

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

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DATE: 24 August 1949

TO : Chief, WRM
FROM : COS, Karlsruhe *de om*
SUBJECT: ~~General - Operational~~ *Under Security*
Specific - VLIK: Review of Current Developments in Our
Relationship With;
REF : MGM-A-1415; MGM-A-1382; MGM-A-1193.

Sidzikauskas, Vektoras Bernardas

Resume: This memorandum reviews and brings up-to-date our negotiations with Gen. PLECHAVICIUS, Mr. SIDZIKAUŠKAS and Prof. BRAZAITIS. PLECHAVICIUS' imminent emigration to the States brings to an end our immediate relationship with him, and the question of his successor has been discussed with SIDZIKAUŠKAS and is outlined below. Pertinent facts covered in our conference with SIDZIKAUŠKAS and BRAZAITIS, Chief of the Propaganda Section and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, are summarized in the memorandum, and refer to the following topics:

1. Possible appointment of Col. ŠOJA (ŠOVA) as PLECHAVICIUS' successor;
2. Availability of couriers;
3. Reorganization of the Executive Committee;
4. Position of LOZORAITIS;
5. Current procurement of information;
6. Financial arrangements;
7. Designation of cover names for overt correspondence;
8. Movement of the committee to the U. S. Zone;
9. And the request for initiation of Political Propaganda W.

INDEX

SECRET
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MGM-A-1493

24 Aug 49

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SECRET

MGM-A-1493

- 2 -

1. Relationship with Gen. FLECHAVICIUS: On the 25th and 26th of July, FLECHAVICIUS informed us that in compliance with our request for two suitable couriers (Ref: MGM-A-1382 Part IV Para 1), he had been successful in locating such individuals. At the same time the General stated that unless proper arrangements were made by the 9th of August, for his family's emigration, with the understanding that he remains to work with us, he would be forced to concentrate on his own individual problems pertaining to emigration to the USA. Our numerous telegrams requesting additional data on the two possible couriers brought negative results, and finally on 12 August FLECHAVICIUS informed us that he was at IRO Transit Camp near Bremen, with departure imminent from day to day. (Note: A check through the Munich Consulate revealed that FLECHAVICIUS' DP status was being examined and that if allowed to proceed with emigration there would be at least a two week delay. We did not, however, inform the General of this.) Upon establishing telephone contact with the General at the camp, FLECHAVICIUS stated that in view of the circumstances he could not see how the couriers could be contacted at this late date as the individuals concerned were "personally loyal to me and would accept no orders from the politicians". By the "politicians" the General was referring to Mr. SIDZIKAUSKAS. As the situation appeared to be rather hopeless we agreed that the General proceed with his emigration and that we would contact him in the USA at the residence of his sponsor, Pijus ZIURIS, 32180 West Lake Road, Avon Lake, Cleveland, Ohio. The individual contacting him would introduce himself as, "A friend of Mr. Hans SCHMIDT of Munich".

2. Meeting with SIDZIKAUSKAS and Juozas BRAZAITIS: On 18 August the undersigned and I ~~proceeded to Tubingen~~ for a conference with SIDZIKAUSKAS. This was the case officer's initial meeting with SIDZIKAUSKAS, the first contact having been established by Merrill (Ref: MGM-A-1415). SIDZIKAUSKAS made a very favorable impression and it is our opinion that we would encounter no difficulties in our planned cooperation. SIDZIKAUSKAS is apparently fully aware of the fact that propaganda and clandestine political activity in Lithuania is entirely dependent upon the development of operational lines of communication as well as the penetration of Soviet security organs for the protection of such operations. SIDZIKAUSKAS was accompanied at the interview by Prof. Juozas BRAZAITIS, Chief of the Propaganda Section, and, under the proposed reorganization of the Executive Committee, Consultant on Foreign Affairs. Pertinent facts of the conference are summarized below:

a. Successor to FLECHAVICIUS: SIDZIKAUSKAS stated that FLECHAVICIUS was invited to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee on 8 August, but was unable to come from Bremen. SIDZIKAUSKAS did not believe, however, that FLECHAVICIUS was an absolutely essential to the planned operations, and discounted any references to the General's absolute personal hold over any individuals or over the Lithuanian underground. VLIK is the government-in-exile recognized by practically all Lithuanians abroad as well as by the underground, and no one individual could be considered as indispensable

SECRET

SECRET

SS-A-1493

to such an organization. As to the possible return of PLECHAVICIUS from the States, SIDZIKAIUSKAS preferred to leave the question open as he was about to interview a likely successor, Lithuanian General Staff Col. Antanas BOVA (BOVA) who is presently residing in a camp at Mittenwalden. Until such time as a suitable successor is found, our operational talks will continue to be with SIDZIKAIUSKAS personally.

