

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

607 U. S. Court House
Foley Square
New York, N. Y.

REV:PS
65-51

April 30, 1938.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: GUENTHER GUSTAVE RUMRICH,
with aliases, ET AL.
Espionage

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter of April 27, 1938
(65-748) regarding the above matter.

Please be advised for some time we have been giving serious consideration to your suggestion regarding polygraph tests. The case will be presented to the Grand Jury beginning the forepart of next week. There is no question in my mind but what these tests should be applied and they may prove to be very illuminating.

In view of the rush of other business it has not been possible for me to formulate a program prior to this time in this connection. However, I now respectfully suggest and recommend that polygraph tests be given to the following individuals the latter part of next week, preferably May 6 and 7; that is, Friday and Saturday; or May 7 and 8, Saturday and Sunday, and will endeavor to formulate a program to this effect and I should know definitely, probably by Wednesday, May 4, whether these dates are satisfactory. In the meantime, we will endeavor to prepare a set of questions to be of assistance for the Bureau expert, and it might be well for the expert to arrive at New York City probably a half day in advance to go over this matter carefully.

*5/3.
dates are
satisfactory
507.*

The following individuals are suggested for polygraph tests:

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| I. T. GRIEBL | W. BOENING |
| KATE MOOG | W. HERMANN |
| CAPTAIN DRECHSEL | JOHN WINKLE |
| | MARTIN SCHADE |

Gunter

I shall communicate with the Bureau either telephonically or by teletype probably Wednesday, May 4, and advise you if this program is satisfactory, and will assume, unless you promptly advise me to the contrary, that possibly the dates I have suggested will be satisfactory for the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

R. E. VETTERLI
Special Agent in Charge

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/18/99 BY SPICLER

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

WPE:OM
65-748-335

May 4, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NATHAN.

Re: GUENTHER GUSTAVE RUMRICH,
with aliases, et al.;
Espionage.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Mr. Nathan | ✓ |
| Mr. Tolson | ✓ |
| Mr. Clegg | |
| Mr. Glavin | |
| Mr. Ladd | |
| Mr. Nichols | |
| Mr. Rosen | |
| Mr. Tracy | |
| Mr. Carson | |
| Mr. Egan | |
| Mr. Gurnea | |
| Mr. Hendon | |
| Mr. Pennington | |
| Mr. Quinn | |
| Mr. Nease | |
| Miss Gandy | |

E. P. Coffey

Mr. Vetterli called Mr. Ellwood from New York today to advise that he was making arrangements to have the necessary witnesses in the New York Office for polygraph tests on Friday and Saturday, May 6th and 7th.

Since I have no other commitments I plan to go to New York, arriving there Friday morning May 6th, and will conduct the necessary polygraph tests. I am planning at this time to have Mr. D. J. Parsons accompany me to New York in order to give him experience in this sort of work.

Respectfully,

E. P. Coffey

E. P. Coffey.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 4/2/96 BY SP2 RCL/CRP

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ENCLOSURE

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MAY 10 1938
FBI - NEW YORK

h

IGNATZ T. GRIEBEL, M. D.
56 East 87th Street
New York City

May 6, 1938.

This individual was unusually responsive on the polygraph. His reactions were so pronounced that it is believed they can be definitely isolated and for this reason it is believed that the conclusions are unusually reliable. As a result, it is believed that he was deeply involved in the espionage ring and in direct contact with Doctor Pfeiffer. It is not believed from the questioning that he personally took Loukoski over the Canadian Border. It is believed that his present cooperation with the FBI Agents is sincere up to a certain point but that he is still withholding such information concerning his own complicity in the espionage work.

1. Do you live in New York City?

Yes.

2. Do you object to this test?

No.

3. Have you ever furnished military information to Doctor Pfeiffer?

No.***

4. Have you had breakfast?

Yes.

5. Did you accompany Loukoski to Canada?

No.

6. Are you now a practising physician?

Yes.

(second run)

7. Do you live in New York City?

Yes.

