

PF41930/V3

WOLLWEBER. ERNST FRIEDRICH

PF41930/V3

47

SEE ALSO LIST INSIDE COVER

[illegible]

PF41930/V3



Originator. 604/Netherlands.

1. Surname: WOLLWEBER
2. Christian names: Ernst Friedrich
3. Sex: Male
4. Nationality: German or Russian
5. Birthplace: Hannoversch/Minden
6. Birthdate: 29.10.1898
7. Women's particulars: Maiden Name  
Status: (married, divorced, etc.)
8. Name of wife (or husband):
9. Names of parents and adult children:

10. Alias(es) including alternative spellings:

ANTON

11. Registration/Passport/Identity No:

12. Occupation/Business address:

Employed by the "Deutsche Wirtschaftskommission" in Eastern Berlin. He also reported to be Under-Secretary of State for Shipping.

13. Personal description (outstanding details only):



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14. Addresses and Locations:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Address/Location</u>
Before 1933	Germany
After Hitler came to power - Copenhagen	
In Oct. 1937 stayed in Rotterdam with Jan VAN SCHAIK (born 24.6.08 in Rotterdam; at the time living at Beijerlandsestraat, Rotterdam). VAN SCHAIK was beheaded by the Germans in Berlin. At that time, he also stayed with Theodor FLEURE, at the time living at 491, Hoofdweg, Amsterdam. FLEURE died in a German concentration camp. In 1946 WOLLWEBER arrived in E. Berlin.	

15. Contacts:

Before the war he was in contact with J.R. SCHAAP (beheaded in Germany). Was further in contact with Ernst LAMBERT (born 13.5.09 at Chabarovsk). Was in contact with Richard JENSEN (born 24.2.1894 at Frederikberg) of Copenhagen. Is at present probably in contact with Rolf Konrad HAGGE (born 26.2.09 at Langenfelde) of Mecklenburg, Germany. Is likely to be in contact with Karl Wilhelm Alfred MEWIS (born 22.11.07 at Hanover) of Schwerin.

16. Brief case history:

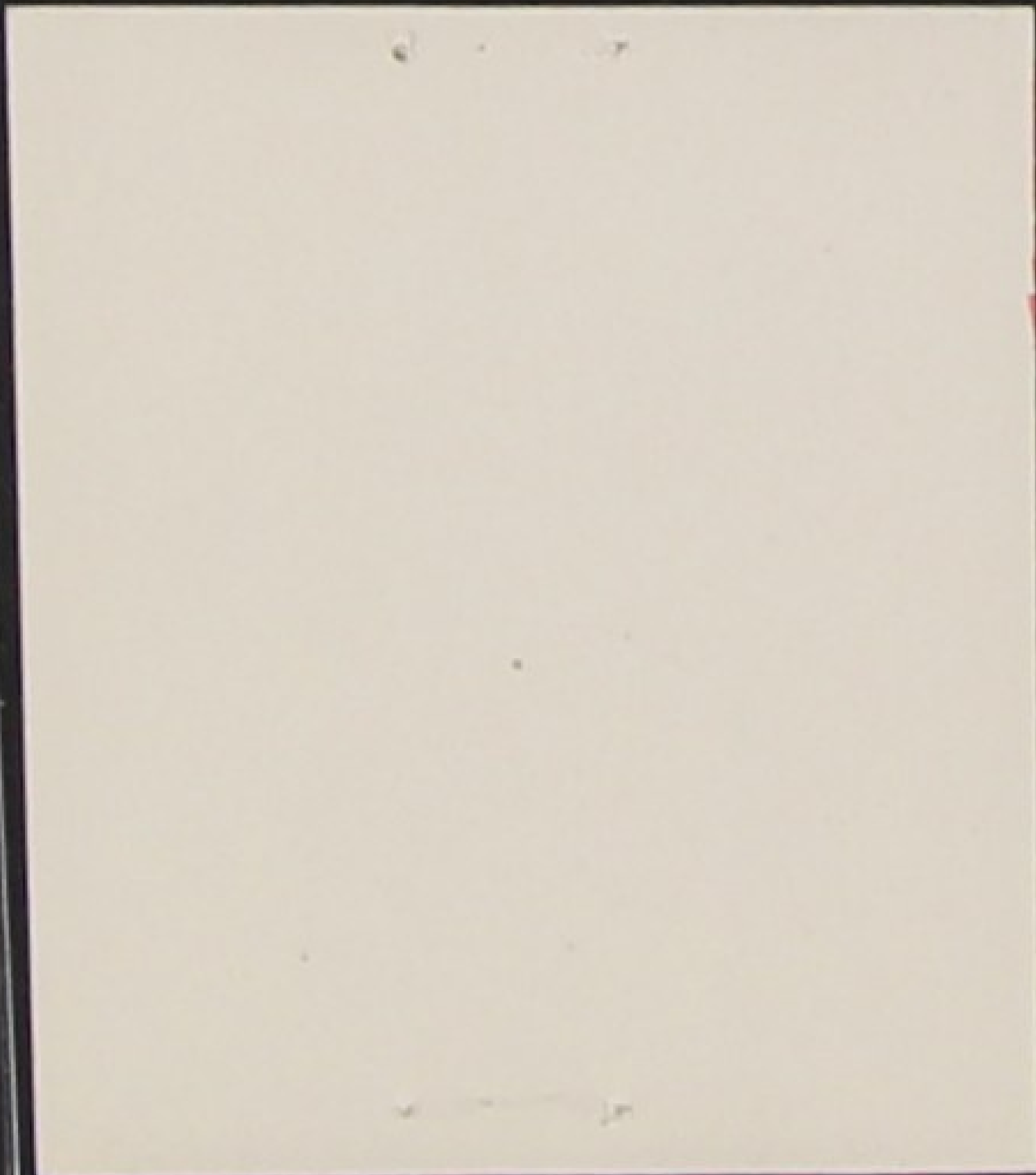
1915: affiliated to the Socialist Youth Organisation.  
 1915-17: smuggled defeatist propaganda material to the Western front. Was accessory to acts of sabotage at the front by impeding the supply of war material.  
 1917: member of Spartacus.  
 1918: served on the German battleship "Heligoland". Was one of the ringleaders of the mutiny in the German navy.  
 1920-32: rose quickly in the ranks of the Communist Party. Was elected on the Central Committee of the Party.  
 1932: member of the Reichstag for the Communist Party.  
 1933: leader of the I.S.H. and later of the notorious "WOLLWEBER Organisation". Was mainly engaged in sabotage against ships. Was convicted in Sweden for sabotage and left in 1944 from Sweden for Russia. Returned to Germany in 1946.

17. Action to be taken:











(97)

Left hand side of file.

CONFIDENTIALImmigration Branch,  
Home Office,

AIB.4/2/32

15th September 1951

To the Immigration Officer,

The following amendments to the Suspect Circulars should be noted:-

Alien.Helpo AXIOTI @ MARKARIS.

Subject of SC.17734 dated 23.8.51. The second paragraph of the circular should be amended to read as follows:-

"Details: Active worker and propagandist for Greek Communist Party. Was expelled from France in September 1950. She should not be granted a visa nor allowed to land without reference. If landed inform H.I.5 by telephone of arrival/departure and forward address, also information concerning visas and any documents of a political nature"

Dirk KLEINSIA.

Subject of circular SC.16506 dated 22.3.50, sent to ports only.

The above-named alien is the holder of passport No.A.656761 issued in Amsterdam on 5.6.46. The previous action stands.

Gaston Rene Leon MONOUSSEAU.

Subject of circular SC.16627 dated 22.10.49, sent to ports only.

MONOUSSEAU is one of the Secretaries of the Confederal Bureau of the Confederation Generale de Travail and a substitute member of the Executive Committee of the World Federation of Trade Unions, not the Secretary-General as described in circular AIB.4/2/32 dated 13.8.51.

Francisca Cornelia NAUSTION @ PATTIPILOHY

Subject of circular SC.17771 dated 28.8.51.

NAUSTION's correct name is NASUTION and the entry for the Suspect Index should be amended to read as follows:-

NASUTION, Francisca Cornelia '26/F/Ind/Student/bol/SHA/SC.17771

Ernst Friedrich or Anton WOLLENWEBER and aliases

Subject of circular SC.8406 dated 8.9.51.

The Home Office reference number should be amended to read W.338. The previous action stands.

British

Betty SACKS @ Emytrude CRACHLEY @ Betty RADFORD  
and Dr. Izak George SACKS.

Subjects of circular BS.9297 dated 11.6.51.

The following descriptions should be noted:-

- (1) Mrs. SACKS - Height 5' 6", short almost white hair, fresh complexion, thin face and slim build.
- (2) Dr. SACKS - born about 1900, Height 6' 1", almost bald, blue eyes. Wears heavy hornrimmed glasses.

List D

C.P.J. RUCK.  
H.M. Chief Inspector.

PF 41930  
BIB  
20/9



Reference P.F. 41,930.Previous volume closed at serial 146a dated 29.7.53.Volume 3.

	147.	
November 1953.	Copy of Ext. from Intelligence Digest.	147a.
	148.	
1.4.54.	Ext. from J.I.C.	148a.
	149.	
18.5.54.	Copy of article in Information Bulletin of International Transport Workers' Federation re WOLLWEBER	149a
27.5.54.	Extract from letter from [redacted] ment. WOLLWEBER.	149b
	150.	
3.6.54.	Copy of losse minute to D.I.B. re article at 149a	150a
	151.	
Jul 1954	Extract from Intelligence Digest ment WOLLWEBER	151a
27.7.54	Secret cross reference	151b
	152.	
27.10.54	D.4. source report ment. WOLLWEBER and Ivan KATZ	152a
	153.	
15.11.54	To [redacted] re contact between WOLLWEBER and KATZ	153a

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(2065)  
Wt25439/4765  
9/53 865,000  
JC&SLtd  
Gp736/209  
(REGIMINT)  
CODE 18-75



154.

E.2.*Yes please. P. Wade. Dates.  
for H.M.H. 20.5.*

Please see minute dated 16.5.55 in attached  
H.O. file W. 338.

I assume you want the circulars to remain in  
force.

C.1.C.  
19.5.55.

23.5.55 Copy of Minute in H.O. File W 338

155a

156

30.8.55. Ext from [ ] report.

156a.

157.

26.11.55. Cutting from EVENING STANDARD re WOLLWEBER

157a

158.

28.11.55. Cutting from "Manchester Guardian"

158a

159.

28.11.55. Extract from Daily Worker cutting.

159a.

160.

25.1.56. Ext. from [ ] Report

160a

161.

5.3.56. Cutting from "Evening News"

161a

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To: *E+J* *162*

Subject's name was entered in the H.O. Suspect Index (G Circular)

on *8/9/51* Do you want the entry maintained?

C.I.C.

