

CSGAS-14

Purchase of Manuscripts of Colonel Figl

Director of Intelligence
GSUSA

Chief, ASA

18 APR 1949
Mr. Friedman, 147/Ext 215

1. On 21 March 1949 the Army Security Agency was asked to evaluate the prospectuses of two manuscripts which had been written by Colonel Andreas Figl, formerly chief cryptographer of the Austro-Hungarian Army and which were now being offered by his personal agent, Mr. Arthur Schutz, for purchase by the United States Government. The first of these manuscripts deals with methods of decipherment; the second contains the cryptographic memoirs of Colonel Figl.

2. Inasmuch as both manuscripts are concerned with the World War 1 period, it is the opinion of this Agency that they are of insufficient interest to warrant their purchase by the Department of the Army. It is also believed that the books contain nothing of a compromising nature.

3. Attached hereto is a proposed draft of a letter of reply to Mr. Arthur Schutz concerning this matter. The original letter from Mr. Schutz and the prospectuses of Colonel Figl are herewith returned.

2 Incls

1. Proposed letter
2. Ltr fr Mr. Schutz, 3/21/49
w/2 prospectuses attached

CHARLES H. RISER
Lt. Colonel, Signal Corps
Acting Deputy Chief
Army Security Agency

Return copy (to ASA)

D R A F T

Mr. Arthur Schutz
610 Regester Avenue
Baltimore 12, Maryland

Dear Sir:

The prospectuses which you submitted with your letter of 21 March 1949, of the two manuscripts of Colonel Andreas Figl, former chief cryptographer of the Imperial Royal Austro-Hungarian Army, have been submitted to appropriate authorities within the Department of the Army.

It is with regret that I must inform you that the Department of the Army does not desire to purchase the manuscripts offered in your letter.

Please convey to Colonel Figl the Department's appreciation of the consideration shown by him in offering these manuscripts for purchase. Inasmuch as Colonel Figl may wish to submit them for purchase or publication to other departments of this Government or elsewhere, the prospectuses are herewith returned, as requested.

Sincerely yours,