b. Couriers: The two couriers to which PLECHAVICIUS apparently made reference have been located by SIDZIKAIUSKAS. SIDZIKAIUSKAS had a chance to interview only one of them at this time. Subject is Kestutis MICKELVICIUS, a former NCO of the Lithuanian army, approximately 28 years of age, now employed by a Labor Company at Mohringen, near Stuttgart. During the war MICKELVICIUS received a wound which incapacitated him sexually, and which may partially explain his motivation for offering his life for his country, if need be. The other prospect is one Antanas STEPAVICIUS, a twenty-eight year old bachelor currently employed by a Labor Company at Bamberg. Both individuals are now being investigated by SIDZIKAIUSKAS and upon the successful conclusion of their investigation will be made available to us. It was made clear that though we will conduct an independent investigation of any individuals recommended by VLIK, we will hold the Executive Committee directly responsible for the trustworthiness and security of such individuals. SIDZIKAIUSKAS promised to bring additional details on the two couriers for our next scheduled meeting. It is now obvious that such couriers could not possibly be adequately trained for any operations scheduled to take place this September or October. As for the three couriers now in France, we informed SIDZIKAIUSKAS that we were willing to accept them for future use if, in his opinion, the individuals concerned would continue allegiance to VLIK rather than to the French IS who trained them. SIDZIKAIUSKAS said that he had no doubt as to their loyalty to VLIK and agreed to make a trip to Paris, sometime during September, for the purpose of recovering these couriers. He was told that in view of the fact this was definitely an operational trip for our mutual benefit, we would reimburse his legitimate expenses. SIDZIKAIUSKAS was most grateful for this gesture and a bit surprised.

c. Reorganization of the Executive Committee: In order to cut down on VLIK's overall expenses, it was proposed by Lithuanian leaders that the Executive Committee be reduced from the present 16 members to five, or six. This matter was presented in a meeting of the Committee which was held on 9 August. A tentative agreement was reached with the appointment of the following:

- (1) Monseigneur Mykolas KRUPAVICIUS, Chairman both of the Executive Committee and of the VLIK.
- (2) Vacys SIDZIKAIUSKAS, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee with KRUPAVICIUS and BRAZAITIS as the

SECRET

SECRET

ml-A-1493

• 4 •

other two members. **SIDZIKAUSKAS** will also be Chief of the Secret Section, i.e., Col. **SHOVA**, **PLECHAVICIUS**'s probable successor, will be made responsible to **SIDZIKAUSKAS**.

- (3) Prof. **Juozas BRAZAITIS**, Chief of Propaganda Section and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.
- (4) Prof. **Juozas KAMINSKAS**, Chief of Planning for Economic Reconstruction of Lithuania.
- (5) **Balys DAIDZIYNAS**, Information and Propaganda.
- (6) **Bronius BIELIUKAS**, Financial Section.

The above is only a provisional agreement made within the Executive Committee and must be submitted to the VLIK assembly for confirmation. **SIDZIKAUSKAS**, himself, does not appear to be too happy about the arrangement. He believes that due to his previous service, as well as his recent services in going to Washington, he should be given a greater role than Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee together with **KRUPAVICIUS** and **BRAZAITIS**. The problem appears to be to keep the Executive Committee as representative as possible of all elements and at the same time cut it down to five or six individuals.

d. Position of **LOZORAITIS** From a lengthy conversation with **SIDZIKAUSKAS** on the subject of the position occupied by **LOZORAITIS**, we have a definite impression that between the Executive Committee of VLIK and **LOZORAITIS** there is somewhat of a feud and a certain amount of jockeying for power. According to **SIDZIKAUSKAS**, the former President of Lithuania, **Mr. SMETONA**, while on his way to the United States and exile, delivered a letter to **LOZORAITIS** in Bern naming him Prime Minister of the Lithuanian Government-in-Exile, in case something happened to **SMETONA**. As this appointment was made in exile and not submitted to the Lithuanian Congress, it was rejected by the majority of the VLIK representatives. Nevertheless **LOZORAITIS** is held in a "special category" for the possible eventuality that a day might come when one of the great powers would call for the restoration of the "legitimate constitutional power". **LOZORAITIS**' aspirations are supported in VLIK by the extreme rightist Nationalist Party which under **SMETONA** was actually a dictatorship and which **SIDZIKAUSKAS** believes would be rejected by the majority of the Lithuanian people. In the United States **LOZORAITIS** is supported by the Nationalist Party elements within the American-Lithuanian Council with headquarters in Chicago. **LOZORAITIS** has been invited to come to Germany and take an active part in the VLIK; he has, however, consistently refused to emigrate from his rather comfortable life in Rome, where he holds no official position since his former post is now occupied by **Stasys GIRDVAINIS**, the Lithuanian Minister

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SECRET

4-1499

to the Vatican. Within the past few months, LOZORAITIS, on his own initiative and outside of VLIK channels, contacted Jonas DEKSNYS in Stockholm and persuaded him to take a message to the Lithuanian underground requesting their confirmation of SMYTONA's appointment of LOZORAITIS as Prime Minister of Lithuania. According to the "most recent communication received from Lithuania", as reported by DEKSNYS' fellow courier ~~KAUDRONIS~~, DEKSNYS failed in his mission for LOZORAITIS, and the underground leaders took a very dim view of his efforts to bypass VLIK on behalf of LOZORAITIS.

