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REISSUE

"CLAUDE" REPORTS ON THROSSEL (1945)

From: CANBERRA

To: MOSCOW

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30th September 1945

To VIKTOR[i].

"CLAUDE[KLUD]"[ii] has reported that the Department of External Affairs[MID] has appointed THROSSEL[THROSSEL][iii] — the son of a [B% member] of the "FRATERNAL[BROT'SKAYA]"[iv], the well-known authoress Katherine PRICHARD[KATERINA PRICHARD] — as 3rd Secretary to the Australian Legation in MOSCOW. THROSSEL has only just passed out of the diplomatic school at the Australian Department of External Affairs. Even before he received the appointment, "CLAUDE" in a conversation with PRICHARD clearly hinted to her that from the point of view of the Party it would be better if he went to a post in Europe, for example in HOLLAND. PRICHARD, however, very much wanted her son to go to the Soviet Union and had her way.

THROSSEL is described by "CLAUDE" as a person of limited intelligence. His relations with his mother are normal. His mother dotes on him.

Note: THROSSEL's appointment is rather strange in[a] that EVATT[v] is well aware who PRICHARD is. It may be possible [B% advised] to establish clearly the significance of EVATT's move[b]. "CLAUDE" has been given the task of discovering the real ulterior motive for THROSSEL's appointment and detailed information about his character.

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EFIM[vi]

DISTRIBUTION:

- Notes: [a] Inserted by translator.
- [b] This has been translated freely. A literal translation is: "It is possible that EVATT's definite move will be established abroad". The most likely interpretation of the sentence is that when THROSSEL reaches his post abroad, the reason for EVATT's move may be clearly established.
- Comments: [i] VIKTOR: Lt. Gen. P.M. FITIN.
- [ii] CLAUDE: Walter Seddon CLAYTON.
- [iii] THROSSEL: Richard Prichard THROSSEL (Covername FERRO). Member of the Australian Department of External Affairs. FERRO also occurs in Moscow's No. 92 of 16th May 1948 (3/NBF/T446) and No. 164 of 5th June 1948 (3/NBF/T358).
Ka K. G. in PRICHARD
- [iv] FRATERNAL: Coverword for the Communist party.
- [v] EVATT: Dr. Herbert Vere Evatt. Minister for External Affairs 1941-1949.
- [vi] EFIM: Semen Ivanovich MAKAROV. At the Soviet Legation/Embassy in CANBERRA from April 1943 to June 1949.

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