

File MALEB

MEMO- 21379

Chief, DTRapid

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Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

Information Biographic Request  
Lassle BARTOK, General FARKAS de Barnabasy, General ZANO,  
and the KUVVAS Organisation

Reference: 70 CSK9

1. Following is information from our Karlsruhe files on individuals and organization as requested in referenced memorandum:

a. Lassle BARTOK:

(1) A Vienna report, dated 11 April 1947, listed Dr. Lassle BARTOK as Minister of the Hungarian Legation in Vienna, sympathies unknown. (NAV-143)

(2) A Paris report, dated 26 November 1946 lists Lassle BARTOK as Hungarian representative in Vienna. BARTOK is a highly intelligent man and no Communist although the Communists support him and the left does not attack him. This is due to his extreme cautiousness and timidity. His many years spent in the Balkans have had a strong influence on his political thinking. He has a great gift for making contacts and seems to have a special talent for getting to know the underground. Under the Tsalatch regime, he worked in Prague and Zagreb. Being of Jewish origin, he had trouble in Hungary during the pre-Nazi and Nazi periods and went to Switzerland where he was in touch with Croat, Serb, and Czech opposition elements. In 1943, Baron KESSENYEI became Hungarian Minister to Bern, and in March 1944, when Hungary was occupied, he requested BARTOK to take charge of the MNEF (Hungarian National Independence Movement) which is, with few exceptions, composed only of Communists. BARTOK managed this organization quite well although his cautiousness hindered him to some extent. His judgments may have been sometimes warped by his bitterness and resentment caused by a feeling of having been cast aside because of his race. Source of this report was in contact with BARTOK in Switzerland for two years and believes him to be a deeply conscientious man whose attitude and conduct were always perfectly correct. (Report: KFF-407)

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(3) A Rome report (JRI-3831), dated 15 July 1946, states that László BARTOK is a serious-minded career diplomat, 48 years old. He was formerly head of the Communist-sponsored or dominated "NFF" movement in Switzerland, acting under BESSENYI's orders. He was a dissident and was recalled to Hungary from Switzerland. BARTOK was a Social Democrat.

(4) A report from Austria (LXL-541), dated 12 February 1947, indicates that prior to the war, László BARTOK occupied a minor position in the Hungarian Foreign Ministry in Pressburg. Under the present Hungarian regime, his excellent service and his non-participation in politics, contributed to his appointment into a select circle of the Foreign Ministry. ("Kínoki Csatály" - Executive Council). On 1 April 1946, BARTOK was appointed a successor to KRIVACSY as Consul-General to Vienna. Despite his excellent reputation, BARTOK was under surveillance by the Hungarian Political Police as a precautionary measure against the recurrence of scandals caused by KRIVACSY.

(5) A report (MGLA-2412), dated 26 June 1950, reported that BARTOK was in Innsbruck sometime in February 1950. It also stated that subject (BARTOK) allegedly was an agent of the Swiss Government.

b. KOPJAS Organization:

(1) A Rome report (JRI-3547), dated 13 June 1946, gives this information on the KOPJAS movement: Source stated that the movement was organized by former Hungarian paratroopers living in exile in Austria. The unit of Hungarian parachute battalion was small, consisting of three or four hundred men and 30 or 40 officers but the esprit de corps was unusually high. The leaders of the movement are former officers of the battalion and fanatic patriots. The purpose of this group, "the league of desperate patriots", is "to exterminate Hungarian traitors". They believe that Hungarian political leaders are responsible for the tragic fate of the country, past and present, and that most of the Hungarian politicians have pursued a selfish and short-sighted policy, sacrificing the national well-being and long-range interests of the nation. Historically they blame the aristocrats, industrialists, and Arrow Cross party. In the present tragic situation, they blame TILDY and his gang for not taking a firm stand against the Russians, and the Communists for delivering the country to their Soviet sponsors. According to source, the leader of the movement is Edmer FASSONII, former captain in the Hungarian Army, age 30, now in Klagenfurt, Austria. His mother is English and source believes that through her FASSONII has British contacts and the movement is supported by the British secretly. Source said also that he knows a former Hungarian Captain KOBOMPAY, Gena (?), a DP in Austria, who is also a leader of the KOPJAS. He is a Volkdeutsche from Hungary.

(2) Another report from Rome (JRI-4176), dated 13 August 1946, indicates that the KOPJAS group, under Miklos KOBOMPAY, former captain of the Hungarian General Staff, consists of about 600 men who were originally organized for partisan warfare against the Russians. There are about 60 in the British Zone of Austria. The KOPJAS has informers scattered throughout all Hungary and maintains a

regular courier service. The British are au courant of some of these activities and are doing nothing about them.

(3) A report (SBC-631), dated 18 June 1948, indicates that the KOPJAS movement consists of an emigre group with very little contact inside Hungary, and no contacts whatsoever among well-placed Hungarian officials.

(4) MOLA-161, dated 2 August 1949, reports that the chief of the KOPJAS Group is General ZAKO and his closest collaborator is one Miklos KORUNAY. The group is carrying out more resistance duties. Already in autumn 1944 this group was founded in agreement with German military authorities and was employed with partisan fighting against the Soviets. Its duties consisted of resistance and sabotage against the Soviets, and IS activities while carrying out their duties.

