aged 48, who was engaged in the chemical industry in Vienna and in France prior to becoming a refugee in Italy, and who is said to be the leader of the Central and European Jews in Rome, working under the Jewish organization, DEJASEN.

~~mentioned in New York~~ Other associates of Dr. Bambas are Wilhelm Lampi (formerly a ^{co-worker in} ~~member of~~ the original committee) and Karl Bender.

This faction seems of little importance.

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4810

Hospital in Italy who reputedly served with British Forces in the Middle East and at one time represented the London Austrian Committee amongst Austrian Jews in Palestine. Fuchs claims to represent ^{directly} the London "Free Austrian Movement" and to be entrusted by it to establish a branch in Italy. In his absence from Rome he has been represented

- 3 -

here by one Julius Freund, described by P.W.B. as a Communist and journalist who was employed by P.W.B. in Bari and came to Rome to further the political fortunes of Fuchs. This group has distinct Left political views and ambitions.

The Austrian Office, it appears, was established with the support of the American O.S.S. and the British S.O.E. who financed it. The Office was encouraged to register all Austrians in Italy and to provide relief facilities to them, with a view to recruiting agents from those found reliable; to make contact with useful, dependable ^{persons} ~~persons~~ in Austria; and for other purposes incident to their operations.

Certificates of Austrian nationality were issued which, however, have no legal validity and are not recognized officially by Allied or Italian authorities. The ^{alleged appearance as a} ~~certificates~~ ^{of the words,} heading on these ^{persons} ~~various~~ "Austrian Legation, Rome", apparently was reported in error. ^{PP} Baron Von Waldegg was chosen as titular head of the Office because it was felt that he was the safest person politically and because his former position as Austrian Minister to the Quirinale was hoped to give confidence to

Austrians in general and to stimulate them to present themselves for

0330

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no legal validity and are not recognized officially by Allied or Italian

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he was the safest person politically and because his former position

as Austrian Minister to the Quirinale was hoped to give confidence to

Austrians in general and to stimulate them to present themselves for ⁴³⁰⁹

registration. The actual head of the Office is one Peter Breycha who

^{seems to enjoy} ~~enjoying~~ the full confidence of S.O.S. ^{by whom he} ~~was~~ is characterized as

an intelligent young man who was Economic and Transport Attache at the

Austrian Consulate in Trieste until the time of the Anschluss when he

was dropped for his anti-Nazi sentiments.

- 4 -

The utility to O.S.S. and S.O.E. of the Office now has been exhausted and their aid and support ~~was~~ gradually ~~off~~ being withdrawn so that the Office soon is expected ^{cease} actively to functioning.

The Austrian ^{Office} ~~Committee~~ reputedly has had a monthly budget of some 100,000 Lire, ^{which was met} ~~the funds provided~~ as indicated above. It also appears that prior to Allied occupation of Rome there was an Austrian organization known as F.I.R.S.T. which purchased arms and supplies for provision to the partisan movement in Italy. Allegedly to protect itself, F.I.R.S.T. sold some of its purchases to the Germans. To this organization, C.I.C. is of the opinion that Fritz Mandl contributed ^{money,} ~~funds~~ but they do not believe in his continuance of this practice.

It is not known what financial backing ~~supports~~ the group led by the self-styled representatives of the London "Free Austrian Movement", but ^{presumably} the Bambas faction has none. There are hopes that financial assistance may be obtained from an Austrian group in Algiers which reputedly ^{is well financed} ~~was~~ ~~financed~~ by Austrian refugees from France. The Algiers Austrian Committee is said to be located in rue de Mulhouse; ~~and~~ to be led by one Matters-

100,000 Lire, ^{which was met} ~~the funds provided~~ as indicated above. It also appears that prior to Allied occupation of Rome there was an Austrian organization known as F.I.R.S.T. which purchased arms and supplies for provision to the partisan movement in Italy. Allegedly to protect itself, F.I.R.S.T. sold some of its purchases to the Germans. To this organization, C.I.C. is of the opinion that Fritz Handl contributed ^{money,} ~~subsidies~~ but they do not believe in his continuance of this practice.

It is not known what financial backing ~~supports~~ ^{the group} led by the self-styled representatives of the Legion "Free Austrian Movement", but presumably the Bambas faction has none. There are hopes that financial assistance may be obtained from an Austrian group in Algiers which reputedly ^{is well financed} ~~was subsidized by the Austrian Government~~ by Austrian refugees from France. The Algiers Austrian Committee is said to be located in rue de Mulhouse; ~~and~~ to be led by one Mattersdorfer, described as a wealthy business man who contracts for the Allied Armies; ~~the Austrian Committee~~ ⁴⁸⁰⁸ to have no political coloring, and to be interested primarily in relief work.

