

Telegram 6761, October 29, 1943

. . . According to informant number 1023, the Reich has lost 1200 technicians and 50 U-boats as a result of the aerial bombing of U-boat bases along the shore of the Atlantic and the North Sea during the months of August, September and October. From other sources come information that the number of desertions into Switzerland from the Reich army has increased greatly . . . Beginning last month, defense construction has been under way in valleys of the Austrian Tyrol, to the southward of a line between Irnst and Bludenz. This work is being carried on by the Todt organization. Training schools for prospective Nazi leaders (Vogelsand being the outstanding one) were the recipients of directions not long since, to cover the contingencies of the loss of this war by the Reich, the disappearance of Hitler or like events. In such cases they were to inter all papers and then continue to maintain the grapevine liaison among party groups toward the end of keeping party principles alive with the view of bringing Nazi rule back again some day. The matter is not being propagandized but, for the second time, a mass draft is under way in the Reich. This move particularly applies to workers in manufacturing plants. The age limit for reserves from the army living abroad has been raised to 50 years and in some cases men even 55 years old are being recalled to active duty. There is a report that General Asov [Vlasov] is under arrest and that the so-called "army of liberation" in the Soviet, which had enlisted Soviet prisoners of war in the Reich, is to be disbanded.

Telegram 4471-73, August 12, 1944

To 154. In reference to your # 1939. The problem mentioned in the above communication has 2 aspects. (1) The possible establishment of a Nazi reduit as was taken up in my flash dated the 10th of this month. (2) Underground union of rabid Nazi factions within territory held by the Allies. Concerning the first aspect, 511 has a rather grave approach to the situation, due tot he fact that any such reduit could be flanked by the Siwss and therefore they are paying close heed to this matter. He seems to feel that there is some leaning toward a concentration of materials in this region. Switzerland has accorded the reduit boundaries which are slightly more extensive than those indicated in my flash and they have suggested that a portion of northern Italy might be included providing an outlet tot he ocean in the region Trieste-Venice. It ist not beyond the realm of probability that some such project is being devised but the evidence is not conclusive at the present time. The Nazi theory ist that by stationing 1,000,000 troops on the Vorarlberg, Austrian and Bavarian Alps, together with sufficient material, they could resist for a period exendning from 6 to 12 months.

The 2nd scheme, i.e., going underground within Allied controlled territory is mentioned in many reports which have been received but all of these lack conviction. These accounts are usually based on Ordensburg Hitler educationals institutions whre rabid young Nazis are trained. These would supply the core for underground movements in the futre. As we receive trustworthy data we shall add to the above information. ...

Memorandum from Allen W. Dulles to William J. Donovan New York, October 7, 1944, hierin:
Notes on the German situation

To: General William J. Donovan
From: Allen W. Dulles

This memorandum represents the conclusions reached from approximately two years' study of the German situation from Switzerland and contact with persons of various nationalities intimately familiar with Germany's conditions, including a large number of Germans, both those who are still resident in Germany and those who have been refugees in Switzerland for varying periods of time. Obviously, this heterogeneous group of people have not always been in agreement, and this memorandum represents my own conclusions based on all the evidence available to me.

[...]

12. There are also reports, credible but not confirmed, and I believe on the whole unlikely, that the Nazis will create their own Maquis in the Bavarian Alps and the Vorarlberg and attempt to hold out there after resistance is broken in the rest of Germany. This possibility should be considered and studied even though it is in the realm of the improbable rather than the probable.

Telegram 2909, January 2, 1945 (extracts)

Magruder only from 110.

1. This is highly controversial subject with thorny background of diplomatic correspondence. Following are my views based on general impressions rather than intimate knowledge of details.

2. Both factions cited are partly right. Traffic reduced because of changes in war situation and also as result of diplomatic and economic pressure. Latter has obtained some results because fear attack by Germany gone and because Swiss vitally need certain facilities from Anglo-Saxon side, particularly food and raw material imports. Also Swiss firmly convinced of, and in great majority desire, our victory and hope it will come soon.