(5) A SIC report (MOSA-878), dated 13 October 1949, gives the following information on the KOPJAS organization:

(a) General Andreas or Andras ZAKO, under the direction of the Hungarian General Staff, formed in 1944 the organization "KOPJAS". Intelligence and sabotage were designated as the primary missions of the unit, with possible activation as a partisan group in the event of Hungary's capitulation. This organization, except to a small degree, was never actually functional prior to the end of the war.

(b) In 1946, ZAKO is reported to have returned to Hungary from his exile in Austria and to have reorganized the KOPJAS as a positive intelligence group. He returned to Austria in 1947 and conducted a recruiting campaign for this organization from among the ranks of former Hungarian army and gendarmic personnel in Germany and Austria. During 1947 and 1948, ZAKO travelled extensively throughout Europe establishing connections with other Hungarian exile groups and seeking support from Western power intelligence organizations for the KOPJAS. ZAKO established connections with ex-General Ferenc FARKAS in late 1947, but severed this connection almost completely due to heavy penetration of the AKM by pre-Soviet sympathizers. After his break with FARKAS, ZAKO is reported to have established connections between the KOPJAS and the Hungarian National committee. This alleged affiliation has never been verified. ZAKO moved from Kollerburg, Austria (British Zone) to Aberg, by Solbad Hall, Tyrol, Austria (French Zone), in early 1948. Since his move to the French Zone, numerous reports have been received which indicate that French intelligence has been financing his activities. Should this be true, it implies that the French are receiving similar data to that being provided U.S. intelligence by other KOPJAS members. The KOPJAS is presently maintaining a positive intelligence net within Hungary. Data forthcoming from this net is relayed via an intricate courier system to both ZAKO and to various liaison officers appointed by U.S. intelligence Agencies to the KOPJAS group. ZAKO is in all probability also supplying this data to French intelligence authorities at a clear profit.

c. General FARKAS de Barnahazy:

(1) A report, dated 6 November 1946, gives the following information on Franz Kisbarnaki FARKAS:

(a) FARKAS, said to have been a Colonel General in the former Hungarian Army, is promoting the formation of a Hungarian Government-in-exile. He has no money for his movement but is exceedingly active and is working with two other groups, one in Garmisch and the other in Munich. He has completed a draft proposal for a new Hungarian Government which is to be established in 1948.

(b) FARKAS is in contact with a number of former Hungarian Generals now living in the U.S. occupied zone, Germany, and with some 50 members of the former Hungarian parliament.

(c) FARKAS resides at St. Johannkirchen, north of Pfarkirchen in Bavaria.

(2) A Rome report (FIS-577), dated 10 December 1946 states that FARKAS' name in Hungarian is Kisbarnaki, FARKAS Ferenc. The Kisbarnaki indicates subject's gentry title.

(3) In a report, dated 17 January 1947, it was stated that General Ferenc FARKAS was the chief organizer of the Hungarian Scout movement under the late Count Paul FELSKI. The World Jamboree at Gedelle, Austria, was considered his (FARKAS') outstanding achievement in the Boy Scout movement. It was reported that sometime ago (date unspecified) FARKAS was forced by the Allies to return to Hungary on a train transporting Hungarian officers. When the train stopped at Vienna, he was taken off and presented to an American Colonel who informed him that he would be returned to the U.S. Zone in Bavaria and permitted to rejoin his family there. The reason for this gesture was not disclosed.

(4) In a memorandum from Rome (FIRA-136), dated 19 February 1947, source states that FARKAS, together with many other Hungarian staff officers, was captured by the American Army, and eventually turned over to the French. FARKAS was a PW in France in 1945 and it is possible that he organized Hungarian officers in the PW camp who were anti-Russian.

(5) A Vienna report (KAV-628), dated 8 September 1946, reports KISBARNAKI-FARKAS is on excellent terms with Colonel FOURCOULT of B/Doc; the latter who lives in Paris visits the French Zone of Austria frequently. FARKAS is also in contact constantly with Colonel MORNIAIS, now stationed in Innsbruck, and Colonel OETHE, another French officer who visits Innsbruck monthly. Further that LEND is resentful of FARKAS' political maneuvering and has requested that he (FARKAS) consider himself primarily a soldier. LEND maintains that once they are back in Hungary, they can have a political regime of their own choice and there is no point in playing politics now.

(6) A Heidelberg Cable, dated 4 November 1947, stated that according to information received, FARKAS, leader of the Anti-Bolshevik Hungarian Liberation Movement (AHLM), had been contacted in September by Prince Ludwig von WITTELSBACH, son of Franz von WITTELSBACH, residing at Lautstetten, near Starnberg. FARKAS was introduced to Major LEB, ex-officer of German General Staff, who produced credentials on U.S. Army letterhead stationery and claimed he and many other former general staff officers were in the employ of the highest American intelligence agency. LEB claimed to be designated to recruit the entire AHLM and subsidiaries as an intelligence agency. Also, FARKAS was told the U.S. would not hamper the selection of personnel for espionage purposes and even most prominent Nazis could be used.