- 5 -

It is the consensus of the responsible American and British representatives in Rome that an exaggerated importance has been given to the Austrian Movement here. Beyond approving the July meeting of Austrians in Rome and receiving ^{a report of} the results thereof from Bishop Hudal (which were telegraphed to G-5, ATHQ, U. S. Political Adviser and British Resident Minister on July 4, 1944) the ^{Political Section, Allied} Control Commission, has taken no active interest in the Movement. The instructions contained in the Department's circular airgram dated January 14, 1944 (8 p.m.) and in telegram No. 227 of June 21, 1944, to U. S. Political Adviser,

^{followed implicitly} have been ~~widely known~~ and, in any case, there has been no question of recognition of the Committee or of the Office. They have been so little recognized that the following actions against them have been taken since August 15, 1944, by the Political Section ~~which~~ :-

1. A request for permission to publish a news sheet by the Committee was refused.

2. A letter addressed to "His Excellency, Baron von Berger-Waldeneck, Austrian Embassy, Rome", which was transmitted by the Free

a report of
Austrians in Rome and receiving the results thereof from Bishop Hudal

(which were telegraphed to G-5, AFHQ, U. S. Political Adviser and
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in the Department's circular airgram dated January 14, 1944 (8 p.m.)

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little recognized that the following actions against them have been

taken since August 15, 1944, by the Political Section ~~WALLING~~:-

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2. A letter addressed to "His Excellency, Baron von Berger-Walde-

negg, Austrian Embassy, Rome", which was transmitted by the Free

Austrian Committee in Barcelona through the American Embassy at

Madrid, was returned.

3. Permission was refused the Office to send a photographer to

refugee camps containing Austrians for the purpose of photographing

them prior to issuing them 'certificates of Austrian nationality.'

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- 6 -

4. In response to a request by the Regional Commissioner, Southern Region, A.C.C., for information as to whether ~~section~~ should be given

a request by Captain Fuchs to form a branch of the Free Austrian

Movement at Bari, Hq. A.C.C. replied telegraphically that neither

the British nor the American Government ~~afford~~ official recognition

or unofficial support to any Austrian individual or group ~~not~~ ~~do~~ ~~it~~

encourage the organization of any committee representing a coalition of any existing group.

5. A communication addressed by an Austrian in Bari to the "Free Austrian Committee", care of A.C.C., was returned.

There has been in Rome no Allied coordination of action or general directive regarding the Austrian Movement. Various Allied agencies (G.S.I., P.W.E., S.O.E., C.S.S., etc.) in the furtherance of their activities have established contact with the Commission and the Office ^{or} ~~and~~ with individual Austrians. Many of the latter were

employed, and continue to be employed, by them. Some of these employees exaggerated their status vis-a-vis the Allied Agencies, to give the

impression that they enjoyed a privileged or protected position.

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^{in the U.S.}
Direct publicity_^ apparently was given the Austrian Movement in Italy by the publication of an article in the Rome Committee which is

said to have appeared on June 16, 1944, in AUFBAU, a weekly German-language newspaper published in New York by the "New World Club, Inc.", 67 West 44 Street. The paper is ^{described} ~~represented~~ here as being an independent organ of German and Austrian refugees; ~~and~~ as being strongly Jewish in character and anti-Nazi in policy. The article allegedly stated that the former Austrian Legation in Rome had been reopened by Baron Von Waldenege; that a committee of "Austrian Fascists" had been formed and that Bishop Hudel, ^{one of its leaders,} was "supposed to be in close connection with the British and American Ambassadors to the Vatican." This publicity was highly pleasing to the Left Wing of the ~~Austrian~~ Movement, and S.O.E. is of the opinion that it was inspired by DELASEN.

In conclusion, the opinion is ~~held~~ that since S.O.E. and O.S.S. no longer find use of the Austrian Office and gradually are withdrawing their support, its activities automatically will cease, ^{thus precluding any necessity to close it officially,} The Austrians in Rome include a number of persons of ^{undeniable} ~~valuable~~ talent. They are divided politically but, since most of them have been refugees for long periods of time, they may succumb to some particular "pressure group" for fear in future of becoming again refugees in their own country."

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question of Austrians in Italy
 The ~~attention~~ ^{situation} will be watched closely and its developments reported.

Kirk.

WWS:WCB/

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