8. Did you ever give Schluter military information?

No.**

9. Is today Friday?
Yes.
10. Did Schluter ever pay you for any military information?
No.***
11. Have you had breakfast this morning?
Yes.
12. Did you take Lonkoski over the Border?
No.
- (third run)
13. Were you an espionage contact for Pfeiffer?
No.***
14. Have you had breakfast?
Yes.
15. Have you ever visited Rumrich's home?
No.**
16. Is today Sunday?
No.
17. Did Danielsen ever give you any military information for transmittal to Pfeiffer?
No.*
18. Personally, have you in Washington obtained military information?
No.
19. Did anybody ever give you any military information for transmittal to Pfeiffer?
No.*

(fourth run)

20. Do you live in New York?

Yes.

21. Have you withheld any information from the FBI Agents?

Yes.

21. Have you withheld any information from the FBI Agents?
(question repeated)

Yes.

22. Have you conspired with Miss Moog?

No.*

23. Have you told me any lies?

No.*

24. Is Miss Moog involved in the espionage ring?

No.**

25. Are you double crossing the Agents?

No.

26. Do you know the German contact with Gibbs and Cox?

No.**

(fifth run)

27. Have you been in Philadelphia?

Yes.

28. Have you directly furnished espionage information to Doctor Pfeiffer?

No.***

29. Is Miss Moog presently connected with this ring?

No.

30. Are you presently conspiring with any of the ring?

No.**

31. Are you sincere in present efforts to assist Federal Agents?

Yes.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
May 11, 1938.

EAT:JHR

Time-9:12 A.M.
10:00 A.M.
10:15 A.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Rumrich Case.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/9/96 BY SP7CJ/CCJ/P

SAC Vetterli called from New York and reported that Dr. Griebel has probably fled the United States at one o'clock this morning. I was told that Griebel may have stown-away on the Bremen, which docks at Southampton. SAC Vetterli stated that Griebel is one of the most important men in the Rumrich case and is valuable for our prosecution. It is not certain that Griebel has left, though the odds are very heavy in that direction. I instructed Mr. Vetterli to call me after he has learned the full particulars, because the Bureau may be able to use this news to a very good advantage.

SAC Vetterli called from New York and stated that Dr. Griebel sailed on the Bremen, which left New York at one o'clock this morning. Griebel is a stowaway, without money and has been placed in the ship's brig. The Bremen will dock at Cherbourg, France the morning of the sixteenth. Griebel had a passport issued to him about a year ago and it is not known whether he has obtained another one or not. I was told that Griebel is a naturalized, American citizen; that if we can bring him back to the United States, this will have to be accomplished before the boat reaches Germany and while it is docked at Cherbourg. The fact that Dr. Griebel has sailed is not known to anyone except Captain Drexell and Griebel's sweetheart and wife. The address of Dr. Ignatz Theodore Griebel is 66 E. 87th St., New York City, New York. Griebel was not placed under any bond because he was thought to be helping the prosecution in this case; several times he had been placed under the lie detector and had been found to be lying. Griebel had not talked before the Grand Jury yet, though he was scheduled to do so tomorrow. The New York Office has not talked to Griebel's wife; in an interview with his sweetheart, it was found that she knew nothing of his intentions to sail. The information that Griebel had sailed was obtained from Captain Drexell and Griebel's wife.

I called SAC Vetterli and told him to put this matter up to the United States Attorney and inform the USA that he should first consult the State Department before making any decision. I instructed Mr. Vetterli to keep the Bureau advised, for when this matter gets in three or four hands the Bureau will have a better chance to take care of it.

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Handwritten initials and signature

May 11, 1938.

SAC Vetterli called at 11:15 A.M. and stated that he and Agent Turrou had seen United States Attorney Hardy and his assistant, Mr. Dumnigan. Hardy has talked to Mr. Moffat, of the State Department, who in turn is contacting the French authorities in an attempt to work out a plan for returning Dr. Griebel. Mr. Hardy is going to have a secret complaint filed against Dr. Griebel and it is believed that Griebel can be taken off the Bremen at Cherbourg and returned to the United States. I was told that Agent Turrou has been asked to go to France to bring back Griebel because this agent knows French and is acquainted with the case.

I called SAC Vetterli at 11:30 A.M. and informed him that the Director will not allow any Bureau agent to go abroad on this case; that if the United States Attorney wants to send his assistant, he can do so. I stated that the official action will have to be taken in France through the American Consulate and by the French authorities, who will place the man in irons on another ship to come back to the United States. I told Mr. Vetterli that the Bureau does not have the funds nor the man power to send an agent on an assignment of this kind. I asked SAC Vetterli to inform me as to what action will be taken in New York.

