



If any reply, please quote this number:

~~SECRET~~ 57/10/38.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON, C.1. 27th June 1939.

MEMORANDUM for

The Hon. Minister in Charge of Police.

Dissemination of Nazi propaganda.

It has for some time been known that in common with other parts of the British Empire, New Zealand was receiving its share of Nazi propaganda, disseminated not only by Nazi members themselves, but by British subjects with pro-Nazi views. A careful watch is being kept on the situation, but it does not appear that it is being done on an extensive scale. Such activities appear to be almost confined to the German Club at Auckland.

You may be interested however in the following information bearing on the matter.

It is understood that recently when the Government banned a session known as "History Behind the Head Lines" broadcast from Station 1 Z.B. Auckland, a petition was lodged protesting against the Government's action, but was followed by a counter-petition supporting that action. It is believed that closely associated with the counter-petition was one Rowland Fyfe Paddock, a young man who graduated from the Auckland University with an M.A. degree.

Paddock, a few years ago, was known to have Communist leanings, but it has now been definitely established through a very delicate source that not only is he disseminating German propaganda, but takes active steps with a view to bringing other persons in touch with Nazi members of the German Club, including aliens who have been granted certificates of Naturalization in this Dominion. He is not known to be a member of the German Club, but is definitely serving the interests of the Nazi Group.

[Handwritten signature]
Commissioner of Police.

*Returned by post
minister on
10-8-39
[unclear]*

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy



SECRET
37/10/38.

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

Subject: German Club, Auckland and Nazi activities, - re association with
British subjects, vide attached letter.

100,000/8/38-8709]

The Chief Detective,

Please see report attached.

E. Stevenson

23/6/39.

Det. 2627.

Insp Ward

L. O'Hare

6/11/39
23.6.39

Had to the Suppt
24/6/39 R. Ward
Sup
to Commissioner

J. Cunningham
26.6.39

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

~~SECRET~~

NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police-100A.

Police-station : Detective Office, Auckland.

Date : 23 rd June , 1939

REPORT of Detective E.A.Stevenson , No. 2627

relative to German Club and Nazi activities - possible association with British subjects.

"Vide attached"

I respectfully report that the attached envelope with its enclosed note and business card was found in the letter box of the German Club at their rooms at 313 Queen St. ^{on 21-6-39} It was opened by mistake, did not reach the person to whom it is addressed, and subsequently came into my possession.

The person to whom the note is addressed is one PETER MILLER, a German national, whose name was originally MULLER, but who during the advance of the Nazi regime in Germany in the last few years, has again been taking a pride in being known as MULLER... He is a member of the German Club- and an active member. He is a supporter of the Nazi regime and closely associates with the known Nazis here, but I cannot say if Miller himself is a member of the Nazi Party.. It seems probable that he is.

He is a painter and decorator by occupation.. He has been in New Zealand many years, and I believe that he is a naturalized British subject and that he legally changed his name to MILLER.

He is about 50 years of age, about 5 ft 2 or 3 ins, medium build, fair hair, blue eyes.

He has been previously referred to as a member of the German Club and was last mentioned in a report dated 29/3/39, as being one of those selected Germans to be present at a meeting addressed by the German Consul - Herr Ramm.

The person who sent the note - R.F.Paddock is a young man named ROWLAND FYFE PADDOCK, who was educated in Auckland, attended the Auckland University and is a M.A.(degree).

I do not know if he has any regular employment but is always about the City and seems to get more or less connected with various movements and organisations of a 'mushroom' nature.... In this respect he has come under my notice during the past 5 years. In 1934 he was active on the Free Speech Committee in Auckland and sometimes took the platform, associated with Communists.. He has not been a Communist Party member and has always been viewed with suspicion by that Party.