*2/5/56**[Signature]*  
Signature~~C.I.C.~~

The entry should be

*163*  
maintained.  
~~cancelled.~~(If cancellation required please sign appropriate section of  
W.S. Form 17.)Section. *E1*Date *18.5.56**[Signature]*  
Signature~~105~~ 16410.9.56.  
12.11.56  
27.12.56.

From BSSO re WOLLENWEBER.

Secret cross reference

Cutting from Summary of World Broadcasts  
~~104X~~ 165.164a. ~~103a~~164ab  
164b. ~~103b~~*10.11.56*

Cutting from "Picture Post".

165a. ~~104a~~~~105X~~ 166.

1.11.57.

Cutting from "The Times".

166a. ~~105a~~,

4.11.57.

From Berlin to Foreign Office.

166b.

167.

1.12.57.

Cutting from "The Sunday Times".

167a

168

5.12.57.

D.4. source report

168a

51-6987  
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169

10.12.57. Extract from 'THE STAR'  
10.12.57. Extract from the 'EVENING STANDARD'.

169a  
169b

170.

2.1.58. Cutting from Readers Digest

170a

171

10.2.58. Cutting from "The Times".

171a

172.

10.2.58. Copy of cutting from Summary of World Broadcasts, Part IIa.

172a

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(52614) WT.46929/7989 200,000 8/56 A.&amp;E.W.LTD. GP.

S. Form 81/rev. 12.53

## EXTRACT

Extract for File No.: P.F.41930 ✓  
P.F.714,392Name: WOLLENWEBER  
OELSSNER.Original in File No.: \* Unfiled

Vol.: Serial: Receipt Date:

Original from: Summary of World Broadcasts Under Ref.: No. 904 Dated: 10.2.58Extracted on: 11.3.58 by: JHP Section: R.6.Cutting from Summary of World Broadcasts Part IIA dated 10.2.58 ment WOLLENWEBER

.....

EASTERN GERMANY35th SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING.

.....

Schirdewan-Wollweber Group and Velssner

In conclusion Honecker informed the Central Committee that the Schirdewan-Wollweber group and others had engaged in fractional activities within the Party. "Comrade Schirdewan and others wrongly understood the decisions of the 20th Party Congress (of the CPSU). They were of the opinion that the policy of easing of tension also meant an easing of the struggle against the class enemy." There were sharp clashes in which Comrade Schirdewan took up a position against the Central Committee and its First Secretary. The unmasking of the Harich group and other counter-revolutionary tendencies had shown that Comrade Schirdewan entertained a completely wrong view of the necessity of the struggle against revisionism. "We have not permitted counter-revolution to organise itself under the cloak of the struggle against dogmatism. Without neglecting the struggle against dogmatism, we began a vigorous struggle against the main danger, revisionism. We have not allowed any discussion of mistakes to be forced upon us." The wrong appreciation of the situation by comrade Schirdewan would have led the Party and the working class into great difficulties.

\* If the original is in the file of an individual, the name of the file owner



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EASTERN GERMANY

Comrade Wollweber has most culpably neglected the struggle against hostile agencies. Checks have shown that he failed in his work. Instead, he tried to win over other comrades for the fractional activities of the Schirdewan group. Hostile agencies were able to obtain information about internal Party matters which they exploited against the Party.

Comrade Fred Oelssner, too, had led an attack. With regard to socialist reshaping in rural districts he represented "views which amounted to an opportunist distortion of the agricultural policy of the Party. Comrade Oelssner advocated the maintenance of over-centralisation in various parts of the State apparatus; although the comrades of the Politburo tried to convince comrade Oelssner and to move him from his wrong point of view, he upheld his views, which no longer had anything in common with a scientific point of view; comrade Oelssner did not belong to the group of Schirdewan-Wollweber and others, but he gave them supporting fire (Schuetzenhilfe). After these expositions the Politburo proposed to the Central Committee that the necessary measures should be taken on the basis of the Party Statute. (ADN 8.2.58)

Fred Oelssner was removed from his function as member of the Politburo of the Party. Fractional activities were proved in his case, the aim being to alter the political line of the Party. In the case of Schirdewan and Wollweber, certain vacillations concerning basic questions of the policy of the Party and also regarding some tactical questions, which appeared in the autumn of 1956 and later, had led to group ties. Schirdewan and others had wrongly appraised the decisions of the 20th Party Congress and held that the policy of easing of tension also meant a relaxation of the struggle against the class enemy. They failed to understand that the successful implementation of the decisions of the 20th Party Congress and of the Third Party Conference of the SED presupposed the strengthening of the GDR. (Radio GDR 09.00, 8.2.58)

Schirdewan's aim had been to change the political line of the Party; he wrongly appraised the policy and the development of the Party. He failed to recognise that in Germany no alleviation of tension could be achieved without safeguarding and strengthening the GDR in all directions. At the same time, Schirdewan underrated the NATO policy and the attempts of the Bonn militarists to undermine the GDR.

Ernst Wollweber likewise wrongly appraised the situation. His wrong ideas (Vorstellungen) hampered the organs of the State Security in carrying out their tasks as would have been necessary.

Fred Oelssner, during the arguments (Auseinandersetzungen) concerning the fractional activities of this group in the Politburo, not only failed to act as behoves a Party member (parteimaessig), but at the same time made an attack on the policy of the Party. (Deutschlandsender 12.00, 8.2.58)

According to other reports, Honecker also called on the enterprises of the GDR to approach the workers and works councils of corresponding enterprises in Western Germany to win them over for active steps against atomic armaments in Western Germany. Similar steps should be taken by the district and village councils, which should approach the corresponding bodies in Western Germany, in particular, of towns and villages living under the atomic threat. The Central Committee also advises the collection of signatures, plebiscites and petitions at all levels. The Grotewohl proposal for a plebiscite is an effective means to ensure disarmament, especially in Germany itself, and to exclude both German States from atomic armaments. (Deutschlandsender 06.00, 8.2.58)

#### Defence Forces and the Party

The NATO policy of the Bonn Government compelled the GDR to develop in every respect its defensive forces so as to safeguard peace and protect the peaceful construction work of the GDR. The Politburo had devoted proper attention to this question and had initiated a series of measures to increase defensive strength. In this the central position had been occupied by the leading part to be played by the Party within the armed



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EASTERN GERMANY

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forces (bewaffneten Kraefte). The ensuring of the leading role of the Party of the working class was at all times the main source of the strength and superiority of the armed forces of the socialist States. Compliance with this principle of Marxist-Leninist military science strengthened the foundation on which the existence and the invincibility of the army of the liberated workers and peasants rested and barred and bolted the door to all adventurism. (Radio GDR 09.00, 8.2.58)

#### Elections and Expulsions

The Central Committee unanimously resolved: To elect comrade<sup>x</sup> Alfred Neumann,<sup>x</sup> Candidate of the Politburo, a member of the Politburo; to elect comrade<sup>x</sup> Paul Froehlich,<sup>x</sup> Candidate of the Central Committee, a member of the Central Committee. to co-opt comrade<sup>x</sup> Gerhard Grueneberg<sup>x</sup> as a Candidate member of the Central Committee; to elect comrades Erich Honecker,<sup>x</sup> Paul Verner,<sup>x</sup> Paul Froehlich, Gerhard Grueneberg members of the Secretariat of the Central Committee; to confirm comrade<sup>x</sup> Erich Apel<sup>x</sup> as head of the economic commission of the Politburo.

Comrade Karl Schirdewan is being expelled from the Central Committee for fractional activities and receives a severe reprimand. Comrade Ernst Wollweber is being expelled from the Central Committee in connection with his infringements of the Party Statute and receives a severe reprimand. Comrade Fred Oelssner is being removed from his function of Member of the Politburo on account of his repeated violation of the discipline of the Politburo and his refusal to fit into the kollektiv of the Politburo. These decisions received also the unanimous approval of all candidates of the Central Committee. (ADH 8.2.58)

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FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

THE TIMES

10 FEB 1958

Date.....

## HERR ULBRICHT DISPOSES OF A RIVAL

### SUCCESSFUL PURGE

#### NO LIBERALIZATION IN EAST GERMANY

From Our Correspondent

BERLIN, FEB. 9

Herr Ulbricht, first secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, has rid himself of a possible rival who wished to copy Mr. Gomulka's liberal ideas in east Germany. The central committee, after three postponements, met on February 3 to 6 and unanimously approved Herr Ulbricht's action.

Three pages of yesterday's *Neues Deutschland* were filled with a report of the speech made to the central committee by Herr Honecker, a recently appointed secretary of that body. He announced the expulsion from the Politburo and the central committee of Herr Karl Schirdewan, who for many years was second in the party hierarchy to Herr Ulbricht; the expulsion from the central committee of Herr Wollweber, who was replaced as Minister for State Security in October, and expulsion from the Politburo of Herr Oelssner, a party theorist.

Herr Schirdewan and Herr Wollweber were accused of having formed an opportunist group which had tried to alter the party line. Since 1956 they had desired the introduction of democratic measures in east Germany, and Herr Schirdewan on visits to Poland had studied the independent road to Socialism being pursued there. Herr Honecker said that if their ideas had been followed, armed force would have been necessary to combat counter-revolution.

#### OPEN ATTACK

The group had also advocated a new approach to the problem of German unity, and were charged with "being unwilling to understand the dangers which result from the illusory conception of unifying Germany at all costs." Herr Schirdewan had been unrepentant, and had openly attacked Herr Ulbricht at meetings of the Politburo. Herr Wollweber was described as a failure who talked too much and fought too little against enemy agencies undermining east Germany. Herr Honecker said that the two men's open criticism of Herr Ulbricht had been denounced to the party by uranium miners whose guests they had been at Christmas.

Herr Oelssner had not been a member of the group but had supported the liberalization of agricultural policies and at Politburo discussions had supported Herr Schirdewan rather than Herr Ulbricht.

*Neues Deutschland* to-day forecast further purges, in "an irreconcilable fight against all conceptions of ideological coexistence and opportunistic and liberal attitudes." The empty places on the central committee secretariat were filled with Herr Ulbricht's followers, including Herr Honecker and Herr Fröhlich, the former party leader at Leipzig, who has been prominent in anti-church activity.

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READERS DIGEST

December, 1957

85.1.7

THE MASTER MIND  
O F  
SHIPPING SABOTAGE

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READERS DIGEST

December, 1957

Startling facts about a  
five-year-old  
mystery: the outbreak  
of unexplained  
"mishaps" in British  
and continental ships

## THE MASTER MIND OF SHIPPING SABOTAGE

By Jerome Wilson

**T**HE 20,000-ton ocean liner *Empress of Canada* burnt at her dock in Liverpool on January 25, 1953. On January 28 and 29, fires broke out in the liner *Queen Elizabeth*, and on January 30 other potentially serious "incidents" occurred in the aircraft carriers *Triumph* and *Warrior*. A few days later a heavy explosion ripped open the carrier *Indomitable*, en route to Malta, injuring 36. Further unusual disruptions, unexplained at the time, were soon reported in the Royal Navy's carrier *Centaur*, the destroyer *Duchess* and the frigate *Termagant*.