3. It is mistake to ask Swiss to give up a principle, particularly one which they consider vital to their neutral status. Having experienced 2 wars in 25 years and seeing possibility of future wars, they are stubbornly attached to certain principles which rightly or wrongly they feel have twice helped save them from invasion. However, results can be achieved by asking concessions on specific points of interest to us. For example, far better to insist upon limitation transit traffic to point where unimportant militarily than to attempt force Swiss to abandon in principle all such traffic

7. We should also consider possibility that later, but before end of hostilities, we might wish to use transit through Switzerland if Germans evacuated western and central North Italy but held in Veneto or if German project for final stand in Bavarian Alps materializes.

8. See no objection to bombing attacks on Italian end of Gotthard Line and we might also help with SO operations.

9. I am undoubtedly influenced by fact that in my work, I constantly need from Swiss favors to which, under strict rules of neutrality, I am not entitled. As we now give Swiss little except dynamite and diplomatic demands, it is not easy to create best atmosphere for my work. Hence I do not favor pressing Swiss to wall for what seems to me to be very small military advantages, particularly as it is a wall which Swiss may not jump.

Radiotelephone Transmission No. 267, January 18, 1945

Germany

The Russian offensive has made a deep impression on Germany. Communiques and reports of the German military critics have never been more somber. Apparently now, in contrast to some months ago, no real attempt is being made to hide from the German people the seriousness of the situation. Breaks in the line are frankly admitted. Also the German, rather than the Russian, communiques are often the first to give the details of the depth of the Russian penetration and of the loss of important cities.

All this fits in with the line of propaganda for which Goebbels has been so carefully preparing the people. Now it is not a war for supremacy but a war for survival. It is a war against the invader at the frontier, and against an invader-or rather, three invaders- who, according to Goebbels, have vowed to destroy, partition, and enslave the German people. To whip the people up for such a war, Goebbels uses unsparingly bad news when it suits his purpose. He is no longer frightened of it. To a certain extent, it is grist to his new mill.

As the threat to Silesia and a part of Germany becomes acute in the East, the German military authorities must be asking themselves what fronts must be sacrificed in order to try to create a new stabilized line somewhere. Norway and Italy may well be the first theaters from which German withdrawals will start. Several divisions have reportedly gone from Italy towards Vienna already. But the forces in these theaters will not suffice, and soon the High Command will be forced to decide whether to try to hold the east or west front to the end. And the answer to this depends upon whether they would prefer to have the Russians or the Americans and British first occupy the country and impress their mark upon the occupation; whether they would prefer to fall into Russian or Anglo-Saxon hands. Here the views are likely to be differing. Old-line conservative Wehrmacht officers would probably prefer the West. The younger, more Nazi, officers would prefer the East as offering the greater likelihood of being able to continue in their profession. In the Party itself there is also some division. The radical wing would prefer Russia. Others would prefer the West, probably on the theory that a trial by the easy-going and quick to forget Anglo-Saxons is preferable to the risks of quick liquidation at Russian hands.

While such speculation is probably going on, it seems likely that the men around Hitler and Himmler are preparing for the possibility of a last stand in the inner German fortress of the Bavarian and Austrian Alps, playing their last card, namely, that when the Russians and Anglo-Saxons actually meet somewhere in Germany there will be such dissension among them that the Nazis in the mountains, if they can hold out long enough, can still save something from the wreckage or at least choose to whom to deliver themselves.

This idea of a defense in a mountain fortress is in line with the Wagnerian complex of the whole National Socialist movement and the fanaticism of the Nazi youth. Hitler and his small band of brigands, who started in the beer-hall of Munich, may find their end not far away in the Bavarian Alps, after having laid most of Europe in ruins.

Radiotelephone Transmission No. 269. January 20, 1945

Austria

It is high time that something be done about Austria. The resistance there, both in Vienna and the Austrian Alps, appears to be beginning to take some shape. It is hard to appraise the extent of it, but at least there is some evidence of its existence.

Since the Moscow Declaration of over a year ago, little has been done to encourage the Austrian resistance movement. The absence of any outstanding Austrian patriots abroad has been some handicap. There has been no voice to speak for Austria in the United States. Great Britain and Russia have largely passed the matter over in silence, except to urge the Austrians to revolt at times and under conditions when revolt was impossible. With the Russian armies not far away, the situation is now altered. The Austrians are faced with the alternative of becoming a second Hungary and Vienna a second Budapest or of making it so uncomfortable for the Nazis that they will decide to draw their defense lines in the Austrian Alps to the west of the capital.