He was last referred to in a secret report dated 6 th Feb.1939.. This was in connection with Mr Kenneth Melvin's "History behind the Headlines" radio talks.. Paddock attempted to organise a counter petition supporting the ban that was placed by the Government on Melvin's radio international affairs talks. It will be remembered that Melvin's trenchant criticism of the Nazis was the cause of the Government's ban.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

The Chief Detective,
Auckland.

Appropos the foregoing paragraph the attached cutting from the "Workers' Weekly", dated 3 rd Feb. 1939, is of interest... This article refers to Paddock, though it does not give his name..

In view of Paddock's note attached it seems that the "Workers' Weekly" was well informed on this matter.

It further seems probable that Paddock, in organising a counter petition upholding the Government's ban action, was acting at the instigation of Nazis here.

The person referred to in the note and whose card was enclosed - ANTHONY PETRIE - is a Yugo Slav, about 55 years of age, and who has been in New Zealand for many years.. He is a naturalised British subject. He changed his name years ago from PETRICH to PETRIE. He resides at 229 Parnell Rd, Auckland.

He is in a failing and shaky way of business as Auckland Suburban Land Bonds, 308 Queens Arcade, Auckland. This has some connection with the selling of Waitakere sections.

Being largely unsuccessful in business he has, as do many Yugo-Slavs, developed Communist sympathies. He has never been referred to in secret reports in this respect, but in a secret report dated 1/11/34 it was stated that two lads - Harold Petrie and Ian Petrie - had been contacted for membership of the Young Communist League. These two are sons of Anthony Petrie... They did not again come under notice.

Apparently Petrie's interest is now swinging from Communism to Fascism.

The note refers to "... Fichte Bund stuff ...". This means Nazi propaganda leaflets, printed in English. These were last referred to in my report of 2 nd Feb, 1939... 15 of the leaflets were forwarded on 18 th March 1938.

The note is some evidence that Nazis here - probably Miller in this case - are circulating Nazi propaganda literature among selected British subjects.

In this respect the matter has a bearing on the Commissioner's instructions of 10 th March 1939, accompanying a note re anti-British activities of German organisations in various parts of the world, particularly in the British Dominions and Colonies. (Part file-Secret, 37/10/38.).. The Commissioner instructed that this matter be kept in view in reporting on the activities of the German Club, Auckland.

E. Stevenson

Det. 2627.

*ent to P/FS
A. Petrie
+ I.F.P. Petrie.*

"WORKERS' WEEKLY"
3rd FEB. 1939.

Nazi Influence Behind Counter-Petition

Known Pro-Fascist
Responsible

White-Anter in Labour Party

BEWARE OF AMBIGUOUS TITLE

Already thousands of signatures have been obtained to a petition protesting against the banning of the "History Behind the Headlines" feature on the IZB station. A sequel to this demonstration of the popularity of the session is to be seen in a counter-petition which has also been started. This counter-petition, accidentally or otherwise, bears the exact title of the genuine petition, namely, "History Behind the Headlines Petition." Many people—at the Rationalist Association meeting, for instance, —unthinkingly signed the counter petition, believing that they were signing a petition for the restoration of "History Behind the Headlines."

The "WORKERS' WEEKLY" IS IN A POSITION TO STATE THAT THE ORGANISER OF THE PETITION IS A FANATICAL PRO-NAZI IN CLOSE CONNECTION WITH THE NAZI-GERMAN COMMUNITY. As this man is unemployed, or virtually unemployed, and is known to possess no financial resources, the question is being asked as to where the money has come from to finance the printing of a large number of petitions and the general organisation of the move.

We do not doubt that the members of the Nazi German community could answer this question.

WHITE-ANTING THE LABOUR PARTY

The petition refers in hypocritical terms to Mr. Savage whose name it endeavours to capitalise in its attempt to maintain the ban. This being so, it is necessary to inform our readers that the man responsible for the counter-petition is (or a short time ago certainly was) a member of the Labour Party, who joined it with the express intention of white-anting it. This is the actual term which he used on one occasion. In a certain currency reform organisation (which, as a whole, we do not blame for his actions) this man was the advocate of joining the Labour Party in order to "white-ant" it. In the Manakau by-election of 1936, fought between Arthur Osborne, Labour candidate, and F. W. Doidge, Nationalist, a colleague of this man (a Labour Party official, incidentally) who had joined the party under the influence of the "white-anting" theory, was responsible for an anonymous leaflet, which opposed the Labour candidate and invited support for the Nationalist.