Not since the Second World War had the Royal Navy and merchant marine vessels in British ports suffered such a rapid succession of

dangerous mishaps. Were they just accidents? Or, given the vital importance of Allied shipping to the prosecution of the Korean War, were they perhaps enemy-contrived sabotage?

Meanwhile, similar mysterious fires burnt a ship in Hamburg, swept the harbour installations, destroyed part of a major shipyard.

Although the outbreaks were later officially dismissed in Britain as "accidents," spokesmen for the Bonn Republic declared that Communist-plotted sabotage had been an important factor in a strangely "coincidental" accumulation of misadventures in Allied shipping. Months later, after numerous similar ship fires in British and German ports, an official Bonn report noted that "only ships and installations of countries actively facing up to Soviet

### THE MASTER MIND OF SHIPPING SABOTAGE

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aggression in Korea were involved." It added significantly that "the parts of the ships in which fires broke out and the type of incendiary used" indicated a single directing hand.

That single directing hand belongs to a squat, gorilla-headed thug named Ernst Wollweber, a lifelong Red-underground conspirator whom Western counter-intelligence officers rate as "Europe's most destructive Communist." Behind Wollweber's present official title—East Germany's Minister for State Security—lie 35 years of ruthless criminal versatility devoted to the Soviet's largest and most dangerous underground operations against Western Europe.

Now in his fifth year as front-zone commander of this Moscow-dictated operation, Wollweber is in direct charge of (1) sabotage of NATO ships and harbour installations throughout Western Europe; (2) espionage by German agents inside the Bonn Republic and against its NATO defence forces; and (3) the German Communists' underground, which specializes in political kidnappings and murder.

Wollweber's character is eminently suited to this triple-threat assignment. One of his reformed ex-collaborators says: "Wollweber has absolutely no feeling for men's lives. His whole method is to rule by fear." He doesn't merely command, he threatens. "You will get this man as if you were a torpedo," he once growled at a frightened underling.



Ernst Wollweber

"Do you know what a torpedo is? It's an object shot at a target. If it hits, it has fulfilled its task. If not, it sinks—and is never seen again. Now do you understand?"

For years the police in half a dozen countries have listed Wollweber as WANTED. In the '20's he was a Communist agent in Germany, bent on action designed to destroy the Weimar Republic. Then, with the Nazis' seizure of top German Reds in 1933, he became the German Communists' chief underground commander with headquarters ultimately in Copenhagen. During the Spanish war Sweden's police alone traced a majority of 17 destroyed merchant vessels to Wollweber's Scandinavian sabotage ring.



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Cutting taken from

READERS DIGEST

December, 1957

85.1.2

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## THE READER'S DIGEST

December

Such ship-burning crimes finally led to his arrest in Sweden in 1940—his only enforced retirement behind bars. Moscow exerted ambassadorial pressure for his extradition on the trumped-up claim that Wollweber, as a Soviet citizen, was wanted in Russia for embezzling state funds. But the Swedes did not yield, and Wollweber served out his term of three and a half years.

Remobilized by the Russians after the war, Comrade Ernst served successively as the East Zone's director of shipping and of transport, posts whose underground ramifications are obvious. He remained virtually hidden from public view, however, until 1953, when his Russian bosses, panicked by the June 17 East Berlin workers' riots, appointed him chief of the Soviet Zone's badly shaken secret police. This job was made to order for Comrade Ernst. He restored the SSD's steel-fisted control over some 18 million East Germans, and did it with such successful ruthlessness that two years later he was boosted into his present status as Minister for State Security.

Despite his ministerial front, Wollweber still indulges his "neurotic passion for explosives." His sabotage agents continue to hit West German ports with sporadic "practice exercises." One such projected rehearsal recently backfired at Hamburg, demolishing a suburban flat and enabling the police to locate and raid large Red-underground supply depots—and to verify that the

incendiary materials came from SSD sources in East Berlin.

From the evidence of arrested "graduates" of Wollweber's Soviet-financed maritime-sabotage schools in East Germany, Western security officials have learnt how he operates. Reports one defected graduate: "We studied diagrams of every type of ship. Experts taught us how to use incendiaries which looked like pieces of coal or iron ore. Other explosives would pass for wheat or sugar, and we were given a cleverly faked 'fountain pen' to be slid under seat cushions or mattresses aboard ship." After completing such courses, 96 British Communist seamen and 18 dock workers were smuggled back to their home ports late in 1952—with the aforementioned results to British shipping in 1953.

Another sector of Wollweber's maritime-front operations concentrates on hitting West German ship production and heavy industries by conspiring to foment strikes. At a trade unionists' session in January 1956, Wollweber is reported to have said that he had more than 1,000 trained strike personnel placed inside Bonn's free unions.

The perverted talents of this master gangster thrive particularly on his second major underground responsibility, that of German-manned espionage, undoubtedly Moscow's largest mass-espionage offensive in Europe. Among recent examples of this widespread activity

1957

## THE MASTER MIND OF SHIPPING SABOTAGE

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were two spy rings near Karlsruhe and Stuttgart, each furnished with clandestine radio stations which transmitted information directly to East Berlin. An intercepted wire-tapping job in the refugee office of the Social Democrats' anti-Communist "East-bureau" resulted in the seizure of an SSD-hired telephone worker, Alfred Geisler, who is now facing trial for treason. An engineer-spy sentenced in Stuttgart was equipped with two microcameras, a printing machine, a two-way radio, 22,700 marks (£1,900) in cash and a new Volkswagen!

Allied and German counter-spy forces have arrested scores of Wollweber's hired traitors—most of them low-level—and spy trials occur with almost monotonous frequency. One fact that must give Wollweber and Moscow endless nightmares is that many Red agents, after being caught, willingly serve as secret double-agents for the West. Wollweber's recruitment methods, which rely heavily on blackmail and bribery, promote a high percentage of such defection.

When he became SSD chief, Wollweber expanded his criminal repertoire to another Soviet secret-police speciality—political kidnapping. By January 1957 West Berlin's police alone listed a total of 186 Red-plotted abductions, with another 77 attempts thwarted. These wholesale abductions have a double objective: to wreak vengeance upon leaders of anti-Communist organizations, and

to provide potential defectors with nerve-curdling reminders that "if you go West, we'll get you!"

Through evidence obtained by Western counter-intelligence, the SSD has been linked again and again to terrorist kidnappings. The case of Dr. Walter Linse of the Free Jurists' investigation committee is typical. Accosted by two men and asked for a match as he left his West Berlin home in July 1952, Linse was slugged and pulled unconscious into a waiting car which sped away at 60 m.p.h. Witnessing the assault, a delivery van driver courageously gave chase. Soviet Zone guards, who by prearrangement had their street barrier raised, lowered it behind the abductor's car, which was immediately taken under convoy by two cars with secret-police licence plates. Sent to Soviet Russia six months later, Dr. Linse has not been heard of since.

Although ambush and physical assault are their favourite tactics, Wollweber's terrorists employ gangsterdom's gamut of ruses and treacheries. Drinks are "doctored" with narcotics, victims are lured by "friends," male and female. Mrs. Lisa Stein, an employee of West Berlin's RIAS radio station, had an amazing escape. Just before she left work one day, she was offered—and ate—some poisoned sweets. The poison was supposed to take effect while she was in the street, being trailed by her would-be abductor's car. When it reacted less quickly

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Cutting taken from

READERS DIGEST

December, 1957

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## THE READER'S DIGEST

than was predicted, the alarmed SSD agent abandoned his victim. Mrs. Stein collapsed on her own doorstep, and was rushed by neighbours to the hospital, where she lay unconscious for 48 hours.

A final resort—one which sealed the doom of Heinz Kühne, a former Socialist East-bureau official—is an injection of morphine. Kühne's kidnapping was capped by a 25-year, living-death sentence to Siberia. In another vengeance kidnapping of a defected member of the SSD, the two abductors, later seized in West Berlin, admitted they had each received rewards of 50,000 marks, or about £4,250—eloquent testimony of the importance attached by Moscow to such kidnappings.

This power-craving minister, with 9,000 SSD personnel and thousands of Red-underground agents at his command, lives in a style which befits his station. For short about-town sorties he feels adequately protected in his handsome, bulletproof limousine; on longer trips he travels in a heavily armed, SSD-guarded three-car convoy. Instead of sharing residence with other puppet-regime big shots in their fenced-off "Little Government Town," Wollweber lives in the super-secure, barbed-wired SSD compound constantly guarded by squads of secret police, or at his villa on Oranke Lake, which is also kept under round-the-clock surveillance by armed SSD agents.

Secure as he may feel behind

barbed wire, Wollweber's neck is mortgaged to the Kremlin. For Red regimes have one striking consistency: as Yagoda, Beria and others discovered, the Soviets have a way of retiring their secret-police chiefs by executing them.

Meanwhile, as one Western expert remarks, "No matter what smiles Moscow may turn on, and with or without Wollweber, the Soviets' underground warfare seems certain to go on indefinitely." The efforts of the Kremlin's rulers to conquer Germany from within will continue so long as Moscow regards Germany as the key to Communist domination of Europe.

"Communism is politically dead in Western Germany," says Stephan Thomas, chief of the Social Democrats' hard-hitting anti-Red organization. "But it will stay dead only as long as an energetic fight against its revival is maintained." The life-long activities of Ernst Wollweber justify that statement.

## FOOTNOTE

As this article went to press it was announced that Ernst Wollweber had been dismissed as East Germany's Minister for State Security. Informed Continental sources said that the world-wide publicity given to his career by The Reader's Digest—some editions of which published this article last month—was partly responsible for this sudden shift. It is predicted, however, that Wollweber will continue his terrorist activities underground.

caul  
7/3/58  
3-1-58



FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

Date... 10 DEC 1957

THE STAR.

## 500 RED SPIES CROSS INTO WEST GERMANY EVERY MONTH

**EVERY** month about 500 Communist spies cross the border between Western Germany and the Soviet-controlled East Zone.

They range from underground couriers for the illegal West German Communist Party to a "corps d'elite" of Soviet-trained agents who specialise in top-level espionage, says BUP.

Most spies cross in the guise of innocent businessmen, political refugees, students or East Germans visiting relatives in the west.

Behind them is the shadow of the former East Zone state security chief, Ernst Wollweber, who controls a vast network of spies.

According to reports Wollweber has ostensibly gone into retirement to prepare plans for a Communist "joint intelligence council" for the entire satellite empire.

But while he is temporarily absent from the scene the work of his agents goes on. It is a cloak-and-dagger war that seldom obtrudes above the seemingly placid surface of West German life.

Last year 6,200 people were seized for activities endangering the security of the state.