There are many difficulties in the way of securing action by the Austrians themselves: (1) they are by nature an easy going and not an heroic people; (2) the country has been purposely emptied of the men and many of the women who might form a resistance front. These are in the army or defense work, many far from their Austrian homes; (3) Austria, and in particular Vienna, is filled with a motley crowd of foreign workers and displaced people who have no particular feeling for an Austrian state and are unwilling to make sacrifices for it. In the country and mountain areas there are many bombed-out refugees from Germany who have no interest whatever in an independent Austria; (4) there is such physical and mental lassitude and depression among the people, at least in the cities, that the physical energy to react is largely gone.

However, with all these obstacles it still seems worthwhile to try to arouse the Austrians to more effective opposition but this will require some encouragement on our part.

Here are some ideas which occur to me: (1) the United States, Great Britain and Russia in the absence of any authoritative Austrian body which can as yet act for Austria might constitute themselves as joint trustees, assuming the obligations to carry out the Moscow Declaration

and to constitute an independent Austria within boundaries and under arrangements with neighboring states which would give Austria a chance to work out a viable state; (2) something more should be done to impress the Austrians that every effort would be made by the Allies to save Vienna the fate of Budapest, if the Austrians themselves would take some steps to sabotage the war effort in and around Vienna and to make Vienna generally an unhealthy spot for the Nazis and Gestapo. If Vienna is to become a second Budapest, the responsibility for it should be placed squarely on the Nazis; (3) a study should be made of aid to be given to Austrian partisans in the mountains. In winter weather this is not easy, possibly impractical and we should not hold out false hopes. However, the end of the war is sufficiently near to make it possibly justifiable today to encourage Maquis activities in this area. We have a particular interest in this as it might help to discourage the Nazis from trying to make a last stand in a Maquis of their own based in the Austrian and Bavarian Alps.

The next few weeks may have a particular importance in determining whether can secure some aid from Austria toward shortening the war and whether Austria can herself do something to help achieve her own freedom. This would have real political importance in building up the self respect and national consciousness necessary to justify and consolidate independent Austrian resistance. But Austrians cannot yet start in on this course alone. We must find a way to give them first some morale and then if a resistance starts to take shape, some material aid.

Telegram 3127 to Caserta, January 25, 1945

Following miscellaneous intelligence, etc. from K-28, 1 or 2 items appeared in his recent written reports: (1) Widespread demand Austria for intensified use of leaflets, particularly bearing factual news. People thoroughly tired of propaganda or political jokes. Recommends planning for Austria with usual heading Wiener Arbeiter Zeitung and dropping at regular, say weekly intervals. (2) Salzburg area becoming concentration point for secret archives. Following places believed to be particular hideouts: (a) cellars and tunnels of old fortress Hohen Salzburg in Salzburg. Here secret Documents of OKW are stored. (b) Cellars and tunnels of Jonnberg in Salzburg. (c) Cellars of Moenchsberg in Salzburg. (3) Parts of German Foreign Office formerly in Krummhuegel area Silesia moved to Schloss Hellbrunn near Salzburg. (4) Head of Archiv-Kommission of German FO, Professor Jagow, recently instructed his staff to gather information for report on cruelties committed by Allied soldiers against German soldiers. Also on use of gas by Allied Armies. K-28 suggests this looks like preparing alibis. (5) Himmler reported to have established one of his Stabs-Feld-Hq. in Aigen-Glas near Salzburg located on railroad line Aigen-Glas to Hallein, one and a half kilometers from Aigen-Glas directly east of railroad. (6) Goering reported to have established one of his Hq. between Reichenhall and Freilassing in upper Bavaria. (7) According to captured secret Russian order major part of Russian offensive reserves have been moved to Baltic Polish theaters. So it is therefore safe to assume that strength of Russian Armies in Hungary considerably weakened and prospects favorable for German forces to advance via Stuhlweissenburg to Danube and to relieve Budapest. Lengthening of Russian southern flanks in Carpathians to be expected which offers opportunity for German offensive in this area after liquidation of Russian Armies west of Budapest. The defenders of Budapest must

hold out under all circumstances and relief measures from air are under way. Accompanying order were instructions addressed to German Commander Vienna ordering discontinuation evacuation of military hospitals from Vienna and providing that arms intended for Vienna Volkssturm should be made available to Chief H. Ruest and RDE (date of order about January 7th) . . . (8) POW does not believe that Nazi Maquis can be effectively established Austrian Alps view hostility local population. Had heard particularly of 4 German centers for Maquis, viz. Berlin, Harz, Thuringen and Berchtesgaden. They emphasize that experience Stalingrad, Warsaw etc. has shown that bombed and destroyed cities are best suited for last stand resistance.