Comment: [] recollection is that SIDZIKASKAS said the information came from the Lithuania underground radio via Sweden. SIDZIKASKAS further said that the couriers who are now in Paris reported that LOZORAITIS is unknown in Lithuania and consequently has no following there.

In fact there is a possibility that DEKSNYS will consequently not be allowed to leave Lithuania. SIDZIKASKAS states that he considers this latest development to be a "serious incident" between VLIK and LOZORAITIS. As for DEKSNYS' action in accepting the message without informing VLIK, SIDZIKASKAS believes that DEKSNYS was playing both ends against the middle, i.e., if the underground accepted LOZORAITIS, that would be fine, but if they refused, he would be still a VLIK man. SIDZIKASKAS firmly believes that the underground would not accept any man not identified by VLIK, and therefore excludes the possibility that LOZORAITIS could engage in any successful operational activities of his own.

e. Current Procurement of Information on USSR: This rather delicate question was put to SIDZIKASKAS in an "innocent manner" and without any great expectations, at this early stage, of receiving any detailed answer. SIDZIKASKAS stated that a great deal of their information about Lithuania has been coming from their subordinate units in Sweden, which, however, are so distant from VLIK headquarters in Germany that they can not be supervised efficiently. They are therefore engaged in many "on the spot" deals with representatives of Swedish, British, and American I.S. It would be preferable to establish direct communications, by-passing Sweden entirely. Highly important information has been reaching VLIK "via diplomatic channels from Moscow and Warsaw". A few weeks ago word has been received that a courier for the first time in years arrived in Warsaw from Lithuania. The courier is now in Warsaw and they do not know exactly how to get him to the U.S. Zone of Occupation in Germany. They received news of the courier's arrival also "through diplomatic channels". SIDZIKASKAS claims that the underground has successfully penetrated the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party, the MOB and MVD of the Lithuanian SSR, and even have a good "friend in Moscow". These matters, however, SIDZIKASKAS preferred to discuss at a later time. He has no doubt that with a future expansion of operations and the ability to offer greater

SECRET

SECRET

MM 493

- 6 -

improvements than in the past, VLIK can effect penetrations of the Soviet and Lithuanian Governments on a much higher level than previously.

f. Registrars of Lithuanians in Germany: In order to bring VLIK's files up to date, and at the same time, to examine what operational personnel may be on hand, the Executive Committee has ordered the registration of all Lithuanians in Germany. Upon the completion of this registration we should be given a clearer picture of just what possibilities VLIK can offer in the way of operational personnel.

g. Financial: SIDZIKAUSKAS volunteered the statement that VLIK was not asking any financial support for itself as a Government-in-Exile nor for salaries for any of its officers. It needed financial support only for operational matters jointly undertaken. Thus if we wished that all reports be written in the English language, they have a trusted individual to do this task who would have to be paid a salary. We agreed to this. The actual support which they needed for the Executive Committee amounted to:

- (1) Housing in the U.S. Zone for members of the Executive Committee and their families. That would amount to about four or five houses and is the equivalent of housing now provided by the French in Tuebingen.
- (2) Freedom of travel outside of Germany.

Other matters such as Col. SHOVA's salary, upkeep of couriers, care of couriers' wives or family while they are on a mission, w/t equipment etc., money for the underground, all fall under the category of operational expenditures to be assumed by us.

h. Movement to U.S. Zone: SIDZIKAUSKAS believes that the Executive Committee and their families will be ready to move to the U.S. Zone sometime in October or the first part of November 1949.

i. Cover names: It has been agreed that henceforth all secret communications from SIDZIKAUSKAS and BRAZAITIS will be signed ORDIMANTAS and BRAZYB respectively.

j. Propaganda Work: BRAZAITIS expressed the hope that he will soon be able to meet the individual who would be interested in discussing the propaganda part of the operation with him. OPC please note.

k. Compilation of Available Information: Though we realize that while VLIK is going through a reorganization, it will

SECRET

SECRET

MGMMA-1470
A-1493

- 7 -

be difficult for them to compile certain information which we believe they may have on file, nevertheless in compliance with your suggestion contained in MOK-W-2574, para 18, 19, and 20, we requested SIDZIKAUSKAS to make available to us from information now on hand, reports on subjects contained in the City Brief paragraphs 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 22.

4. Our next scheduled meeting with SIDZIKAUSKAS is expected to take place in Munich on Thursday, 25 August. At that time we expect to receive more definite information on Col SHOVA and the two couriers.

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