Recent arrests have included a Bad Godesberg boarding-house keeper whose rooms, occupied by minor diplomats, were wired for

sound to a tape recorder in the attic. The tapes were shipped weekly in soup tins to East Berlin.

According to intelligence sources, 5,000 spies and counter-spies are believed to be working in the vicinity of the Federal Capital of Bonn.

Ranged against this army are two leading West German counter-intelligence organisations—the Federal Bureau for the Defence of the Constitution and the security office of the Federal Criminal Bureau.

Each state also has its own security service, operating under local Ministers of the Interior, while the Federal Defence Ministry maintain yet another counter-intelligence branch to prevent Communist infiltration into the new West German Army.

E1 MHP

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Similar  
report sent 10 DZ

PA -

PF 41,930

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11/12Buh/23  
19/12/57  
32 MS  
16/12/57



168a

## Part 1.

Section and Officer of origin D4/FCD. Report No. 15/5035/4 of 19.11.57Action copy to..... Information copy to..... Typing Date 5.12.57

## REPORT

S.L.U. Rg/12  
Ernst WOLLWEBER.

Reference report No. 15/5025/2 of 5.11.57 (typed 21.11.57)

Sub-Source learns from his contact in the Information Bureau Berlin West that Ernst WOLLWEBER, until recently East German Minister of State Security, will shortly go to Moscow to join an organisation there which co-ordinates the Intelligence Services of the Soviet Block of States. WOLLWEBER, who has lived in the USSR, speaks fluent Russian.

## Part II.

## COMMENTS BY SECTION OF ORIGIN

From an established and reliable source.

USE WITH  
CAUTION

DW

## Part III.

## COMMENTS BY CONSUMER SECTION

(Value, interest, probability, extent to which confirmed by other sources, etc.)

Thank you. This confirms the report in the Sunday Times of 1st December, which says that WOLLWEBER is said to be preparing plans for a "joint Intelligence Council".

D.2.  
16.12.57.

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. FEBRUARY 2008

*Review*  
*19/12/57*  
*32/10/58*  
*16.12.57*



FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

SUNDAY TIMES

Date.....

11 DEC 1957

S. 425.

M. 41930

W. 41930 W. 41930

C. 41930

D. 5. 11. 57

## Berlin's Spy Jungle

By **ANTONY TERRY**, Representative of *The Sunday Times*

BERLIN.

**T**HE top professional agents in Berlin's 47 espionage services breathed a sigh of relief last week as a slight, fair-haired, middle-aged man disappeared down the steps of a Berlin court to start a four years' gaol sentence.

It meant that the ding-dong battle which has been going on for 10 years between the professionals and the amateurs of the spy world in this strange, divided city 100 miles inside Communist East Germany had been virtually decided.

From now on it is the experts and not the playboys of dilettante espionage who are going to feed each other with false information, control their secret agents, photo-copy the secret reports, and compile the secret blacklists which have made spying between East and West such a profitable black-mailing business in Berlin.

\* \* \*

**W**HEN Herr Werner Stephan, the amateur spy, went to gaol last week he had just heard the judge compliment him on being the most versatile and gifted forger of "secret information" that Germany had seen since the war.

With the aid of two typewriters and a mere two years' training in the Gestapo 20 years ago he had made a comfortable living for several years by inventing thousands of pages of nonsense, ranging from the alleged re-armament plans of the East German Government to denunciations of respectable West Berlin Government officials and business men as Communist sympathisers.

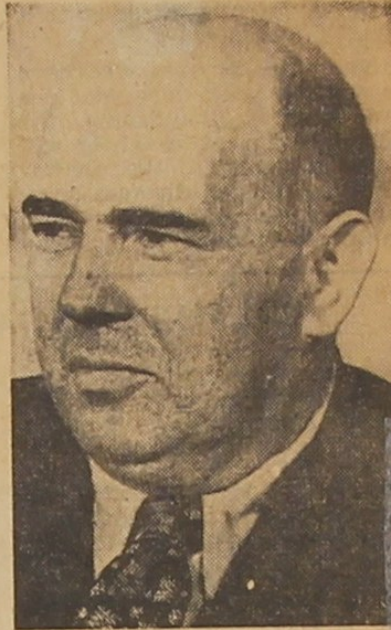
He was able to sell these inventions to highly-placed West German and West Berlin Government officials and to other espionage networks, who passed them on to Bonn.

In this city espionage is said to be the second most popular and the third best-paid occupation.

At one time after the war



GEN. GEHLEN



HERR WOLLWEBER

nearly 80 official, semi-official and unofficial spy networks flourished in West Berlin alone. They ranged from the private intelligence networks of the big West German political parties, through the nebulous "secret service" agencies of the four occupying Powers, to enterprising private spy services which offered their wares in the open market.

During the last 10 entertaining years each side has used a variety of picturesque devices, ranging from schoolchildren trained as spies to poison capsules dropped into glasses of German champagne by night-club hostesses.

\* \* \*

**B**UT meanwhile Herr Wollweber, the experienced Communist chief of East Germany's State Security Service, was not being idle. Helped by muddle, incompetence and corruption on the Western side of the espionage war, he has been able to penetrate and neutralise most of the semi-official West Berlin spy networks during the past three years.

Herr Wollweber has recently gone into temporary retirement with asthma—to prepare plans, it

is said, for a Communist "Joint Intelligence Council" of the satellite countries. But his successor, Herr Mielke, another old Communist who went to Russia in 1931, has taken over an efficient espionage machine with agents in every nook and cranny of West Berlin and West Germany.

\* \* \*

**I**T was the efficient West German intelligence organisation run by General Gehlen, the wartime Wehrmacht expert on the Red Army, which finally helped to catch the versatile Herr Stephan and his prefabricated blacklists and secret documents.

By the time he emerges from gaol the Berlin spy jungle should have settled down to competition on equal terms between the professionals on both sides. At present the bottom has dropped out of the price quoted for "blacklists" on the Berlin spy market, and a top secret report is hardly worth the trouble needed to forge it. A photostat copy of a genuine secret document is probably easier to obtain.

[WORLD COPYRIGHT]



P.A. in P.F. 41,930 - WOLLWEBER, Ernst. Dated: 4.11.57.  
 Orig. in S.F. 724. Vol.3. Serial: 93a.

*R. pl R. 84725.*  
CONFIDENTIAL

*1666*  
 4 NOV 1957  
*D3*  
*B/h*

FROM BERLIN TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

General Rome

No. 187  
 November 2, 1957

D: 10.44 a.m. November 2, 1957  
 R: 11.09 a.m. November 2, 1957

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Bonn telegram No. 217 of November 1  
 Repeated for information to Foreign Office

It was announced yesterday evening by the East German Prime Minister's Press Office that Ernst Wollweber (Personalities Report No. 382) had resigned on health grounds from his post as Minister of State Security. He has already been succeeded by his former deputy, Erich Mielke (Personalities Report No. 331).

2. I have no (repeat no) reason to expect dramatic changes in the Government or party leadership or policy in connexion with this resignation.

E E E E E

CONFIDENTIAL

*Ple*  
*25/11/57*  
*app*  
*29/11/57*

*2356/3.*

PAR/R6. 27.9.63.

*56/22/03*



PA. in PF 41,930

WOLLWEBER

159  
105/166a

The Times

1 November, 1957

# NEW SECURITY CHIEF FOR E. GERMANY

BERLIN, Oct. 31.—The east German Government Press office announces that Herr Ernst Wollweber, the Security Minister, is to be succeeded immediately by his deputy, Herr Erich Mielke. The announcement, published by the news agency A.D.N., said Herr Wollweber has asked to be relieved of his post for health reasons.—*Reuter*.

DS 104  
10.11.57



FROM THE PRESS SECTION.10165a  
104a

16 JAN 1957

Date.....7.1.57.....

Picture Post

**Terror police chief may quit**

FEB 17/1 S.L.U.  
 X **E**RNST WOLLWEBER, East German Security Minister (right) since 1953, may soon leave his post. He was appointed to suppress anti-Soviet sentiments by ruthless police terror. Wollweber, said to be suffering from asthma, is one of the most sinister political figures of the last thirty years. As a naval ensign he started Germany's 1918 Revolution,

and in the last war organised sabotage against German ships from his refuge in Sweden. He was arrested, extradited to Moscow as a 'Soviet citizen' and returned to Berlin with the Soviet Armies in 1945. There will be few in Europe to shed any nostalgic tear if 1957 is indeed to see the end of his career as 'The Engineer of Hell'. Hell is on the defensive.

 FEB 17/1  
 17.1.57



S. Form 81/rev. 12.53

## EXTRACT

Extract for File No. : \_\_\_\_\_ Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Original in File No. : Unfiled. Vol. : \_\_\_\_\_ Serial : \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt Date : \_\_\_\_\_Original from : SUMMARY OF WORLD BROADCASTS. Under Ref. : PART IIA. No. 788. Dated : 27.12.56.Extracted on : 17.1.57. by : PMR. Section : R6.

Ext. from Summary of World Broadcasts, Part IIA No. 788 - Poland, Czechoslovakia, Eastern Germany, Finland, published by Monitoring Service of the B.B.C. ment: DAHLEM & WOOLWEBER.

EASTERN GERMANY.

.....

Wollweber Denounces "Free Discussion"

'Neues Deutschland' of 21st December published an article by Ernst Wollweber, Minister of State Security, entitled, "The protection of the worker-peasant regime is the concern of all citizens of the GDR". At the time of the counter-revolutionary coup in Hungary, he said, Western politicians and agents' headquarters had indulged to an ever greater extent in speculations concerning developments in the GDR which might create favourable conditions for the realisation of their aggressive plans to undermine and destroy the worker-peasant regime there. But there was already evidence of opposing views among politicians in Western Germany. Some, failing to appreciate the real balance of power, were toying with the idea of engineering coups involving the vacillating persons in their own ranks and the Western allies; other not important groups were warning against such adventurous policy against the GDR, which would be bound to have devastating consequences owing to the strength and unity of the socialist camp and the disunity among the imperialists.

While all the vigilance displayed and the readiness to reply immediately with a counter-blow to the troublemakers and provocateurs was not forgotten, the dangerous designs of the so-called "exponents of a softening-up policy" must not be underestimated. "These exponents are at present concentrating their main efforts on intellectual circles at universities, colleges, technical schools and institutes in the GDR, clearly realising that their subversive work is less effective among the workers. Obviously so-called 'free' discussion, which leads to the infiltration of hostile anti-democratic and anti-socialist ideologies cannot and must not be tolerated in the GDR.

"The enemy headquarters have drawn up plans for the infiltration of agents and provocateurs and the formation of permanent centres (Residenturen) and groups in the GDR, taking advantage of the freedom of movement within the GDR. Above all, former fascists and criminal elements in the GDR are to be banded together to form active groups. Following the smashing of previously operating fascist action groups in the GDR, attention must therefore now be paid to the discovery of new fascist groups in order to render them harmless in good time.