Telegram 360 to Caserta, February 9, 1945

Neurath returned from meeting with Kesselring, Rahn and Wolf He did not then get impression of plans for immediate withdrawal and apparently even high German officials in Italy are somewhat surprised that bulk of reinforcements for the Eastern Front are coming from west rather than from the south. He felt possible explanation German army in Italy being kept largely intact as eventual protection for southern flank of the German inner fortress based on Bavarian Austrian Alps. (From 11 O: K-28 reports do indicate certain withdrawals.) Kesselring saw Rundstedt recently and the two are on friendly terms but according to Neurath neither is yet ready to come over to us. Neurath discussed with Kesselring the Freies Deutschland Committee. Kesselring indicated Seydlitz had little prestige with army but on contrary if Paulus agreed to form government this might have substantial effect on Wehrmacht. Neurath has contact with Westphal but was advised by Kesselring not to try to see him immediately view suspicion which such trip might occasion. Very secret: via Neurath we now have existing line to Kesselring and potential line to Westphal but this not useful for general BO as Neurath will not lend himself to that but might someday be useful in event of major developments.

Radiotelephone Transmission No. 276, February 13, 1945

Germany

1. When organized German military resistance collapses, there will probably be more than one "reduit" or inner fortress of Nazi resistance which may remain. It seems generally accepted now that a delayed defense fortress will lie in the Bavarian and Austrian Alps. Swiss sources have information which they consider reliable that substantial amounts of foodstuffs being collected here, and that some underground factories are being prepared to supply arms required for mountain warfare. The difficulty about these reports is that it is impossible to put your finger on the particular area where the foodstuffs are being collected, or where these underground factories are being prepared. In connection with the above, it is also reported that the Nazi authorities are taking careful measures to prevent the refugees from the evacuated areas and Berlin from going into the general area of southern Germany and the réduit. Apparently, these evacuees are being moved in a westerly rather than in a southerly direction.

In addition to the main reduit, people here believe that there will be other isolated centers of Nazi resistance; for example, in the area of Thuringen, around Weimar, and also in the Black Forest area, flanked by the northern frontier of Switzerland and the Rhine.

2. Here is a report from the National Zeitung of Basie of a few days ago, which gives clearer ... picture of the German maquis plan. (Beginning of summary) The rapid advance of the Russians and the threatened collapse of the German Eastern Front have forced the German command, not only to concentrate its reserves in front of Berlin, but also to rush its preparations for the German maquis. The most important centers of resistance of this maquis are to be in Thuringen, south of Stuttgart, and in Middle Bavaria and Austria. There is plenty of protection there by mountains and hills, and many fortifications have been constructed. There is already an armament industry in operation, with picked workers available to run it, while it is reported that measures to evacuate the useless civilian population have been prepared.

The so-called ideals of National Socialism are nothing new. They are those of the old pan-Germanism developed to the most radical and utmost degree. Similarly, the idea of a maquis existed in 1918, although not anything like as complete as the plan which the Nazis are preparing to present the war-weary world in the last stages of the second world war. In 1918 and after, there was a "black" Reichswehr. There were Freikorps and secret ... organizations. Great stores of arms were hidden away and never disclosed to the Allied Control Commission—all this with the idea of organizing and maintaining secret resistance until such time as a new international constellation, such as, perhaps, an agreement with Russia, would permit the movement to come out into the open. Even then, the watch-word was "Death to the traitors!" Only the prominent victims, such as Erzberger, Rathenau, Eisener, Landauer, Liebknecht, and Rosa Luxemburg, came to public notice. No one has yet told the whole tale of the many others who were murdered, especially those who betrayed plans and secret depots of arms to the Allies. Similar plans are now to be carried into effect by the Nazis, with their habitual thoroughness, and aided by their experiences with the resistance movement in occupied countries, such as Tito's guerrilla war. There are special schools for recruits taught by selected officers from the front. The establishment of huge underground ammunition plants and tremendous stores of ammunition and food serve the same purpose.