A Washington Cable, dated 13 November 1947, indicated that Washington had no additional information on FARKAS and no trace on LEB or WITTELSBACH.

(7) MOHA-541, dated 2 June 1948, reported that Ferenc FARKAS and ZAKO appeared at the U. S. Consulate General in Munich on 19 March 1948 and offered a proposal for the organization of an Western-European Anti-Soviet Intelligence Service. At the same time, they complained about the manner in which U.S. intelligence agencies were conducting operations into Hungary.

(8) An Austrian report (SBO-631), dated 18 June 1948, gives the following information on Ferenc Kisharnaki FARKAS:

Member of the Magyar-Koncesses. Former commander of Hungarian Boy Scouts. General Officer in Hungarian Army under HORTHY. Was chief of the "Szemokereszek" or Arrow-Cross People's Court. On 20 August 1947, FARKAS appointed himself to Keszteszeto (Fuehrer) and formed a Hungarian cabinet in exile in Landshut, Germany. He is fanatically ambitious, very capable as an organizer, and has good contacts with the Vatican and French intelligence officers in Austria. Is also in contact with Andreas ZAKO who recognizes FARKAS as his senior officer and reports to him on developments within the KONFAS. Nevertheless, ZAKO does not approve of the politics of FARKAS and especially of the formation of a Hungarian emigre group at Landshut. ZAKO wishes to rally the Hungarian emigres around the core of the emigre group of 1947. FARKAS intends to use ZAKO as his front man because FARKAS knows that his own role during the Szalasi regime is better known than that of ZAKO's.

(9) A Heidelberg report (MOHA-630), dated 30 September 1948, indicated that FARKAS visited Austria several times during April, May and June 1948. The alleged reasons for his visits being to contact Dr. Evely KET, former Sturmabfuhrer in the Hungarian SS. FARKAS is generally met by former Hungarian Colonel Karoly KESZTYI, who reportedly works for CIC Brauman at the border. Dr. KET was allegedly commissioned by FARKAS to organize a "Legion of Death" from young men who are escaping from Hungary to avoid military service there. FARKAS also is in contact with Josef FURGACH, Police Chief Inspector and Chief of Budapest Police under the Szalasi Government, presently residing in WERNERSDORF. FURGACH (a refugee whose espionage activities for the Hungarian I.S. were confirmed according to CIC in 1948) was allegedly commissioned by FARKAS to register

former Hungarian police officers and men who are living in Germany at present. FORBACH was instructed to seek out the officers and to obtain statements from them as to whether they are willing to work for the ANEM in Germany and later in Hungary. FARKAS also allegedly commissioned Sandor THIRY, former Hungarian detective inspector in the Political Police under Peter HAIN, presently residing in RAMSDORF, Kreis Vilsbiburg, to organize a confidential investigating unit which would make background investigations of all Hungarians living in Germany and ascertain the reliability of various people and thus determine if these individuals were worthy of being admitted as members of the ANEM or to serve as officers of same.

(7) A Vienna report (NAV-656), dated 1 October 1948, stated that Ferenc NAGY, former Hungarian prime minister, visited Innsbruck. At this time, Colonel ROHMANN of French Military Government, suggested that NAGY meet Ferenc KISSAKHAI-FARKAS. NAGY then stated that he wanted to avoid meeting personalities who were his political opponents. FARKAS knew of NAGY's arrival in Innsbruck and hoped that the latter would be willing to see him, since FARKAS felt that his failure to meet NAGY would impair his prestige among Hungarian emigres. He stated to several Hungarians that he had had a long talk with NAGY although no such meeting had taken place.

(8) A Cable from ORIOUS, dated 30 November 1948, stated that in 1947 FARKAS attempted to organize a Hungarian Government-in-Exile but was prohibited in so doing by a direct order from Military Government. FARKAS was considered a Fascist requiring constant observation which was being handled by CIC. The cable further stated that it was believed that ample measures had been taken to limit FARKAS' activities and influence. Also that it was not believed that FARKAS had sufficient powers to discriminate against Hungarians who opposed his beliefs.

(9) EUCON CI Summary BI Weekly No. 1, dated 18 March 1949 stated that a 10 February 1949 edition of the Hungarian Labor Party's newspaper (Szabad Nép - Free People) contained a report that FARKAS is being tried "in absentia" in Hungary for war crimes. FARKAS, who is presently in Bavaria, is the head of the so-called FARKAS movement in the U. S. Zone of Germany.

(10) HOLA-161, dated 2 August 1949, reported that Col. Gen. FARKAS founded at the beginning of 1948, the Hungarian Freedom Movement (HSM) which is trying to gather all Hungarians living in the Western Zones of Germany and Austria. This movement did not only comprise members of the Armed Forces but also members of all migrations tending to the monarchy and emphasized religious attitudes.

d. General Andreas ZAKO:

Additional information on General ZAKO is being forwarded in a separate memorandum, as per your request in 98-CHKEG. FEM may be able to furnish further information on the KOVAZ organization and personalities mentioned in 78-CHKEG.