"Despite all the efforts of the East Bureau of the SPD it is becoming increasingly evident that former Social Democrats in the GDR want to have nothing to do with the activities of agents. This does not mean, however, that the subversive work of the SPD East Bureau should be underestimated, because this Bureau is one of the most active centres for the organisation of subversive activities under the banner of so-called freedom and so-called 'true' socialism...

"Measures have been taken against all attempts to launch large-scale provocations. The most important thing, however, is that the protection of the worker-peasant regime in the GDR is today regarded much more than hitherto as a matter for the citizens of the GDR themselves. There is, therefore, no reason to assume that enemy plans for a coup can materialise." The most important guarantee that all enemy intentions would be brought to nought was the growing confidence enjoyed by the authorities of the broad masses of the working population. (ADN 21.12.56)

is in the file of an individual  
name of the file owner

Pa FE 41930  
(Wollweber)



imprisonment and penal servitude has now been abandoned once and for all. The offender's background was not taken into consideration and everything was done to clarify his motives and understand his social circumstances - in short to judge the person as a whole.

"It is a fact that the old laws retained in force by our State have caused considerable difficulties to our judges and prosecutors... The fact that we have nevertheless enacted only a few laws ... is partly due to our desire to maintain, as far as is at all possible, uniformity in the legal order valid throughout Germany. However, I think it is essential that the alterations in our system of penalties foreshadowed at the time of the Third SED Conference - the introduction of public reprimands and conditional sentences - should be put into practice as soon as possible.

"To preclude any misunderstandings I must point out in conclusion that every prosecutor in our Republic is fully aware that our new approach to criminal justice must on no account be regarded as a licence, in whole or in part, for the enemies of the people, for spies and agents, for saboteurs and traitors. They will be brought to book with the full severity of our laws, but they, too, will have a proper trial and will be given every opportunity to defend themselves and produce evidence in their favour.

"But the working people of our Republic must realise that we prosecutors are doing everything in our power for their own protection and for that of our social order. Disregarding the hate campaign launched against us from the West, we shall continue along the road of socialist legality. We shall thereby help the people in Western Germany to understand that the GDR is a bastion of peace and justice, and that our legal system will one day become the legal system of the whole of Germany." (Radio GDR 21.10, 18.12.56)

#### Amendments to Code of Criminal Procedure Recommended

DPA reported that a legal commission appointed by the Government had recommended



S. Form 81/rev. 12.53

## EXTRACT

Extract for File No. : ..... Name : .....

Original in File No. : \* ..... Vol. : ..... Serial : ..... Receipt Date : .....

Original from : ..... Under Ref. : ..... Dated : .....

Extracted on : ..... by : ..... Section : .....

Division into "Stalinists" and Supporters of Democratisation Deplored

According to a Western report of the article, Wollweber stated, referring to subversive elements at the universities: "Their disruptive work is often helped by the fact that among student circles, especially of the technical-scientific intelligentsia, and among artists there are some who cannot distinguish between a frank discussion within the Party on the basis of Party ideology (parteimaessig) of errors, weaknesses and shortcomings, on the one hand, and the importation of hostile ideologies, on the other." The aim of such ideologies was "to split the Party of the working class through an artificial division into 'Stalinists' and supporters of the so-called democratisation". (DPA 21.12.56)

Wollweber May be Replaced by Dahlem

Earlier, DPA had said it had been learned in East Berlin that Minister Wollweber wanted to resign for reasons of health. He had suffered for some time from severe asthma and had carried out his official duties somewhat sporadically since the summer. ~~Franz Dahlem~~ formerly SED cadre chief, was being mentioned as a possible candidate for Wollweber's post. In May 1953 Dahlem had been expelled from the SED Central Committee. Since his rehabilitation he has been Deputy Secretary of State and head of a main department in the State Secretariat for Higher Education. He was considered a personal opponent of Ulbricht. (DPA 19.12.56)



# Secret Cross Reference

164  
AB

For file number: PF. 41,930.....

Title:.....WOLLWEBER.....

\*INFORMATION *re*:.....above.....

is filed in

FILE number: SF.441/Sweden/1 vol.4.....

at serial: 256a.....

Dated: 12.11.56.....

Cross reference made by: V.T.....

Section: D.1.....

Date: 22.1.62.....

\*NOTE.—Give full name in the case of an individual.

S. Form 111c/rev. 3.58. 3000.5.59.



164a

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
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THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. FEBRUARY 2008



FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

Evening News

Date 5 3 56

# Big Brother is watching

SINCE the proclamation in 1949 of the "East German Democratic Republic" about 1,500,000 Iron Curtain Germans have fled to the West. Day after day more fugitives escape from tyranny, political oppression and fear created by thousands of snoopers, informers and secret police agents who loyally serve one of the world's most notorious underground figures. His name: Ernst Wollweber, chief of the dreaded "Red Gestapo," otherwise Minister of State Security.

When this bull-necked ex-docker succeeded Wilhelm Zaisser as new head of the State Security Service in July, 1953, Western security branches warned their agents in the Soviet Zone to be prepared for drastic counter-measures by the Reds. They knew that one of Wollweber's first aims would be a further stepping-up of the underground war and a smashing of Western spy rings operating on Communist territory.

★ ★ ★

Several months later dozens of contact men found themselves arrested; others had to be hurriedly withdrawn. The speedily enlarged secret police system, with efficiency only equalled by the Soviet MVD and Himmler's Gestapo, had scored its first success.

To-day it reaches into the home and heart of almost every East German. It also reaches to the free West, where people are not safe from its iron grip. An alarming number of them, their names on the wanted list, have disappeared behind the Iron Curtain in perfect kidnappings.

East Germany's State Security force at present employs about 9,000 full-time officials and an additional 50,000 freelance snoopers, some paid, some voluntary. Also immediately attached are 20,000 "internal troops"—highly-trained shock units—and 8,000 transport police.

And "Big Brother" Wollweber is everywhere—in factories, restaurants, butcher shops, in schools, churches and even kindergartens. The "confidants" must have direct contact with the population so that they can easily detect and denounce all "State enemies" and make confidential reports on public opinion "for further action."

★ ★ ★

Wollweber's closely-guarded, spacious headquarters in East Berlin's Lichtenberg district houses all branches necessary for a giant instrument of terror.

Among his henchmen are many former Gestapo officers as well as notorious law-breakers who were pardoned to place their criminal experience at the disposal of a new all-powerful boss.

Wollweber first discovered his talent for large-scale trouble-making in 1919 when he organised the German sailors' revolt in Kiel and hoisted the

★ ERNST WOLLWEBER, the ex-docker, maintains a reality in East Germany that approaches the fiction of '1984'



The George Orwell version of "Big Brother"—as seen in the film "1984."

Red Flag on the warship Helgoland. The Communists promptly made him secretary of the Sailors' and Dockers' "Internationale." In 1924 the Party invited him to Russia to receive regular "special training" at military academies and at the Red Army general staff.

When Hitler came to power Wollweber, unlike his comrades,

remained in Germany to smuggle top-secret Red Party documents to Denmark—under the eyes of the Gestapo. Steadily climbing the ladder he eventually became boss of the Comintern's West European head office in Copenhagen. It was in those pre-war days that agents of the "Wollweber Group" systematically organised blazes and explosions in ships carrying goods for General Franco's civil war troops.

★ ★ ★

In 1940 Wollweber (alias Kuhlmann) went to Sweden but was soon arrested for allegedly sabotaging Swedish ore transports to Hitler Germany and breaking into ammunition depots. Evidence was, however, too weak so he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment on an alternative charge of illegally possessing explosives. Hitler's demand for his extradition was then successfully countered by a cunning Soviet request "to hand him over to Russian jurisdiction in connection with embezzling State money." Sweden agreed and the Kremlin thus narrowly saved its darling.

After almost 13 years of exile Wollweber returned to Berlin in 1946—a Soviet citizen. Appointed deputy chief in the East German Shipping Department, his main undercover task was the direction of two Communist sabotage schools responsible for sending fully-trained "commandos" to West European harbours. Three years later he became State Secretary in the Transport Ministry, in May, 1953, State Secretary for Shipping, a post which he held for only three months before being appointed secret p



S. Form 81/rev. 12.53

EXTRACT SECRET.

(51685) WT63113 GP.677

1600

Extract for File No. : P.F. 41,930 Name : WOLLWEBER.

Original in File No. : S.F. 725 Vol. : Serial : 43a. Receipt Date : 25.1.56.

Original from : Under Ref. : Dated :

Extracted on : 29.2.56. by : PMG. Section : R.6.

Extract from re the re-organisation of the East German  
Security Service mentioning WOLLWEBER.

.....

The East German regime probably feels the need to show the mailed fist by strengthening the apparatus of the security police. As an additional measure, it installed as head of the new ministry Ernst Wollweber, a long-time Communist sabotage and subversion expert who has a reputation for brutality and suppression. By vesting increased authority in Wollweber the regime probably hopes to avoid problems arising from personal ambition, since unlike former security minister Zaisser, he is believed to be a reliable technician without aspirations for political control.

.....

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## EXTRACT

(51685) WT63115 GP.677

Extract for File No.: P.F. 41,930. Name: WOLLWEBER 159A  
 Original in File No.: \* S.F. 411/Germany. Vol.: 33 Serial: 1362y Receipt Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original from: D.W. Press cutting Under Ref.: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: 28.11.55.  
 Extracted on: 26.1.56. by: PMC Section: R6.

Extract from press cutting taken from the Daily Worker, dated the 28th November, 1955, re East Germany's Cabinet Switch, its plan to step up industry, mentioning: Ernst WOLLWEBER.

Several East German Government changes announced this weekend are designed to improve particularly the German Democratic Republic's heavy industry and consumer goods position.

.....Other changes announced by the East German Government includes the transforming of the former State Secretariat for State Security into a Ministry, with Ernst WOLLWEBER former State Secretary, as Minister.

Deputy Prime Minister Paul SCHOLZ of the Democratic Peasants Party has been given responsibility to the Cabinet for agricultural questions. Fifty-three-year-old SCHOLZ was an agricultural worker who spend most of the Nazi period in prison and concentration camp.

• If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

R1/R4  
28/11/56



FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

*Manchester Guardian*

Date..... 28.11.55

# REORGANISATION OF EAST GERMAN GOVERNMENT

## Clearing the Decks to Meet New Difficulties

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BONN, NOVEMBER 27.

The East German Government has been reorganised to strengthen the administration and "clear the decks" for the economic and political difficulties which lie ahead. The reorganisation, which was announced yesterday, seems to have three short-term objects—to increase the influence of the Socialist Unity party in the executive organs of administration, to develop "all-German" propaganda in accordance with declared Soviet policy in Germany, and to tighten Government control over industry and agriculture.

