

● PSF: Subject File

Carter, J. Franklin
Report on Hanfstaengl
1/26/44

JOHN FRANKLIN CARTER
(Joy Franklin)
1210 NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

PSF: J.F. Carter folder
3-44

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personal*

"We, the People"
"The Week in Washington"



Metropolitan 4112
Metropolitan 4113

January 26, 1944.

REPORT ON PUTZI HANFSTAENGL.

Perhaps you will be interested in the attached report by Jack Morgan, of the State Department, concerning recent reactions by Putzi to the internal German situation. Incidentally, Jack McCloy has taken up with the Army the question of personnel and care on this project.

JFC
J.F.C.

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By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date MAY 1 1972

J. F. Carter
1210 National Press Building

January 27, 1944

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SEDGWICK REPORT, PART XLV

Due to an error this Report was detached from the
covering letter.

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By W. J. Stewart Date MAY 1 1972

PART XLV

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January 21, 1944

On my last visit (Jan. 20) Dr. S. called attention to new instances of German propaganda aimed at building up the idea of Germany as a protector of the Church in contrast to Bolshevist atheism. He pointed out that the Nazis formerly asserted that there was no need for churches, and especially for new churches, in Germany, but that Dr. Goebbels has now announced that Reichsarchitekt Speer, in consultation with Protestant and Catholic Church leaders, will draw up plans for the rebuilding of the churches destroyed by Allied bombings. The German radio, says the Doctor, has also stressed alleged cordial relations between the new Italian Republican régime of Mussolini and the Catholic hierarchy and has cited a number of Italian archbishops and cardinals (including Cardinal Schuster who, he claims, is the Italian equivalent of Faulhaber), as favoring the new régime.

The Doctor cited as evidence that the German propagandists were making the most of the Polish situation, a reported demonstration by several hundred Polish university students in Warsaw in protest against Allied abandonment of the Poles in the face of Russian pressure.

The Doctor's comment on Pravda's publication of alleged British peace feelers is interesting chiefly in the light of the theory that the Pravda report might be intended as a build-up for an eventual Russian separate peace with Germany.

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(Mr. Carter states that an Army instructor of his acquaintance has told him that when asked to give their interpretation of the Pravda article his soldier students almost unanimously considered it to be the forerunner of a Russian separate peace move.) The Doctor is absolutely positive that there is no possibility of Germany's entering into a separate peace with Russia. Such a peace would be politically impossible for Hitler, he maintains. When reminded of Russian-German cooperation in 1939, the Doctor stated that perhaps some sort of truce might be patched up, though he doubted this, but that a "Schlussakkord," or final peace was impossible. Any truce which might be entered into would always be with the idea in mind of a resumption of the conflict at the earliest favorable opportunity.

On the other hand, the Doctor was inclined to the probably wishful belief that, whether or not Anglo-German meetings actually took place as claimed by Pravda, there existed in England a war weariness which might later result in approaches to Germany, especially if friction with Russia increases.

In general, however, it was the Dr.'s opinion that the story of British feelers and the subsequent story of Russian-German talks at Ankara were inventions. He believes that the Pravda article is of the same pattern as the earlier

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attack on Willkie and is a deliberately calculated warning by the Russians against Allied interference in Eastern Europe. He considers it to be a product of Russian resentment of Anglo-British attempts to negotiate the Polish problem, plus Russian confidence that the Soviet aims can be realized with or without Allied assistance. He feels that the article is also in part a further expression of the Russian feeling that Allied contributions of war materiel in no way counterbalance Russia's tremendous losses in killed and wounded.

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