SAC Vetterli called at 2:00 P.M. and stated that the State Department reports that they cannot take Griebel off the Bremen; that if the ship's captain places Griebel ashore in France in someone's custody, he can be returned to the United States. Mr. Vetterli suggested that the Bureau contact Captain Drexell and I stated that Drexell is probably playing both sides, helping us and also the German Government at the same time. The United States Attorney still wants Agent Turrou to go to France and has been trying to get in touch with the Director; I said that it looks as though everyone is trying to pass this matter off on the Bureau, and if anyone gets burnt it will be the Bureau. I told Mr. Vetterli that a Bureau agent will have no police power in France; that the matter would have to be handled through the American Consulate through the French police at Cherbourg. Mr. Vetterli stated that the Bureau is not at fault by not placing Griebel under bond; that Griebel has been coming into the New York Office everyday and has been helping the Bureau in every way; that he has a good position, owns property and is a citizen of the United States. I said that as this matter is one entirely of legal procedure, the United States Attorney's office should work it out. I instructed SAC Vetterli to point out to the USA that a Bureau agent has no authority in France; that the American Embassy in Paris would have to be contacted as the French police authority will have to be used, plus the fact that the Bureau does not have the money to send an agent to France.

SAC Vetterli called at 2:44 P.M. and stated that Mr. Hardy wants him to contact Captain Drexell and ascertain if Griebel will be taken off the Bremen at Cherbourg. I was told that Hardy is going to take the matter up with the State Department with the view of having the American Consulate

Memo for the Director
Rumrich Case.

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May 11, 1938.

enlist the aid of the French police when the ship docks; that in this way Griebel can be taken off the Bremen and placed aboard the first American ship for the United States. I instructed SAC Vetterli to have the State Department make all the arrangements; that if there is any approach to be made to Captain Drexell or anyone else, the State Department should do it. I stated that this matter may develop into an international incident and if it does the Bureau should not be in the foreground; I told Mr. Vetterli to let the United States Attorney work with the State Department who can make all the necessary arrangements if they have the courage to do so. Mr. Hardy thought that Dr. Griebel may be induced to return to the United States of his own free will and was advised that this would not be likely because of Griebel's act in being a stowaway. I again asserted that the Bureau should try and stay out of the picture; that any action should be a two man combination of the USA and the State Department; that in this way the Bureau cannot be left holding the bag.

Respectfully,



E. A. TAMM.

EPC:MTG

May 15, 1938

65-748

Mr. R. E. Vetterli
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
607 U. S. Court House, Foley Square
New York, New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/11/84 BY SP7 C/LLP/R

Re: Gustave Ouenther Rurich,
with alias, et al;
Espionage.

Dear Sir:

On May 6th and 7th in your office, Mr. E. P. Coffey of the Bureau interrogated several of the suspects and witnesses in this case. Mr. Coffey was assisted by Mr. D. J. Parsons of the Bureau and the interrogation was conducted in the presence of Special Agent Leon Turrou of your office. The following were questioned:

Martin Sebade
Captain William Drechsel
Karl Friedrich Wilhelm Herrmann
Wilhelm Boening
John Unkle
Ignatz T. Griebel, M. D.
Miss Kate Moog

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

There are transmitted herewith the questions and answers of each subject. Where an emotional reaction was noted following a question the same is indicated on the enclosures in the following manner: A single asterisk indicates a mild emotional reaction, a double asterisk a strong emotional reaction and a triple asterisk a rather extraordinary emotional reaction. The comments of the interrogator are set forth concerning each subject. In connection with these reports, your office is cautioned that due to the inherent limitations of the method and apparatus no action should be predicated solely upon the results of the tests nor should the same be considered in the determination of prosecutive action. Subject to this limitation it would appear, however, that these tests were particularly successful on several of the subjects insofar as indicating the possession

65-748-31/2
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A. J. [Signature]

SAO New York
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of further undisclosed information on the part of some and unreliability in the case of at least one.

The voluntary consent of all subjects was obtained before the tests were undertaken and with the exception of the subjects Moog and Griebel consent was obtained in writing and retained in the files of your office.

The general results now being reported have already been furnished orally to Special Agent Leon Turrou.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosures

SPECIAL DELIVERY