

RIF

~~SECRET~~

S.F.E.

Major Duncan C. Lee

May 8, 1945.

Eric Staight

I enclose an index slip on Subject N-14535. This will not tell you a great deal except that the man was born in Germany, is now naturalized and spent twenty odd years in China. There is however more to it than that.

We have already interviewed him once and found that his entire time was spent in Chefoo where, according to his own story, he was a very prominent citizen. He claims intimate acquaintance with local Chinese, their customs, the countryside, etc., and appeared highly intelligent. I think you will therefore agree with me that he should be a valuable source of information along certain lines in which you are currently interested. However I am personally reluctant in this case to ask too many leading questions until we know considerably more about him and this means the sort of check up that we are not equipped to conduct in the Survey.

If you think well of the idea, I suggest that you put the matter in van Euren's hands as I imagine that our Security Branch is well organized to conduct a highly sub rosa investigation of this sort. I would emphasize that I have no reason to doubt subject's integrity but that the suggestion arises purely from a desire to exercise proper security measures when dealing with highly classified topics. Please let me know your reaction.

E.W.S.

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