Thus two Socialist Unity party members have become Deputy Prime Ministers. They are Herr Oelssner, the party's ideological expert, and Herr Rumpf, who was formerly Secretary of State for Finance. Herr Loch, a member of the puppet East German Liberal Democratic party, has ceased to be a Deputy Prime Minister. The effect of these changes is to give the Socialist Unity party a majority in the "Praesidium," which is composed of the seven Deputy Prime Ministers.

At the same time Herr Wollweber, formerly Secretary of State for Security, has been elevated to the rank of a Cabinet Minister. Herr Wollweber was an expert in secret service work and sabotage and an "old guard" Communist party member. He carried out the reprisals which followed the failure of the rising on June 17, 1953, against the East German Communist regime. His promotion may be designed to give him greater power, or to make his duties superficially more respectable.

### "National Front"

In the second place a renewed effort is going to be made to launch an "all-German propaganda" campaign from East Berlin. The demoted Herr Loch will become East German Minister for All-German Affairs and will be entrusted with the task of organising a "national front" which will support the Soviet plan for all-German talks, the formation of an all-German council, and a step-by-step progress towards a united Germany which would incorporate many of the characteristics of the East German Communist State.

It has been well known for some time past that the dominating power in the East German Government, Herr Ullbricht, regards Herr Loch as inefficient. But his new appointment could become important and it is significant that a so-called Liberal Democrat has been chosen and not a Communist ideologist. The East German campaign against free, all-German elections and the foundation of a democratic united Germany is a serious matter.

Finally the East German Government had to do something to tighten up administrative control of industry and agriculture. This is because Government industrial planning has only been

successful to a limited extent and the East German grain and potato harvests this year have been poor. An economic crisis is foreshadowed for next spring, and it is for this reason that the East German Government is not pressing ahead with plans for full-scale rearmament. There can be no national conscription until the East German economy has been put in somewhat better order.

### Ministry Split Up

With this in view the former Ministry for Heavy Industry has been split into three new "sub-Ministries," for mining, chemical industries, and coal and power. New Cabinet committees have been created for supply, industry and transport, and agriculture. The emphasis of the work of the Committee for Supply will be on the production of consumer goods. Herr Oelssner will assume control of this committee, which gives an idea of the importance attached to it.

Some false conclusions are being drawn from the changes in the East German administration. The West German Social Democrats have declared that these changes amount to the introduction of a new reign of terror and that the promotion of Herr Wollweber means a return to the "police regime" which existed before the fall of Beria in the Soviet Union. It is widely assumed that the concentration of more power in the hands of the Socialist Unity party will mean a more radical political course.

It is more likely that the East German leaders are interested primarily in securing greater administrative efficiency and in propagating the Soviet plan for Germany, which alone gives them a hope of survival. If the Soviet plan is to have the slightest prospect of success, Eastern Germany must develop a "new look" which holds some appeal to Germans of varying political creeds. That may be why Wollweber has been taken out of the shadows and Loch installed in his new Ministry. That may be a contributory reason for the postponement of full-scale East German rearmament.

### Prisoners in Russia

Over the week-end the people of Western Germany have demonstrated their deep concern over the failure of the Soviet Union to return all German prisoners, in accordance with the promise given by Marshal Bulganin to Dr Adenauer. Yesterday flags were flown everywhere at half mast; to-day they were flying at full mast again, as a mark of hope for the future. Länder Governments held meetings and made statements on the seriousness of the situation, and in some large towns thousands of people marched through the streets in silence to register their protest. Yesterday all traffic halted for two minutes at midday as a mark of remembrance of the prisoners still missing.

Appeals have been made by German politicians for the return of prisoners from countries other than the Soviet Union and for a final moratorium on the subject of war guilt.



FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

*Evening Standard*

Date... 26 - 11 - 55

157a  
D3/E2  
29 XI  
WMO  
30/11

# SABOTAGE EXPERT GIVEN KEY JOB BY REDS

## *He takes over security in East Germany*

BERLIN, Saturday.—East Germany today turned its Secret Police Office into a ministry, to be known as the State Security Service, which will be headed by one of Russia's chief agents, Ernst Wollweber. An announcement called the move a "measure to strengthen and improve the work of the state apparatus."

Wollweber now becomes a Minister. He is a 56-year-old sabotage expert, and has served with the Communists since his youth. Towards the end of the war his task was to sabotage German canals by sinking barges in them.

### Three new commissions

Wollweber has been credited with directing sabotage operations for the Communists throughout the world since the war, travelling under false names and with forged documents.

His elevation to Cabinet rank is part of a general shake-up of the East German Government.

Three new commissions, each to be headed by a deputy premier, have been formed. One will deal with the production of consumer goods and supply, another with agriculture, and the third with industry and traffic.—BUP.

MNO  
6/12/55  
D3/64  
3/12



S. Form 81/rev. 12.53

## EXTRACT

(51685) WT83118 GP.677

Extract for File No.: PF. 41,930. ~~SECRET~~ Name: WOLLBEBER.  
 Original in File No.: SF. 443/12(1). Vol.: Serial: 7x. Receipt Date: 30.8.55.  
 Original from: Under Ref.: Dated: 29.8.55.  
 Extracted on: 25.10.55. by: SPA. Section: R.6.

report re the explosion at Hamburg-Harburg, in which  
two German Communist Party members were killed, ment. WOLLBEBER.

Please refer to the write up on the HAMBURG-HARBURG explosion, \_\_

.....

4. WOLLBEBER could have been brought in as he apparently an old colleague of REINKE or because the Russians chose to collaborate with the Sfs in this instance. If it is true that WOLLWEBER made a personal appearance in the case, this may well be explained by his own personal interest in sabotage operations and in the person of REINKE himself.

.....

the original is in the file of an individual  
 include the name of the file owner

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 ACT 1958. FEBRUARY 2008



Copy of Minute in HO file,  
W 338, WOLLWEBER

155a

Immigration Branch  
Home Office.

We should like the circular, S.C.8406, to remain  
operative for a further period.

M.I.5/C1c  
23.5.55

1024/3

c/c/PSY/LEN  
25.0.55

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✓ Copy to PF. 41,930 - WOLLWEBER

153A

C.C. 211,893/D.1.A./JAG

15 November, 1954.

Ivan KATZ

It may be of use to you to know that KATZ has been mentioned to us by a usually reliable source as a recipient of overtures from Hans WOLLWEBER, the East German Minister for State Security. KATZ is stated to have left the K.P.D. in 1927 and to have been either the member for Hannover in the Reichstag or else a member of the Hannover Landtag, or both. It appears that WOLLWEBER has been seeking to lure him to the Soviet zone of Berlin for a friendly chat. KATZ is stated to have refused the invitation and suggested that WOLLWEBER meet him in West Berlin. WOLLWEBER however did not turn up.

2. We take it that KATZ is identical with Ivan KATZ, born 15.2.89 in Hannover, who was mentioned in our letter of 9 December, 1941, under reference PF. 47282 from Basley to Mills.

Yours sincerely,

12.11.54  
J.M.  
WOLLWEBER

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PA in PF 4,930

182/3/EI

Copy to C.C. 211,893 - KATZ

## Part 1.

Section and Officer of origin D.4. Report No. 15/4325/3d Report Date 27.10.54.  
 Action copy to E.12. 2nd 1/4 Information copy to Typing Date 4.11.54.

D.1.1. My interest?

## REPORT

Ernst WOLLWEBER

152A

In a recent conversation with sub-source, the pre-war Communist member of the German Reistag for Hanover, Iwan KATZ, who left the K.P.D. in 1927, stated that Ernst WOLLWEBER, the East German Minister for State Security, had tried to get him to the Soviet zone of Berlin for a friendly chat. KATZ refused, and suggested to WOLLWEBER to meet him in West Berlin, but the latter did not turn up.

## Part II.

## COMMENTS BY SECTION OF ORIGIN

From a usually reliable source.

## WARNING

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OFFICER BEFORE USING

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## Part III.

## COMMENTS BY CONSUMER SECTION

(Value, interest, probability, extent to which confirmed by other sources, etc.)

D.4. This is being PA'd in PF 41,930 (WOLLWEBER) with an extract to CC 211,893, Iwan KATZ who is presumed identical with the person mentioned above, ~~although~~ his rather bare file (8 serials & no correspondence since 1941) shows that he was, in 1925, a member of the Hanover Landtag ~~but does not show that he was also~~ as well as a member of the Reichstag.

81/8

S. Form 348/rev. 12.58

DIA

11.11.54



# Secret Cross Reference

For file number: PF. 41,930

Title: WOLLWEBER

\*INFORMATION *re*: above

is filed in

FILE number: SF.441/Sweden/1 vol.3.

at serial: 132a

Dated: 27.7.54

Cross reference made by: V.T.

Section: D.1.

Date: 22.1.62

\*NOTE.—Give full name in the case of an individual.

S. Form 111c/rev. 3.58. 3000.5.59.



151a

Extract from INTELLIGENCE DIGEST (Review of World Affairs) edited by Kenneth de Courcy, for June, 1954, mentioning Ernst WOLLWEBER.

.....

WOLLWEBER AGAIN : AVIATION SABOTAGE.

In the November 1953 issue of Intelligence Digest, we reported fully on the plans of the WOLLWEBER organisation for the sabotage of international shipping. We can now add to the fact that WOLLWEBER and his highly trained technical staff are also dealing with air transport.

The Warin Sabotage School.

The sabotage school at Warin, in Eastern Germany, is now devoted to aviation sabotage training of agents from countries outside the Iron Curtain.

There is general training on much the same lines as that in the shipping sabotage schools, and there are also courses on aviation technology.

These courses include instruction on American planes - fighters, bombers, transport and training aircraft; the British aircraft industry; aircraft construction; jet aircraft; the Canadian aircraft industry; western radar systems; and the place of commercial aviation in military planning.

Soviet Staff Instructors.

The courses on American aircraft are directed by Soviet Air Staff officers who have been in Korea. Amongst them is Lieutenant Colonel Krisek, who served with MiGs in Manchuria.

Canadian aircraft and western airbases in the Arctic are dealt with by Boris Wasser, who is said to be a Canadian who has worked in the Canadian aircraft industry.

Building an Underground.

There is no flying at Warin. Most of the students are already trained as either pilots or ground-staff. Models of western equipment are available.

The main objective of the Warin courses is to build up a well organised Communist underground system within the military and civil aviation systems and the aviation industries of the western world. The duties of this underground are both sabotage and espionage, with the main emphasis on sabotage. Each course lasts about three months, and is attended by 120 students.

Headquarters and Communications.

Warin appears to be the headquarters of this underground, and it is under WOLLWEBER's personal direction. Liaison is maintained with members already in western countries. Communications are largely through diplomatic channels, the mails being picked up and delivered to Karlshorst.

Our observers have been able to identify the countries of origin of some of the students as : Britain, France, the Scandinavian countries, Italy, Canada, and several Latin-American countries. But this list is by no means exhaustive.

