

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA: AIR POUCH SPECIAL AIR OR SEA POUCH

DISPATCH NO. 22 (RSL-V)-1362

*Clipping File*

**SECRET**  
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief of Station, <sup>19-10</sup> (Bern)

DATE: 25 July 1949

FROM : Chief, Foreign Branch W

SUBJECT: GENERAL.

SPECIFIC: Operational

HEDA GOMPERTZ (GOMPERTZ, GOMPETZ)  
(also HEDA RIESLER, HEDI MASSING)

*General Operational Matter (Switzerland)*

1. Subject was born in Vienna, Austria, on 4 January 1900, as Hedwig YONE, the daughter of Philip and Rosa (nee HUBERSTEIN). She attended grammar school, high school, and dramatic school in Vienna, and at 18, went to what was then Poland for a year to play with a stock company.

2. She toured Czechoslovakia the following year with the company, and on returning to Vienna, met Gerhart RIESLER, whom she married in 1920. The couple went to Berlin where RIESLER was editor of a Communist paper. Subject played on the German stage for about 3 years. After three years of married life (during which time she had become a Communist and had been active in Communist Party work) she and RIESLER separated.

3. Shortly thereafter, she fell in love with Dr. Julian GOMPERTZ, an American citizen, who spent much time in Germany. A Communist, GOMPERTZ was co-editor of a book publishing concern, "Walter Verlag," a known Party left-wing publishing firm, under the influence of the Communist Party. In 1926 Subject divorced RIESLER and married GOMPERTZ for whom she had been working several years prior to their marriage.

4. Subject and GOMPERTZ went to Paris after their marriage and then to the U.S., arriving on the S.S. Leviathan. After a brief stay in New York, they went to San Francisco and lived with GOMPERTZ's uncle. In 1927 they returned to Greenwich Village, New York, where they associated with many Communists. In January 1928 the couple returned to Europe, to Frankfurt/Main, where GOMPERTZ worked for the Institute of Social Research.

*William H. Murray*  
RELEASING OFFICER  
CPERA.

**RECORDED**

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COORDINATING OFFICER  
COMMUNIST PARTY

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*Richard Blum*  
AUTHENTICATING OFFICER  
Chief, FBI

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5. That summer Subject met Paul MASING, one of her husband's students. After MASING received his Ph.D. from the university at Frankfurt/Main in 1928, he and Subject went to Berlin where they lived as man and wife. They were legally married in 1928. MASING, who had been a liberal at college, joined the Communist Party and edited the magazine, "International Agrarian Problems." He went to Moscow in the winter of 1929, and Subject followed three months later. While MASING worked at the Agrarian Institute, Subject was employed by International Publishers, and then as a governess for the children of Louis and Marikoosha FISCHER. FISCHER was at that time Foreign Correspondent for "The Nation." In 1931 the MASINGs returned to Berlin where they were active in the CP. However, at the suggestion of REISS, to whom Subject had been introduced by Dr. Ika (Richard) SORGE, Subject at this time dropped out of the Party so that, as REISS put it, she could better fight the Fascists.

6. Thereafter Subject began to see Ignatz REISS periodically. From 1931 to 1933 Subject worked with REISS as an organizer of mail drops, and made a trip to Switzerland to see a student who in turn was to influence a certain professor to join REISS. Subject also worked closely with REISS' assistant, Felix SILVERSTEIN.

7. In October 1933 Subject came to the U.S. to renew her American passport. She had become an American citizen through her marriage to CONPERTZ, having been naturalized 9 December 1927, in White Plains, New York. Prior to coming to the U.S. in 1933, she visited the FISCHERs for two weeks in Moscow. In New York she lived at the Brevoort Hotel for a short time, and then, at the apartment of Ellen BLACK of Sovieto, where she was contacted by William Joseph BENMAN, a Soviet agent. She did no active work for BENMAN at the time, but returned to Europe the latter part of the year, picked up her husband from a German concentration camp, and returned with him to the U.S. in January 1934. Subject stayed in New York while her husband went to teach at Commonwealth College in Seara, Arkansas.

8. While in New York, Subject was in frequent touch with William Joseph BENMAN and Arthur WALTER, for whom she acted as courier to Paris in August 1934. On her return from France in the fall, she met several new Russian agents, among whom were Gerda FRANKFURTER, "BILL", "BORIS" (FRANKOFF), and "LITON". Subject worked with these people until the summer of 1937. It was to "BILL" that Subject furnished the name of Joel HILL in 1936 as a possible contact. "BORIS", "HILL's" associate in the U.S., was against immediate development of FIELD, and no action was taken until Paul MASING contacted FIELD in Paris.

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While in Paris doing anti-Nazi work, Subject acted as courier between the U.S. and that city and also furnished information about news of the day from the "New York Times". In the summer of 1937 MASSING returned from Europe, about which time he and subject received a letter from Ignatz FEISS advising that FEISS had broken with the Russians. As they had worked with FEISS, they agreed that they too were through with Russia. Soon thereafter, the MASSINGS were contacted by "BORIS" and a "HELEN" (Mrs. Vasalli RUSIIN) who tried to influence them to go to Moscow. Although the MASSINGS suspected that Moscow wanted to liquidate them, they decided to go anyway, but traveled on their American passports, arriving in Moscow on 5 June 1937.

10. During their seven-month's stay in Moscow, they were interrogated about FEISS and his associates. In June 1938 they left Russia and broke with the Soviets. They have lived since then in New York City and in Pennsylvania. Periodically they have received visits and calls from various Soviets indicating that the Russians are keeping a check on them. In 1946 the FIELDS contacted the MASSINGS and were told that they (the MASSINGS) had broken with the Soviets and did not want to be molested by the FIELDS again.

11. Subject has worked as a translator, boarding-house keeper, shipyard worker, and personnel supervisor. She has also worked for Jewish Charity from January to April 1946. Most of her time is now taken up with the operation of her boarding house.

12. Subject's former husband, Julian COMPERTZ, is currently running a book shop at 610 Fifth Avenue, New York, and is Financial Advisor to the School of Social Research. According to Subject, COMPERTZ broke with the Communists in 1928.

*W. J. Hood*

W. J. Hood

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