

Ref No SAIC/10
22 April 45

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SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER
APO 758 US ARMY

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: S E C R E T :
: Auth: CG, 7th Army :
: Init: JK :
: Date: 22 Apr 45 :
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EVENTS LEADING UP TO 20 JULY PUTSCH
(Cf Report Ref No SAIC/2, 10 Apr 45)

A. EARLY UNDERGROUND MOVEMENTS

I. SOURCE

HENK, Emil, HEIDELBERG, KAISERSTRASSE 33, a 51-year-old Socialist, who appears to have considerable knowledge of anti-Nazi movements. He paid for his political convictions by being imprisoned for almost two years (between 1934 and 1936), after trying to create an underground organization in SW Germany.

Rating: C-3 Date of Information: See Text Interrogator: H.W.F.

II. ANTI-NAZI GROUPS

It should be understood that only the so-called intelligentsia were engaged in the underground movements mentioned in this report, and that the various groups so engaged were to have formed a small cadre for organizations to be created after a successful putsch.

LEUSCHNER, former Minister of the Interior of Hessen, who is mentioned several times in this report, had by 1941 become the leader of a group of anti-Nazi intellectuals and former trade union chiefs. GOERDELER, former Mayor of LEIPZIG, seems to have first taken an active part in these ventures in 1941. He became the principal liaison man between the generals and the other factions, but he had no underground movement to give him a personal backing. LEUSCHNER and GOERDELER collaborated with the generals, who had been plotting HITLER's downfall since 1939.

In addition to the clique led by LEUSCHNER, GOERDELER, and the generals, another small group had been formed which met at Count MOLTKE's castle at KREISA, Silesia. According to source, the leading personalities were:

Count MOLTKE	
Count York VON WARTENBURG	
Dr MITRENDORFF	(Former Social Democratic Party Representative)
Dr HAUBACH	" " " " "
Prof REICHWEIN, HALLE	" " " " "
LEBER	" " " " "
Father DELL, S.J., MUNICH	(Representing the German Catholics)
OBERKONSISTORIALRAT	(Spiritual leader of the German Protestants
(Equiv Archbishop)	since NIEMOELLER's imprisonment)
Dr GERSTENMEIER	
Emil HENK	(Source)

III. EARLY ATTEMPTS

The first preparations for an insurrection against HITLER were made during the winter of 1939, when GENERALFELDMARSCHALL VON BRAUCHITSCH had concentrated a number of armored divisions in the BERLIN area. However, Gen GUDERIAN lost his nerve at the last moment, and the whole undertaking had to be called off. (This story was told to source by LEUSCHNER).

The next try, so far as is known to source, was made in Dec 41. Then again VON BRAUCHITSCH was ready to liquidate HITLER, and the preparations had reached such an advanced stage that the Field Marshal asked LEUSCHNER to name those

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prominent Nazis whom it was essential to kill at all costs. The coup was planned for Christmas 41, but VON BRAUCHITSCH was relieved of his command 12 Dec, and the scheme collapsed.

In 42, LEUSCHNER, MASS, another Socialist union leader, and KAISER, the former chief of the Catholic unions, reached complete agreement as to the action to be taken. With GOERDELER acting as intermediary, LEUSCHNER established contact with the generals, who were represented by Gen VON BECK. Other generals known to have taken part in the talks were Gen FALKENHAUSEN and Gen KUECHLER. Gen MANSTEIN refused to take part, stating that he was a soldier, not a politician.

The third attempt was planned for April 43, but during a meeting between source and Drs MITRENDORFF and HAUBACH, at source's house in OBERSTDORF, Allgau, it was decided that a putsch in 1943 would be untimely. The Russians were still far away, and their political intentions were unknown, while the Americans and the British had not yet had any important military or political success. A new government would have had to face tremendous problems. The insurrection was therefore postponed, after Gen VON BECK had been notified through Count MOLTKE.

In the same year, GOERDELER, LEUSCHNER, and the former Ambassador to MOSCOW, Count VON DER SCHULENBURG, drew up a plan to establish contact, first with STALIN, and later with the British and American governments. Count SCHULENBURG was to have crossed the Russian lines in Gen KUECHLER's Army sector, but in the end permission was refused by the Gen's Ia, because the fact could not have been kept secret. (This was told to source by LEUSCHNER and MITRENDORFF, who had also shown him a memorandum from SCHULENBURG to HITLER, written in May 41, in which the Count pleaded with the FUEHRER not to go to war against Russia since the vast spaces and the severe climate presented insurmountable difficulties).