It is uncertain exactly when aviation training began at Warin, but it was in full operation at the end of 1953.

It is very difficult to get any more details, as security measures at Warin are very strict.

Testing the Machine.

The WOLLWEBER organisation is believed to have been responsible for



2.

several acts of British naval sabotage just before the Coronation. The object was mainly to test the efficiency of the machine. It is likely that similiar experiments will now be made in the field of aviation.

. . . . .

DM/D.I.B.  
12.6.54.



Loose Minute

150a

hwi 11/6  
D.I.B. - Mr. A.F. Burbidge.

I spoke to you the other day concerning an article on Ernst WOLLWEBER which appeared recently in the Information Bulletin of the International Transport Workers' Federation (115a in OF.69/1 Supp).

2. A photostat copy of this article is at serial 149a in PF.41930, WOLLWEBER, (attached) and I have placed a second copy on SF.412/General.

3. We should be glad to have your comments on this article and to be kept informed of any developments in the case of SUNDE relative to E.2. interests.

E.2.  
3.6.54.

✓ Copy on PF.41930 WOLLWEBER

*Handwritten:*  
20.8.54  
E2/AC  
3.6.54

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ACT 1958. February 2008



## EXTRACT

Extract for File No.: P.T. 41,930. Name: WOLLWEBER 149E  
 Original in File No.: S.F. 411/GERMANY Vol.: 30 Serial: 1268a Receipt Date: 27.5.54.  
 Original from: \_\_\_\_\_ Under Ref.: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: 26.5.54.  
 Extracted on: 16.6.54. by: PMH Section: R.6.

Ext. from covering letter from \_\_\_\_\_ re the SED Central Cttee, ment. WOLLWEBER

Attached is a list of names of members of the new SED Central Committee and the governing bodies of that Committee which were elected at the 1Vth SED Parteitag, 30th March - 6th April, 1954. These names have been taken from "Neues Deutschland" of the 7th and 8th April, 1954, and the notes on their present functions and positions from records

.....

Ext. from attached list:

Full members.

89. WOLLWEBER, Ernst. State Secretary for State Security and Deputy Minister of the Interior.

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*This photograph of seamen giving the clenched-fist salute was taken outside the International Seamen's Club in Hamburg during the First Congress of the ISH.*

fled to Copenhagen. Later he was to move successively to Antwerp, Paris, and Oslo, and to concentrate his activities to an ever-increasing extent on the building up of an espionage and sabotage network which operated over the whole of Western Europe, and probably also in the Far East and America.

Wollweber eventually set up his headquarters in Scandinavia, and from it he directed sabotage operations against German, Italian, Japanese, and later Spanish ships. One of the principal activities of the organization in Scandinavia itself was the smuggling of Swedish dynamite over the frontier to the Norwegian port of Narvik, from whence it could either be shipped out or transported to Oslo – Wollweber's temporary home. Most of the dynamite was stolen from the iron-ore mines in North Sweden, and the work of building up a network of contacts in Sweden was entrusted to Martin Hjelman, the Norwegian representative of the ISH. It was during this period that Hjelman made a mistake which was later to cost him his life.

In Lulea he recruited a mineworker named Gustav Ceder. Ceder was an old

and loyal member of the Swedish Communist Party, but he was not equal to this kind of work. His nerve failed him, and in February 1939 he reported to the Swedish police that he had been pressed into the service of a sabotage organization by a Norwegian named Nielsen, the under-cover name which Hjelman was then using. The existence of the group and the identity of at least one of its leaders was now known to the Swedish authorities, but it was not until a year later that they were able to lay their hands on 'Nielsen'.

Sunde's membership of the 'Wollweber League', as it later became known in Sweden, is believed to date from approximately the same period. The ex-seaman from Horten may possibly have joined it even earlier, for he had already had contacts with the ISH, Samsing, and Hjelman. It is thought more likely, however, that he was recruited during his service in Spain and was brought in to assist Hjelman, who in 1939 was devoting more and more of his time to organizing in Sweden.

It was while he was in Sweden that Hjelman was arrested. Caught in a raid by the Swedish police, he was found to

have three passports in his possession. One of these was in the name of Osvald Jensen, an alias known to the Swedish police as a result of the information given to them by Ceder a year earlier. Nevertheless, the Swedish authorities did not reveal to Hjelman that they knew his identity. They hoped that he in turn would lead them to others of the group.

He was therefore tried in the ordinary way for being in possession of forged documents, and sentenced to a short term of imprisonment. By the time he had completed his sentence, the German invasion of Norway had taken place. On his release, however, he chose to be deported back to Norway. That decision was his death warrant. Hardly had he crossed the frontier when he was seized by the Gestapo. The same fate met another member of the organization, Barley Pettersen, who had played a leading part in the smuggling of dynamite from Sweden. Both were executed by the Germans in May 1944.

Wollweber himself was still in Oslo when the German invasion came. He fled over the border to Sweden together with his sister-in-law (he had married a Norwegian woman in Leningrad in 1933), but shortly afterwards he was arrested by the Swedish police, who soon disproved his claim to be a Danish citizen. Accused of sabotage and the theft of dynamite, he twisted and turned in a vain attempt to avoid revealing the secrets of his organization. The Nazi Government demanded his extradition to Germany, and, according to the former Swedish Social Minister, Gustav Möller, it was this threat which caused the Soviet Minister in Stockholm, Madam Kollontay to intervene on his behalf. As a result of the intervention, Wollweber agreed to make a full confession in return for his deportation to Soviet Russia once he had served his sentence in Sweden.

He reappeared after the war in the Soviet Zone of Germany when he became an official of the East German Transport Ministry. One of his principal occupations in that post seems to have been the organization of a school for Communist saboteurs, again specializing in maritime sabotage. More recently, the ex-sailor who is reputed to have been one of the first to raise a red flag in the Kaiser's Imperial Navy was made Security Minister in the East German

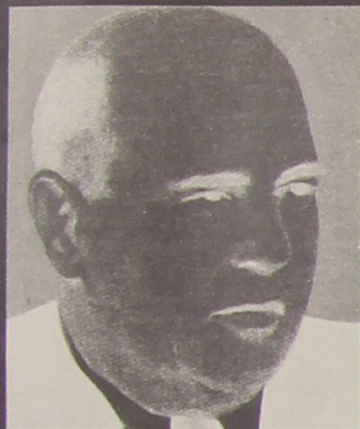
*(continued on page 61)*



Original in the Information  
Bulletin of the International  
Transport Workers' Federation -  
Vol XIV. No 4 April 1954 -  
filed at 115a in OF 69/1 Supp.  
Receipt Date 18 : 5 : 54.

Am/RE  
26-8-54.  
22/99  
3-6-54





One of the few known photographs of Ernst Wollweber – the man behind the Communist spy and sabotage network which operates in the maritime industry

## Ernst Wollweber – maritime mystery-man

ON 29 JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, Norwegian police headquarters announced that it had uncovered a spy ring in the Oslo area, specializing in military, and more particularly naval, espionage. Investigations into the extent of the network are still in progress, but up to the present twelve persons of both sexes have been arrested and most of them will be held in custody until the inquiries are sufficiently advanced to bring them to trial.

The leader of the group was a 44-year-old Norwegian named Asbjørn Sunde, who is known to have had contacts with both the Norwegian and international Communist movements for at least twenty years. An ex-seaman, he early became a member of the Norwegian Communist Youth organization, and, in 1937 went to Spain, where he fought with the 'Dimitrov' Battalion. Little is known of his activities from then until approximately 1941-2 when, following the German invasion of the Soviet Union, he became the leader of a Norwegian underground sabotage group, adopting the pseudonym of 'Osvald'.

After the war, he published a book, entitled 'Men in the Dark', in which he told something of his experiences as a member of the wartime Communist underground. Although, for reasons which are now obvious enough, he was never an official member of the Norwegian Communist Party during the post-war years, he is known to have maintained his contacts with the organization and indeed took an active part in ejecting the dissident Communist leader, Peder Furubotn, from the Party's central offices in 1950.

The Norwegian security police now reveal that they have had Sunde under observation since the year 1948. He first began to attract their attention when it was noticed that, despite the fact that he was apparently without any form of

regular employment, he was never short of money and seemed to spend the greater part of his time travelling around in Oslo or visiting the Norwegian naval base at Horten, which is only a short distance from the capital.

Suspicion deepened when it was discovered that Sunde took great pains to cover his tracks and that he was meeting officials of the Soviet Embassy in extremely irregular circumstances. It was while he was on his way to meet one of these officials, Attaché Meshevitinov, that the Norwegian police struck. The man who had been nicknamed 'Comrade Ratcatcher' in Spain, because of his skill in trapping rats, had himself walked into a trap.

Since his arrest, the Norwegian authorities have discovered that other members of the spy ring have also had meetings with Russian Embassy officials. Meshevitinov, of course, has hurriedly left the country under the protection of his diplomatic immunity.

There is, of course nothing particularly novel in the discovery of this Communist espionage group. It is, after all, merely a repetition of what has already

*Asbjørn Sunde, the 44-year-old Norwegian ex-seaman and leader of the espionage ring which has been uncovered by the Norwegian police in Oslo. He is thought to have been the head of the Norwegian section of the Wollweber organization.*

happened in many other Western countries. However, it has one unusual feature, namely the growing belief that Sunde was not only the head of the group in Oslo but was in fact the Norwegian leader of the notorious Wollweber organization, which has specialized in maritime espionage and sabotage for many years. It may therefore be of some interest to trace the development of this larger network, which seems to have had its origins in the pre-war Communist international seafarers' movement.

The story begins in 1920, when the Russian union of seamen and port workers made its first attempt to become a member of the ITF. The failure of this approach was followed, in March 1921, by the calling of a conference of 'revolutionary seafarers' in Moscow, attended by representatives of Russian,



German, Argentine, and Finnish seafarers. They decided to take steps to set up an International of Revolutionary Seamen and to organize an international congress of seamen at Petrograd (now Leningrad).