We ask readers to carefully read any petition form before they sign it and ask them to pass on this advice to their acquaintances.

Dear Mr. Müller,
 Enclosed is the card of a man who is very anxious to get facts & figures regarding the New Germany. I shall give him some of my Fichte Bund stuff, but this will not be sufficient for his purpose.

Would you mind his making your acquaintance?
 He is ^a Dalmatian

², and speaks four languages.
 I don't know your address, but you might care to get in touch with him.

Best wishes,
R.F. Paddock.

Mr. Müller.

PHONES: BUSINESS 44-431
 PRIVATE 43-014

P.O. BOX 167
 AUCKLAND

Anthony Petric

308-9-310 QUEENS' ARCADE,
 QUEEN & CUSTOM STREETS, AUCKLAND, C.1.

37 / 10/38
NEW ZEALAND POLICE.

[Police-100A.]

Police-station: Detective Office, Auckland.

Date: 13 th March, 1939

REPORT of Detective E.A. Stevenson, No. 2627

relative to German Club, Auckland; and Nazi activities.

"Vide attached"

I respectfully report that I have noted the attached Memorandum and the secret notes also.

In connection with the German Club in Auckland a close attention continues to be kept by my informant within the Club for any information or incidents that may be of interest to the Department.

Since Kurt Wilhelm Schmidt, the leader of the Stutzpunkt, returned from Germany in November last he has again taken over the rather nominal duties of treasurer of the Club.... Schmidt purposely remains in the background in the Club's activities and will not accept any more active position on the executive.

Very few Nazi propaganda leaflets, such as have been previously forwarded by me, have appeared in the clubrooms for some time.

On Saturday, the 4 th inst. a quarrel between Schmidt and Frederich Wilhelm Kersten came to a head in the clubrooms when Kersten assaulted Schmidt. The only witness was Max Grapengiesser, the Club Secretary.

These three were the three chief members of the Nazi Party group within the Club.. Kersten was then told to keep away from the Club.. He also resigned from the Stutzpunkt (the local Nazi group).

The trouble between the two arose on Von Luckner's boat "Seeteufel" almost a year ago.

Discord within the local Stutzpunkt has now reached the ears of Herr Ramm, the German Consul-General at Wellington. He is coming to Auckland about the end of the present month and one of the objects of his visit is to make an inquiry into the trouble in the Stutzpunkt, more particularly with regard to the fact that the local German nationals are not joining up as members of the Stutzpunkt as they are expected to do.

Herr Ramm will also inquire into the quarrel between Schmidt and Kersten and why the latter resigned from the Stutzpunkt.

There is no other item of interest to report at present.

With regard to para.5 of the attached secret notes I may mention that ever since commencing routine inquiries concerning German activities here - that was in February 1934 - I have always paid particular attention to the possibility of some collaboration or co-operation between the local German Nazis and any local British organisation that might have pro-Nazi sympathies. There is no evidence or suspicion of any activity as suggested possible in para.5 of the attached.

The Chief Detective,
Auckland.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy



I do not know of any established, or potential or incipient, National Socialist organisation in Auckland similar in any way to Mosley's organisation in Britain.

There does not appear to be any sign of such tendencies in the Freedom League, the Defence League, the Victoria League, the Navy League, the Officers' Club, the Chamber of Commerce or any of the other similar organisations in which such tendencies might conceivably appear.

Schmidt does not address any organisation but the German Club and then only on such innocuous topics as travel etc. He does not make any public pronouncement or advocacy of either the British or German races or forms of Government... He is most circumspect and discreet in this connection. He is most careful not to be drawn into discussions with British people on international politics.