In the summer of 43, the generals declared that a revolt on their part was impossible, but that they would welcome a revolution and would give it their immediate support. The Jesuits, who had encouraged the underground movement from the start, were assigned the task of conducting a poll of popular sentiment. When this poll disclosed a negative reaction everywhere except in MUNICH and VIENNA, it was concluded that a popular rebellion was out of the question, and that HITLER would have to be overthrown by men with political and military power. Source states that HIMMLER attempted to establish an entente with LEUSCHNER during the course of the summer, and it is source's opinion that he was successful in this and that he maintained contact with LEUSCHNER from that time onward.

Count MOLTKE's clique and the group formed by GOERDELER, LEUSCHNER, and the generals had certain political differences, but by early summer 44 they had reached an understanding concerning the proposed personnel of a new government. GOERDELER was to have been Prime Minister at first, but LEUSCHNER was to succeed him after a short time - at least so LEUSCHNER was led to believe. Source, who was a member of Count MOLTKE's circle, claims to have been offered the governorship of Southern Germany, which he refused because he did not want to hold public office. To this refusal he attributes the fact that he is still alive.

Austria was to remain a province of Germany, but a separate government was planned, which included SCHUSCHNIGG, SEITZ, the former Mayor of VIENNA, and Dr GLEISSNER, a Social Democrat. SEITZ had reluctantly agreed to participate in the spring of 43.

IV. THE 20 JULY PUTSCH

Early in July 44, LEBER got in touch with the three-man Central Committee of the Communist Party. Source believes that one of these men was a Nazi agent. At any rate LEBER and REICHWEIN, together with the members of the Central Committee, were arrested shortly thereafter. At one of these meetings the name of Col VON STAUFFENBERG was mentioned, and source thinks that the possibility that he had become known to the GESTAPO may have influenced VON STAUFFENBERG to advance the date for the putsch.

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V. PERSONALITIES

Source believes that the following personalities connected with the underground activities described above may still be alive:

Dr GLEISSNER	FALTERWEG 11, BERLIN. (Mentioned above).
Mrs SCHWAMB	BURGFELD 243, or c/o WEBER, MITRASSTRASSE 9, FRANKFURT/MAIN. Her husband was one of LEUSCHNER's collaborators, and source believes that she may know a number of personalities who might be useful.

B. CONSUL MOVEMENT

I. SOURCE

LINDEMANN, Reinhold Moritz, O/GEFR (Cpl), 639 SCHW FLAK ABT (Hv A/A Bn), a 44-year-old native of RODACH, near COBURG. His records show that he joined the Nazi Party in 1932, and that he held the rank of TRUPPFUEHRER (S/Sgt) in the SA. He was cooperative during interrogation, but it is apparent that he is an opportunist who is anxious to ingratiate himself with the winning side. Although his cousin, GENLT (Maj Gen) Fritz LINDEMANN, was implicated in the 20 July putsch, source denies having had any connection with the affair himself.

Rating: C-3 Date of Information: See Text Interrogators: R.E.T. and E.W.

II. THE MOVEMENT

Source believes that the attempt on HITLER of 20 July 44 had its inception in the CONSUL movement, which was founded during 1940-41, and which was named after an anti-Communist organization of the early 20's. The group was made up of lawyers, economists, and high-ranking Army officers, and its ideals, according to source, were democratic. Its purpose was to overthrow HITLER, and to end the war, by bringing about an insurrection.

PW received his information from his brother, Dr Kurt LINDEMANN, who was killed by a bomb a few weeks ago, and from Maj Dr REUSSE, an old family friend. Source states that neither of these men were involved in the movement, but both had indirect connections with it. Maj REUSSE was at the LUFTWAFFENFACHSCHULE (GAF Trade School), WUERZBURG, where he directed the training program.

III. PROMINENT PERSONALITIES

GRAF HELLDORF	Former STADTKOMMANDANT, BERLIN.
GENMAJ (Brig Gen) HASSE	
Dr GOERDELER	OBERBUERGERMEISTER (Mayor), LEIPZIG.
GENLT (Maj Gen) Dr Fritz LINDEMANN	Source's cousin.
GENOBST (Col Gen) HIPPER (?)	
OBSTLT (Lt Col) BENARDIS	General Staff Officer.
OBST (Col) GRAF VON STAUFFENBERG	
GENOBST Fritz FROMM	His murder of a General Staff Officer following 20 July, and his subsequent disappearance, were reported in the press.
Field Marshal VON WITZLEBEN	Tried by a people's court after 20 July. The Judge in the case was killed, and further news was suppressed, source states.

The leading members after the founding of the movement were Field Marshal VON

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WITZLEBEN and GRAF VON STAUFFENBERG. The number of members in the movement is generally estimated at 500, according to source, of whom approx 400 are thought to have been executed following the 20 July putsch, including all the above-named personalities excepting possibly Gen FROMM, whose connection with the plot was never proven.

22 April 1945

SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER

Paul Kubala
PAUL KUBALA, Maj, MI,^d
Commanding.

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