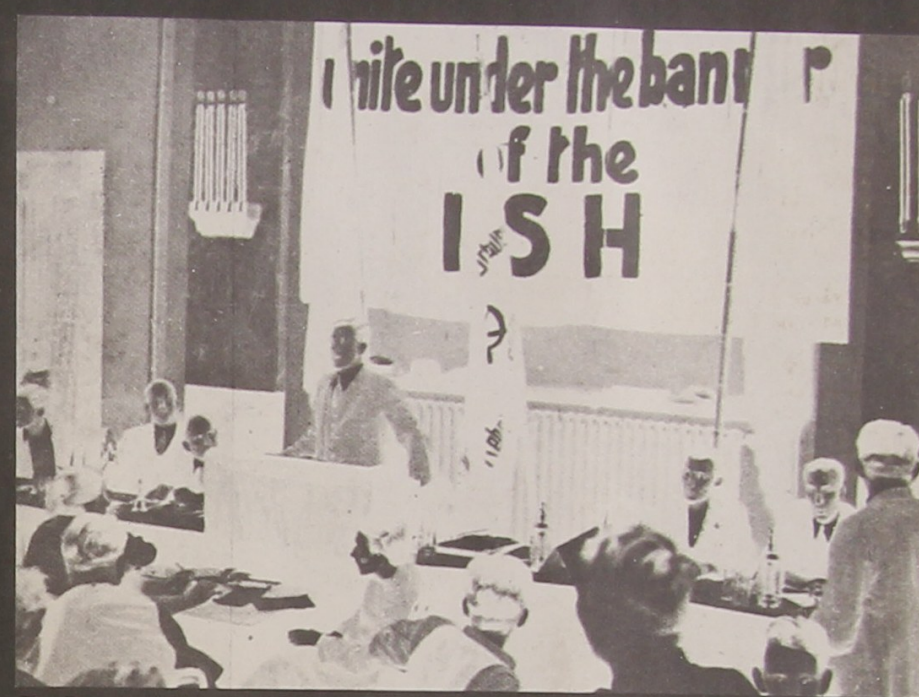
In the meantime, Communist groups in other transport unions had already made contacts with the Russian Transport Workers' Union. When the Red International of Labour Unions (RILU) was set up at the self-styled 'First Congress of Revolutionary Trade Unions', Gregor Atshkanov of the Soviet Seamen's Union noted, for instance, that 'revolutionary unions of transport workers and revolutionary minorities' were represented.

Later, these same representatives were to be found at another 'First Congress' – this time of the 'revolutionary transport workers'. However, they decided that the time was not yet ripe to establish a Revolutionary Transport Workers' International. As Atshkanov put it: 'Only a small number of unions reflected the revolutionary class standpoint and very few of them were affiliated with the RILU.' The delegates therefore contented themselves with setting up an 'International Propaganda Committee of Transport Workers'.

In August 1921, representatives of the International Propaganda Committee held at a conference in Moscow with Communist seafarers from Germany, the Argentine, and Australia. The American Industrial Workers of the World was also represented. It was at this conference that the first steps were taken towards creating the basis for the later development of the Wollweber organization.

The conference decided to set up what it then called 'port offices' in the major ports of the world, the aim being to maintain contact with the International Propaganda Committee of Revolutionary Transport Workers and to keep it informed on maritime matters. Later, these 'port offices' were to become, better known as International Seamen's Clubs. The International Seamen's Club movement eventually assumed sizeable proportions and by 1928 claimed branches in the following ports: London, Newcastle, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Baltimore, Marseilles, Odense, Esbjerg, Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp, Archangel, Leningrad, Odessa, and Vladivostok.

These clubs became an important



The Communist International of Seamen and Harbour Workers (ISH) was set up at a Congress held in Altona, Hamburg, in 1931. Among those on the Congress platform was Ernst Wollweber, making one of his extremely rare public appearances.

part of the Communist machinery for infiltrating democratic maritime unions and for spreading revolutionary propaganda among seafarers and dockers outside the Soviet Union. In fact, so important had they become that, at the Fifth Conference of the Revolutionary Transport Workers held in Moscow in 1928, a special resolution was adopted calling for 'not a single ship without a ship's committee or a revolutionary nucleus'. A contemporary Communist pamphlet spoke of 'the revolutionary wing of the unions organized by the International Seamen's Clubs' and described one of their basic tasks as 'to struggle against the preparations for imperialist war, and to organize the defence of the USSR'.

By 1931, the leaders of the Communist seafarers' movement felt themselves strong enough to set up their own International in opposition to the ITF. This was done at a Congress held in Altona, Hamburg. It is at this point, too, that Ernst Wollweber appears on the stage, making one of his rare voluntary public appearances. Although, as is often the case at Communist-sponsored international gatherings, he did not seem to

play an important role on the Congress platform, it is believed that he was probably the brain behind the formation of the new organization, which was named the International of Seamen and Harbours Workers (ISH).

The ISH established its headquarters in Hamburg under the nominal leadership of a German Communist, Albert Walter, who was elected its General Secretary. Two other names which should be mentioned here are Arthur Samsing and Martin Hjelmén, both Norwegian nationals. Samsing was responsible for the organization of some 200 to 300 Communist cells aboard Norwegian merchant vessels. Martin Hjelmén, who was later to take over from Samsing, was given the task of working among seamen in Oslo, where he directed the local International Seamen's Club.

The coming of Nazism in 1933 brought the end of the ISH in its original form and the destruction of its headquarters apparatus in Hamburg. Its General Secretary, Albert Walter, went over to the Nazis and the organization itself passed into the hands of Ernst Wollweber, who had in the meantime



# Conditions of employment in long-distance roadtransport (2)

IN THE SWEDISH LINJEBUSS COMPANY, permanent drivers in international transport are paid by the month. Drivers employed in national transport and who have worked forty-two hours in the week are guaranteed full weekly wages.

The American Trucking Associations states that most union contracts provide for minimum wage guarantees. When paid by the hour, most employees are guaranteed at least a four-hour minimum. If required to be available daily for service, an employee is guaranteed a forty-hour minimum weekly rate. Some contracts provide for a fortnightly wage.

The Netherlands goods transport company states that there is a guaranteed wage scheme equivalent to a fifty-one-hour working week; the Netherlands passenger transport company states that no such system is in force in the undertaking.

## Notice

All the undertakings providing information state that workers are entitled to notice in case of dismissal.

The American Trucking Associations states that unless an employee is discharged because of dishonesty, drinking on the job or carrying unauthorized passengers, he must be given at least one warning notice. This notice is effective for a period not longer than nine months in most contracts. Union employees have the right to appeal the discharge.

The French Labour Code provides for one week's notice by either side. In

addition, the national collective agreement for road transport provides that if the employer decides to lay off workers because of a reduction in business activity or conversion of the undertaking dismissals must be so arranged as to take account of workers' family responsibilities, length of service in the establishment, and occupational qualities. Workers dismissed in such circum-

stances, who have been employed in the establishment for at least one year at the time of their dismissal, must be given priority if the undertaking takes on workers during the following year. If re-engaged, they keep any seniority benefits they may have had when they were dismissed.

In the Netherlands passenger transport company, workers must be given four weeks' notice, unless the period of service is less than two years, in which case two weeks' notice is given. One week's notice is given in the Nether-



(continued from page 60)  
Communist Government.

It is, of course, pointless to speculate on the extent to which Wollweber is still directing the organization which has for so long borne his name. It seems unlikely, however, that Soviet Russia, which in 1941 took the unusual step of publicly acknowledging him and his value, should now allow him to waste his talents as an imitation Himmler in one of the occupied territories. The trial of Sunde and his accomplices may provide the answer – but it is doubtful.



S. Form 81/rev. 12.53

## EXTRACT

(49864) WT.33778 GP.698

Extract for File No. P.F.41,930.Name: WOLLENWEBER, Ernst Friedrich.Original in File No.: BM JIC/P/1.Vol.: 2. Serial: 281a. Receipt Date: 1.4.54.Original from: J.I.C.Under Ref.: JIC(54)2/3. Dated: 23.3.54.Extracted on: 8.4.54.by: K.M. Section: R.6.

Extract from Appendix N to J.I.C. Report re. Personalities of Prominent Civilians in the Eastern Zone of Germany. Ment. Ernst WOLLENWEBER.

.....

"C" Other Prominent Persons in East Berlin and the East Zone of Germany.

.....

15. WOLLWEBER, Ernst: State Secretary for State Security in Ministry of the Interior, and Deputy to the Minister.

Born 1898. Served in German Navy (U-boats) in 1914-18 war and took part in the Kiel mutiny. 1921-30 member of Communist Party, of which he was also secretary. 1928-32. member of Reichstag. 1932. appointed Secretary-General of Seamen's Union a Communist trade union. Escaped to Denmark when Nazis came to power; made his way to Russia and remained there until 1935. 1935-37 in Paris. Went to Scandinavia and there organised sabotage of Axis shipping. Arrested in Sweden and sentenced to three years' imprisonment, 1942. Made his way to Russia again after the capitulation. His sole public activity, after his return to East Germany, has been in connection with the administration of inland waterways and shipping. In 1949 he was known to be head of the Waterways Department in the German Economic Commission. 1951, Secretary of State for Shipping and in July 1953 appointed Secretary of State in charge of State Security in the reorganised Ministry of the Interior, and Deputy to the Minister.

.....

\* If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

✓ JIC/RP  
10.4.57



S. Form 354.

COPY

Extract for File No.: P.F. 41,930. Name: Ernst WOLLWEBER.  
 Original in File No.: P.F. 41,242. Serial: 79a. Vol.: 6. Receipt Date: 11.53.  
 Original from/to: Intelligence Digest Under Ref.: Dated: 11.53.  
 Extracted on: 10.11.53. by: P.P.A. Section: R6.

### EASTERN GERMANY : AN IMPORTANT AND DANGEROUS MAN

SOVIET AMBASSADOR Semjonov seems to be firmly established in Eastern Germany ; although, for a time, his prospects seemed doubtful. His political assistant, Judin, probably no longer has the full confidence of Moscow. His stay in Germany may not be prolonged.

#### Two Communist Roles

Since the end of July reorganisation, two types of Communist force have emerged. The first consists of out-and-out underground terrorists who are being trained for the undermining of the German State in the event of reunification.

The second consists of those who would be most likely to prove acceptable to the western Powers, and who would—at first—openly represent East German interests if reunification came about or were likely.

The organisation of these two forces has led to the elimination of such men as Zaisser and Fechner. Fechner was a suitable compromise type, but was thought likely to be weak and soft-hearted at a decisive moment. He could not be trusted in a reunified government.

Zaisser is too much of a bureaucrat, and not enough of the practical terrorist to head an underground movement.

#### E.2. Ernst Wollweber

The Communist underground now

being prepared will be directed by the new Minister of State Security, Ernst Wollweber. As he has a very important part to play, it is of interest to study him rather closely.

A curious man ; 55 years of age, bald, medium height, very fat, with a greyish, mottled complexion, he is covered with tattoo designs. On his right arm is an anchor ; on his left a steering wheel. On his body are tattooed the Soviet star, hammer and sickle, and a number of naked women.

Coarse in the extreme, his manners are shocking, and he has frequent outbursts of rage, which he vents on his staff.

#### A Varied Career

Wollweber was born in 1898 in Münden, the son of a Silesian miner. His father was killed on the French front in 1915.

At the age of 17, he moved to Hamburg, where he lived in the harbour area, and began to drink heavily and to consort with prostitutes. In 1916, he was called up to serve in the navy as a stoker. He soon became known as a bad influence, and was several times punished.

Nevertheless, he had considerable, though perverted, qualities of leadership ; and, in 1918, when only 19, he led a mutiny.

Then he joined the Communist Party and decided to go to Russia. Unable to get permission to travel