(This report is incomplete due to technical difficulties.)

Radiotelephone Transmission No. 278, February 17, 1945 (extract)

... Germany

1. It is increasingly the impression here that, even after organized military resistance on the eastern, western and southern fronts of Germany has been broken, there will remain for a considerable period, not only a relatively large maquis in the south of Germany and Austria, but several other maquis organizations in various mountainous and forest areas, such as the Harz, Thuringen, and the Black Forest. Military experts here also believe that the Nazis will endeavor to make each large German city a center of resistance.

The Germans expect to apply, in their last stand resistance, not only the lessons of Stalingrad and Budapest, but also the lessons of the French and Yugoslav maquis. I believe that there is sufficient basis for these reports to justify our most serious consideration and the planning now of all appropriate measures to meet this problem.

In the case of the European maquis, the resistance forces have been successful because of the secret backing of the population in the areas where the maquis forces were concentrated, despite lack of arms and ammunition. The Germans expect to have no shortage of the type of military supplies needed for guerrilla warfare, and there is not much we can do at the moment to prevent them from assembling these supplies in the strategic areas they may select. What we can do, possibly, is to help create a situation where the local population will be hostile rather than helpful to the Nazi forces which will try to assemble in the respective maquis areas. It might well be worth considering the line of propaganda to tell the German people that those who aid in the organization of the maquis, those who give any support to it will be classed with the SS and Gestapo forces and with the Nazi criminals who will make up the bulk of the maquis forces. We must show the German people that the men of the German maquis are those who are preventing the restoration of peace, those who are thus responsible for the final and complete destruction of Germany. We must in this way induce the Germans themselves to track down the Nazis in their mountain and forest retreats. This will give anti-Nazis a last chance to show that there are some Germans who are willing to turn on their Nazi oppressors and to risk their lives to destroy vestiges of Nazi control in Germany

Telegram 5727, February 23, 1945

Following from source #836. Official of German embassy North Italy, who is in Switzerland to turn into Swiss francs some marks belonging to members of Kesselring's staff, says Kesselring and Rahn are ready to quit, and even fight against Hitler, if we can offer them something to show for it. He says K is moved by the feeling that his ultimate destiny, as things are going now, is to wind up in the Alpen reduit, subordinate to SS officials, to die in the last resistance or be killed for not resisting. As long as he is still in Italy, he has power and is willing to use it by surrendering in return for some concession. It is not clear whether it is question of concessions to him and his staff or troops personally or whether it is a question of concession for Germany generally. He and his staff seem to want usable postwar funds.

Source did not disclose name of German Embassy official who is here, but will do so, and step out of the matter himself, if we are interested. Official is to come to him again to seek help in selling the free marks at good rate and source will string him along in order to delay him here for few days.

From 110. We do not rate this source very highly but we do have some independent reasons to believe that not impossible that K and R might be preparing for something like this. We are investigating rumor through more direct and reliable channels.

Radiotelephone Transmission No. 283, March 3, 1945

I am sorry to have had to cancel so many calls recently, but there has been a very heavy pressure of work recently.

Germany

I have reported several times about the alleged plans of the Germans to establish a maquis or a redout, or possibly several of them. On the whole, I am inclined to believe in this possibility, but I must admit that a critical analysis of reliable data received so far does not indicate that the preparations have as yet progressed very far.

There are a number of newspaper articles on the subject, with maps indicating the boundaries of the redout and generalities about great hidden stores of provisions, about the preparation of underground factories, and the like. Much of this is probably fiction or at least it is not proved as yet by reliable evidence. Quite naturally, some plants have been moved into the mountain or forest areas to be better protected from bombing. Hitler and other Nazi leaders have their castles in the Bavarian and Austrian Alps. Some preparations have undoubtedly been made, but not yet on the scale we have been led to believe.

If, as seems likely, the fanatical Nazis will fight it out to the bitter end, then something in the nature of a redout is inevitable, and the mountains and forest areas will be the last centers of resistance. I doubt, however, whether there will be the extent of prior preparation in the way of fortifications and supplies which propaganda stories have indicated. Persons well acquainted with the Austrian Alps who have recently been here see no real signs of serious preparations going on there as yet.

