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TO :
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DATE : 12/09/57
PAGES : 3
SUBJECTS : SLOVODA, VLADIMIR

"SACHSISCHE ZEITUNG"

SED (SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY)

KPD (COMMUNIST PARTY OF GERMANY)

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Annexure III to
BRIP/O/11/354
dated 9 Dec 57.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST IN BAUTZEN (ROZ).

1. Source claimed to be unable to give any information concerning FRENCH defectors in BAUTZEN and the DDR. She stated that they are unpopular with, and distrusted by, the other defectors in BAUTZEN.

2. Source could give no new information concerning the GERMAN staff of the Club-house. She thought it possible that Wolfgang NOACK and not SCHATTEL is the real power at the Club-house.

3. Source did not think that the defector colony in BAUTZEN will be disbanded by the DDR authorities. Her reasons were that if this were done there would be no place where defectors could be schooled nor would it be so easy to observe their activities and to place restrictions on their movements.

4. Source claimed to have no knowledge of any agent or escape organisations in BAUTZEN. She also claimed to have no knowledge concerning the organisation of the FDJ, stating that she had never been politically active and had only visited the club-house in the company of her husband and purely for social entertainment.

5. On 1 Oct 57 the BAUTZEN edition of the 'Sächsische Zeitung' published the following article on the back page.

"By bus to BERLIN. We have been informed by the Traffic Office that, in accordance with the wishes of many citizens, a long-distance service BAUTZEN to BERLIN and return is being introduced wef 8 Oct 57. This has become possible as the Traffic Office have received a comfortably-fitted 'IKARUS' from the friendly Peoples' Republic of HUNGARY. This service will run twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays. Time of departure 0500 hours from Platz der Roten Armee, arriving in BERLIN, Alexanderplatz at 0900 hours. The return journey is from Alexanderplatz at 1800 hours, arriving in BAUTZEN at 2200 hours. The price of a return ticket is only 32.60 DM."

As Mrs ROBERTS had visited BERLIN by this bus service (para 7 of this report refers) she was questioned about the checks which are made on the passengers. A prospective passenger must first go to the Traffic Office, if there is a seat available this is booked and paid for. It may be necessary to wait for some time if no seat is immediately available. The name of the passenger and identity card number is entered on a list. There is no check of passengers on the bus before it leaves BAUTZEN or BERLIN. There is an identity card check of all passengers by the VOLKSPOLIZEI when the bus reaches the outskirts of BERLIN on both the inward and outward jurnies.

6. No further information was available.

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'A' Detachment

BRITISH INTELLIGENCE POOL BERLIN
British Forces Post Office 45.

BERLIN : 93 4384.
'A' Det : 93 4206.

Officer Commanding
BRITISH INTELLIGENCE POOL BERLIN
British Forces Post Office 45.

BRIP/O/11/441.

30 Nov 57.

Subject : BRITISH defector - 22772119 Pte DOWNIE, J.
1 BW (RHR), AWOL wef 20 Oct 56.

Ref BRIP/O/11/441 dated 25 Oct 57 :..... 'A'.

1. Attached at Annexures I and II are typed reproductions of two letters written by subject and Margot GOTTSCHALK (girl-friend of DOWNIE) to Erich GOTTSCHALK (living at BERLIN-SPANDAU, Schönwalder-Allee, 63), the brother of the girl. The envelope was postmarked 'BAUTZEN 27 Nov 57'. Two photostat copies of the letters are also attached for distribution as you may deem necessary; it is regretted that, owing to paper shortage, no further photostats could be obtained. It is pointed out that the photostats were passed to us by BIS and were initially obtained by intercepts of mail sent to WEST BERLIN from the ROZ and in view of this should be treated with the greatest possible discretion.

2. Annexure I, the letter dated 24 Nov 57, would appear to show that a certain amount of unrest and ill-feeling exists between the two groups in BAUTZEN and BERLIN respectively. This ill-feeling would appear to have been engendered by derogatory letters sent to subject and his girl-friend by the BERLIN branch of the family and that the flames have been fanned by the fact that DOWNIE has not been receiving many letters from BERLIN and the few that have been received were unflattering about his way of life in BAUTZEN. It may be that the visits of this detachment to Frau LEHMANN have contributed in some small measure to the family conflict, para 3 of ref 'A' refers.