The Consul-General's visit may result in some intensification of Nazi organisation and activity here.

E. A. Stearns

Det. 2627.

*Insp Ward
Forwarded
A. G. W. Hugh
Det. Sgt 14/3/39*

*For to the Dept No Commission
14 R. Howard
3
39
J. Cummins
Superior
14. 3. 39*



If any reply, please quote this number:

~~SECRET~~ 37/10/38.

~~SECRET.~~

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WELLINGTON, C. 1. 10th March, 1939.

MEMORANDUM for

The Superintendent of Police,
AUCKLAND.

Forwarded herewith for your information is a copy of a note (received from a secret source overseas) on the Anti-British activities of German organizations in various parts of the world and particularly in the Dominions and Colonies. Please have the matter kept in view in reporting on the activities of the German Club.

D. J. Drummond

Commissioner of Police.

Publicly released under the NZSIS Declassification Policy

*Superior
& Cummins
Supd
11.3.39
The Chief Det
R. Kava
Scop
11/27/39*

*Det Stevenson
A. B. Hugh
Det. Insp.
13.3.39*

*The Chief Detective,
Report attached.
E. A. Stevenson.
Det. 2627.
13-3-39.*

~~SECRET~~ 57/10/38.

10th March, 1939.


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

Dear Sir Vernon,

I have to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your letter 66/UK/63/B2a of the 18th January last and the accompanying note on anti-British activities of German organizations.

The matters referred to therein will receive careful attention, and I shall be pleased to advise you from time to time of the position in this Dominion.

Yours sincerely,



Commissioner of Police.

~~SECRET~~
37 / 10/38
POLICE DEPT. HEAD OFFICE

~~SECRET~~

66/UK/63/B2a.

Box No. 500,
Parliament Street, B.O.,
London, S.W.1.

18th. January 1939.

Dear Mr Cummings,

In view of the importance of the matter raised in the attached note, I should be grateful if you could give it very careful consideration and let me know from time to time whether there are any indications in your territory which tend to confirm or contradict this indication of the possibility of anti-British activities.

Yours sincerely,

J. Alan Star

for Colonel Sir Vernon Kell.

D. J. Cummings Esq.,
Commissioner of Police,
Wellington, New Zealand.

1. Developments before and after the recent crisis have suggested the desirability of our examining very carefully the nature of the activities of German organisations in various parts of the world and particularly in the Dominions and Colonies.
2. Since the Munich Agreement it has become more clear than ever before that the extremist forces behind the present rulers of Germany are exerting their influence in the direction of the pursuit of a dynamic policy. In this connection information of a reliable nature has been received from various sources which indicates that some at least of the leaders of Germany hope and expect to see a weakening of the British Empire in the not distant future, and that they intend to do what they can to promote the process.
3. As early as June last E.W. BOHLE, head of the Auslands Organisation of the N.S.D.A.P., spoke of an extensive drive which was being prepared within the British Empire with the object of fomenting troubles and disorganisation. Since then other leaders are known to have spoken to the same effect in private.
4. It is therefore to be expected that, wherever Nazi organisations exist within the British Empire, some attempts may be made to work along these lines. In some instances this may take the form of propaganda among indigenous peoples as in India or Africa, the financing of subversive movements as in Palestine, or intensive propaganda among people of German descent as in Canada or in Australia.

5. There is also the possibility of propaganda being spread - among other methods - through local pro-Nazi organisations with the object of conveying the mass suggestion that Germany is powerful and the British Empire decadent and likely to disintegrate. This is being done (not to any very significant extent) by Mosley's and other National Socialist organisations in the United Kingdom, which are understood to have received some financial support from Germany. Their example may well be followed by the corresponding organisations in Canada, South Africa or Australia ('National Party', 'Guard', 'Grey Shirts', etc.).

January 1939.