

7th January, 1941.

37/10/17

O.H.M.S.

SNUFFBOX
LONDON.



MOMEN.

TRANSLATION.

REFERENCE TO YOUR TELEGRAM 3RD JANUARY KURT WILHELM SCHMITT INTERNED
HERE SINCE 22ND DECEMBER 1939.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

zale

39/561

TRANSLATION OF CABLEGRAM.

London,

3rd January, 1941.

Commissioner of Police,
Wellington.

Reference to your letter 37/10/17 9th March 1938 and my letter
O.F.22/7/B 2 (a) 17th November, 1938 re Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt who
left United Kingdom for New Zealand by Rangitane 10th November 1938.
Have you any up to date information of Schmidt's activities and
whereabouts ? Letter follows on receipt your reply.

Snuffbox.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

TRANSIT
NEW ZEALAND POLICE



~~SECRET~~

37/10/17

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Subject: LETTER COLONEL KELL SUMMARISING SITUATION ON 9-5-38.

100,000/11/39-14051

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

~~SECRET~~
3-7/10/17
POLICE DEPT. NEW ZEALAND

~~SECRET~~

Telephone No.
VICTORIA 1552-3-4
OF. 22/7/B.2a.

BOX NO. 500,
PARLIAMENT STREET, B.O.,
LONDON, S.W.1.

11th May, 1938.

Dear Mr. Cummings,

With reference to your letter No.37/10/17.,
dated 9th March, 1938, we have no trace on our records
of Hermann Ernst Rudolph KERSTEN.

Yours sincerely,

V.G.W. Kell

Colonel Sir V.G.W. Kell.

D.J. Cummings, Esq.,
Commissioner of Police,
Wellington,
NEW ZEALAND.

~~SECRET~~ 37/10/17.

9th March, 1938.

~~SECRET~~

Colonel Sir Vernon Kell,
Box No. 500,
Parliament Street, B.O.,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Dear Sir Vernon,

With reference to previous correspondence regarding N.S.D.A.P. activities in New Zealand, the following note of the present situation may be of interest to you:-

7/10/38
7/10/38
The German Club continues to function in Auckland with a present membership of 84, the officers being President, J.B. Blumhardt; Vice-Presidents, W.J. McMillan and O. Hagen; Secretary, M. Gropengiesser; Librarian, G. Belin. I attach a copy of the Club's present Rules.

I am advised that nothing of a political nature enters into the Club's normal functions, and in the light of recent correspondence from your office it would seem that the policy of the Club is intended to foster an atmosphere of friendliness to Germany. There are a number of British subjects among the members.

7/10/38
In connection with the Stutzpunkt in Auckland, the leadership of K.W. Schmidt is not popular, and I am informed that W.F. Kersten - referred to as H. Kerstner in your Additional Note on the N.S.D.A.P. - has broken away mainly through personal differences with Schmidt, who remains supported principally by his wife Hela Schmidt, Max Gropengiesser and Jonathan Blumhardt.

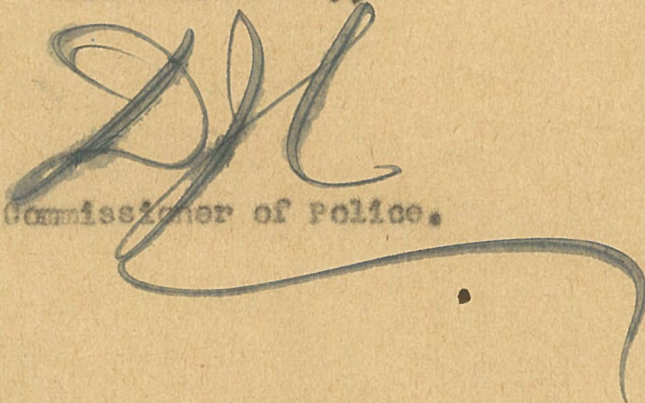
Kersten's son, Hermann Ernst Rudolph Kersten, a German, 23 years of age, arrived in New Zealand from Germany, where he had commenced a military career, on the "Awatea" on 20th December, 1937, and is now living with his mother at Auckland. He has a temporary permit enabling him to stay in New Zealand for six months.

7/10/38
In connection with your recent summary of the dissemination of German propaganda, it is interesting to note that one Paul Arno Hesseman, a German, 29 years of age, has recently secured an appointment as a school teacher at Apia, Western Samoa. He arrived at Wellington from Sydney by the "Awatea" on 27th December, 1937. At the request of the German Consul, Dr. Hellenenthal, he was granted a temporary permit to remain in New Zealand, and sailed by the "Mariposa" for Pago Pago on 10th January, 1938. During the intervening period he stayed with K.W. Schmidt, Stutzpunktleiter at Auckland.

37/10/38
Dr. Walter Hellenenthal, German Consul in New Zealand, who is referred to in previous correspondence (your No. O.F. 22/17/DS.17a), is leaving New Zealand with his wife and family for Germany on 17th April, 1938 on several months' leave of absence, travelling by the German liner "Reliance".

I shall be grateful for any information you may have regarding
H.E.R. Kersten.

Yours sincerely,



Commissioner of Police.