3. Annexure I also supports our belief, based on previous reports, that Frau LEHMANN has quite some contact with other members of the renegade colony in BAUTZEN. She would certainly appear to have close contact with MURPHY. (The latter has been identified as the US Army defector - RA14479240 Clifford MURPHY, AWOL wef 14 Nov 1955.)

4. The postscript to the letter written by Margot GOTTSCHALK appears to be an appeal to her brother Erich not to cast her aside, but to stand by her during this unpleasantness.

5. Annexure I was enclosed in the same envelope as Annexure II.

...../to sheet 2 (para 6.)

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6. Annexure II, dated 25 Nov 57, shows that the family dispute has now burst into a conflagration. It would appear that the MURPHY family have written to the BERLIN LEHMANN/GOTTSCHALK group and have very adversely criticised the DOWNIE menage in BAUTZEN. As a result of the MURPHY letter the family have written, in terms of strong condemnation, to DOWNIE. Para 3 above is also supported by this second letter. DOWNIE's reply is a strong derogation of the BERLIN menage in general and Erich LEHMANN in particular. As a sign of his disgust and anger, no doubt, DOWNIE refrained from putting a stamp on the envelope, thus ensuring that Erich GOTTSCHALK must pay for the pleasure of reading DOWNIE's insults to him.
7. In the postscript to this letter written by Margot GOTTSCHALK, she too criticises her family and says "Goodbye for ever", although leaving the door slightly open for a reconciliation with her brother Erich, who has been reported to be the one member of the family to whom she feels most closely tied.
8. In the closing lines of his second letter, DOWNIE asks that the letters written by persons in BAUTZEN be sent to him, so that he may confront them with these letters. As a threat to induce the family to comply with his request, DOWNIE writes that he will arrange for an approach to be made to the political party of which Frau LEHMANN is a member. It may be that the 'party' referred to is the KPD (Communist Party of GERMANY), but, on the other hand, it does tend to confirm previous reports that Frau LEHMANN is a member of the SED (Socialist Unity Party of GERMANY); para 2 of ref 'A' refers.
9. It is pointed out that the typed reproductions of the letters which are attached to this report are as per the originals and the spelling, punctuation etc is DOWNIE's and NOT ours.
10. It would appear that the DOWNIE/GOTTSCHALK marriage has not yet taken place after all and that DOWNIE did not attempt to return to BERLIN during the latter part of Oct 57, as had previously been reported by various overt sources available to us, para 4 of ref 'A' refers. Further to paras 8 to 10 of ref 'A', our enquiries have established that the person referred to was NOT DOWNIE, but a former BRITISH soldier, now demobilised, who had returned to BERLIN for a visit as a civilian.
11. From the tone of the two letters, it would appear that DOWNIE and GOTTSCHALK are living happily together, which is contrary to previous reports we have received concerning the marital-like state of these two persons. However, it is, of course, appreciated that these letters may have been written with the intention of presenting a 'united front' to the family in BERLIN. Whilst our efforts in BERLIN to aggravate DOWNIE's relationship with the LEHMANN/GOTTSCHALK family would appear to have born fruit, para 2 above also refers, it is, at present, impossible to assess with accuracy whether we will be successful in driving DOWNIE out of BAUTZEN and back to the WEST. It is, naturally, appreciated that our attempts to influence DOWNIE may have a directly opposite effect than that which we intend and will induce him to remain in the DDR, although this is thought unlikely as he would be more free of the LEHMANN/GOTTSCHALK interference, and from Margot GOTTSCHALK, in the UK than in the DDR and he may well come round to this view in due course.

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...../to sheet 3 (para 12.)

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

12. In the postscript to Annexure I, written by Margot GOTTSCALK, she writes that she and DOWNIE are moving to a new accomodation, although does not specify where this is. They have been living at their present address (BAUTZEN, Ziegelstrasse, 7) for quite some time and enquiries will be made in order to establish their new address, to which they should move at the beginning of Dec 57.

13. We will continue to maintain casual contact with the LEHMANN/GOTTSHCALK family in WEST BERLIN, on the lines mentioned in ref 'A'.

14. No additional details are at present available, but enquiries are continuing and a further report will be submitted as soon as new information is received by us.

J.B. Barklam

Sgt,
NCO i/c 'A' Detachment,
BRITISH INTELLIGENCE POOL BERLIN.
Intelligence Corps.
(Sgt J.B. BARKLAM.)

JBB.

(.../to sheet 4, Annexure I.)

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