The fact of the matter is that Hitler may not yet be ready to concede the need of a maquis. He still stubbornly defends Berlin and plans countermeasures. The Germans have never been good in planning what they would do in the face of defeat. Their strength lay in planning for conquest; thus, their administration for the British Isles was complete in all details, and the freight rates for the transport of the Balm oil were published. But when it came to preparing beforehand for the evacuation of Paris and Strasbourg, they failed dismally to think ahead of time or take even normal precautions.

Further, in their present situation in the west, east, north and south, they have neither the supplies, the transport or the men to spare [for] any great effort to fortify and stock a vast inner fortress. And, from the practical angle, the talk of building in the mountains great new underground factories is nonsense. It would take years. There are some tunnels, some abandoned mines, some quarries, and the like, which can be used or adapted. But new construction on a great scale during recent months has been out of the question.

This does not mean, as I have suggested above, that we will not have to fight the Nazis into mountain retreats. It is likely that we will have to do so. Nature itself, without much preparation, as the Italian campaign has shown, may make the going slow, difficult, and costly. I do not believe, however, that months of elaborate preparation have been devoted to fortifying, arming, and stocking a great German redout. Much in the way of supplies and

man-power may possibly be flung into this area at the last moment, unless our armies can cut off the Nazi retreat.

In connection with the German maquis, it is interesting to note that there are increasing signs that not all the leading Nazis are reconciled to sharing in this plan for last-ditch resistance. There may well come a split in the Nazi ranks before the end, and, if this goes deep enough, there might be only a relatively small number who would seek the maquis.

Radiotelephone Transmission No. 286, March 12, 1945

Germany

A German official, who arrived here very recently from Berlin after a 24-hour trip by auto, gave us his impressions as follows:

He said he did not believe in the efficacy of the reduit and did not think that the German population would give sufficient support to guerrilla warfare to make it worthwhile. The mass of the population, he is convinced, is worn out and has only the wish that the war should come to an end. He remarked that a few weeks ago the Government's policy of evacuation of populations has been changed. In the West, these populations will be left behind the retreating troops, while in the East, the evacuations will continue. This change has been made because there is no place to accommodate populations from both fronts. Already the center of Germany is crowded to the breaking point. In the East, efforts will continue to be made to evacuate populations because of the Russian deportation policy and because there have been a number of instances of mishandling of civilians.

He stated that, along the lines of this policy, civilian administrative officers, insofar as they are not conspicuous Nazis, will remain with the civilian population in the West. He expressed the opinion that the attitude of these people will be correct and cooperative insofar as maintaining order and routine existence requirements are concerned.

He also stated that, while plans have been made to move administrative organizations of the German Government from Berlin to Central Germany, very few offices, except parts of the Air Ministry and War Ministry, have as yet left. The Foreign Office is still at the Wilhelmstrasse. In spite of bombings, recent attacks have been largely towards the East of the city, the local transportation system functions, and Berlin is still distinctly the center of the country.

Radiotelephone Transmission No. 288, March 16, 1945

Germany

1. The stubbornness of the German resistance in the neighborhood of Lake Balaton and Danube, while the defenses are crumbling in the seemingly more vital areas in the East and West, has caused a good deal of comment. We have sought views of several experts on the

subject, particularly some recent arrivals from Austria, and the following seems to be the explanation:

The Germans realize that it is now completely impossible for them to hold the relatively flat country in the North of Germany from the Ruhr to Berlin. They are therefore reconciled to the inevitability of losing this. Their struggle in this area they conceive as a delaying action to gain time to regroup their forces towards the South and to complete their preparations for the defense of the reduct. German on the one hand, and with the likelihood that they will not shoot many Nazis, on the other, will probably blunder in their occupation methods.

Telegram 7589, March 24, 1945

... Hoettl made 2nd trip here from Vienna and on this occasion we arranged put our 502 in contact with him. Hoettl who I am convinced is righthand man of Kaltenbrunner gave following picture of situation Vienna: Within ranks of Austrian SS the majority, who mostly Austrian nationals, desires liquidate party and arrange orderly transfer of administration to Western powers. This plan involves elimination of SS elements favoring continuation of war, particularly Bormann supporters and a number of Gauleiters.

This viewpoint was also confirmed to us by 503 who has also been here again and who saw Kaltenbrunner between Hoettl's first and second trip and who advised us that second trip was at Kaltenbrunner's special request. According to Hoettl Kaltenbrunner had entrusted him with task of establishing contact with Austrian opposition circles with view of supporting anti-communist elements. Because of his Catholicism and fact his father social democratic school reformer Hoettl deemed qualified for this task which facilitated by anti-communist leanings of Austrian workers. Hoettl claimed contact with anti-Nazi worker leaders Steirmark, Wiener Neustadt and Vienna and also with Catholic opposition groups and cited name of Catholic leader Rudolph as opposition leader. (From 110. This name checks with K-28 report.) Claimed he knew other leaders only under their cover names. Hoettl promised return here with certain opposition leaders and hinted even at possibility of bringing out Seitz as well as representatives of workers and Catholic opposition.

This program was subject of discussion in Salzburg attended by Kaltenbrunner, Neubacher, Glaise-Horstenau, Neustadter-Stuermer, and Hoettl upon latter's return to Austria after second trip.

Re general situation Hoettl declared Nazis expected wave of anti-Nazi communism in Balkan area, that in Rumania Iron Guard strengthened and present party of Maniu opposed to communism. Similar developments in Yugoslavia. He gave these developments as reason why at present time in spite of unfavorable situation on east and west fronts, SS divs among them Leibstandarte remained on Plattensee front while von Weich's army in Croatia remained there and relatively inactive. He said Alpine reduct would be finished and stocked in about 3 months, that Steyrwerke is already underground and producing particularly such

defensive weapons as panzer faeuste. It is intended that Wehrmacht units as well as SS be taken into reduit including families of fighting men.

As regards situation within Nazi Party, Hoettl stated that split between West and East oriented persons becoming more apparent. Ley and Arbeitsfront plus Bormann and many Gauleiters go with latter. Kaltenbrunner and his followers belong to Western oriented group. He predicted sort of Tauroggen movement with the uncovering of Western front and march toward the East leaving government of Germany to Western allies while continuing to fight as Free Corps band.

From 110. The above is well within range of possibility. As you know there are other indications that certain SS elements are trying to save their skins by turning to West, dropping their attacks against local anti-Nazi movements or even favouring them and preparing to follow line which will obviate necessity of their joining diehards in last ditch struggle in reduit.

Elements of similarity in movements of von Epp in Bavaria, Kaltenbrunner in Austria and our contacts in Italy are striking. It seems to me that these trends offer possibility of checkmating any effective organization of German reduit. Interesting question whether Himmler is pulling strings behind these varying movements and possibly preparing himself to desert the diehards.

Telegram 8349, April 6, 1945

109 from 110. Re your #5149 (OUT 8175).

1. Trust that memo sent via 244 can be added to your McCloy report when it reaches Washington.
2. Assume you have several score of our reports on reduit already submitted.
3. While we believe that press has somewhat exaggerated extent of German preparations and probable territorial extent of reduit, there is evidence that considerable activity has recently developed, particularly since failure of Rundstedt's offensive, and that sufficient supplies and weapons have been stored in inner reduit to equip with light arms and feed approximately 25,000 men for period of year. Work on defense of important passes into reduit and on certain underground plants for light arms and on hidden depots has also been pushed.
4. Inner reduit lies to the southwest of Salzburg around Berchtesgaden. There is also evidence of a further inner reduit in area Bregenz, Bregenz Erwald, Dornbirn, Feldkirch area based on Swiss frontier. Undoubtedly plans exist for connecting these 2 areas which would be the chief arsenals for reduit.

5. In addition, there is probably an outer reduit to be held temporarily but as long as possible stretching from near Vienna in the east, including parts of lower Austria, Carinthia Steiermark and possibly parts of North Italy and running west-ward to Swiss frontier southwest of Munich.

6. As reported earlier today Hitler apparently had not yet retired to reduit or finally decided whether to make last stand there or around Berlin where he still located. Undoubtedly many high Nazis have already decided in favor of reduit as evidenced by movement of their families to this area, probably including families of Himmler, Bormann, Ley, Goering, Ribbentrop, Goebbels, Wolff, etc.