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DISPATCH NO. NAVA-8533

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CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, Foreign Division M DATE: 15 June 1951  
FROM : Chief of Station, Vienna SJF:HPD Attention: [ ]

SUBJECT: GENERAL - Operational  
SPECIFIC - Interrogation of Ferenc PARKAS - Preliminary Report

Reference: NAVA-8325

1. Forwarded in two copies is [ ] preliminary report on his interrogation of Ferenc PARKAS who claims to be a prominent member of the "Hungarian Christian Socialist Party."

2. [ ] has been interrogating PARKAS off and on since 11 May 1951. PARKAS appears to be constitutionally incapable of answering a direct question directly. This does not appear to be the result of any duplicity on his part. In the opinion of both [ ] and [ ] PARKAS is a theorist with an irresistible urge to wander off a given subject. To counter this tendency, [ ] had PARKAS write out a lengthy statement in Hungarian along the lines laid out for him by [ ] This statement is now completed and runs to almost 100 typewritten pages. It will be worked up with the results obtained by interrogation into [ ] final report.

3. In the meantime, as stated in VIEN-5545, the newspaper Hungaria, published under IRC sponsorship in Bad Woerishofen, Germany, had an article in its 11 May 1951 issue concerning the activities of the "White Guards." The article stated that one Istvan KOVACS was executed at Szeged for "White Guard" activities. The writer of the article went on to claim that the "White Guard" was organized by AVH provocateurs. We are attaching the newspaper and a translation of the article made by [ ] As also stated in VIEN-5545, Father Gellert BEKES, O.S.B., a professor in Saint Anselm University in the Vatican, was the author of certain prayers for Whitesuntide which appeared about two weeks ago in the Hungarian refugee newspaper Elet which is published in Innsbruck. BEKES, on whom we have requested Headquarters for further information, is in a position to supply details concerning Zoltan CSIZMADIA, allegedly a chairman of the "Hungarian Christian Socialist Party," and the latter's brother Geroe. A statement by BEKES would be helpful since it would at least tell us what sort of a reputation the CSIZMADIA brothers enjoyed in the eyes of the Church. In the meantime, the mention of his name in Elet at least shows that GELLERT exists and that he is interested in refugee affairs.

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15 June 51

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FORM NO. 51-284  
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4. Mention of the "White Guards" in the Hungaria article, whether or not the account there given is true, proves at least that those Hungarian refugee circles with which Hungaria is in touch have spoken of a "White Guard" movement. Since both [ ] and [ ] incline to the same belief that FARKAS is not a conscious penetration agent, the suggestion of Hungaria concerning AVH provocation in the "White Guard" might suggest one explanation for FARKAS' ~~conduct~~. The entire organization of which he claims to be a representative might have been organized by the Hungarian Intelligence Service in which case FARKAS is an innocent plant. The same reasoning may also apply to CZSIMADIA.

5. In the meantime, we are attempting to have [ ] interrogate Tamas HERCZEG, FARKAS' companion in Salzburg as this will furnish useful comparative data to weigh against the statements of FARKAS.

6. We are also transmitting a separate statement prepared by [ ] from the results of his interrogation concerning underground movements and personalities in Hungary. This concerns, in addition to the "White Guard" already mentioned, an organization allegedly known as the "Order of Knights Templar." The large membership (7 thousand) attributed to this resistance group is probably as exaggerated as the rest of FARKAS' statements, but the existence of such a group would be of considerable interest. The two personalities Aurel LIPTAK and Kalman KARVAZ may represent operational possibilities in the event that FARKAS is adjudged to be telling substantially the truth.

7. FARKAS' name, according to [ ], should be corrected to the form Ferenc Kalman Lorand FARKAS vitez DOBOGEI (the title of vitez is hereditary). His party alias in the "Hungarian Christian Socialist Party" is Lorand UJHELYI. He has used the alias Ferenc FAZETAS, and since his first name is Ferenc he is known by the nickname "Feriike."

8. [ ] considers that FARKAS has been cooperative and gives the impression of sincerity. He comes from the middle class and is possessed of better-than-average education and intelligence, although both his knowledge and his interests have been channeled along particular lines. He is alert and seems to have retained the instruction he received from the Hungarian Military Academy, although the subsequent change in his education has inclined him toward wordy philosophical speculation. During the interrogation he has gone into great detail in explaining the ideology of the "Hungarian Christian Socialist Party" although with innumerable divagations. On the other hand, Grit 1 points out that FARKAS is ill-informed on the workings of other political parties, on Hungarian personalities, and on economic and military matters. FARKAS claims to be a devoted Catholic, although he challenges Catholic doctrine on some points. He seems to display normal interest in the pursuit of the opposite sex and carries several photographs of girl friends on his person.

9. The following are tentative conclusions:

a. FARKAS is probably not a conscious agent provocateur of the Hungarian Intelligence Service. We have already mentioned the possibility that he may be an innocent plant. It might be of interest to point out here that if FARKAS is a provocation, which means that both [ ] and [ ] err in their impression of him, this would be a provoca-

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tion on a much higher level than any hitherto reported in Austria and the aim would be to explore Western backing of the various Church groups in Hungary with a view to exposing these groups in the future. In this case the Hungarians might well expect to have the Americans send FARKAS back to Salzburg on some mission. We are hindered in our checking of FARKAS by the extreme difficulty of verifying the bona fides of those persons allegedly acting on behalf of the "Hungarian Christian Socialist Party" within Hungary.

b. It is regarded as tentatively possible that some such organization as the "Hungarian Christian Socialist Party" does exist in Hungary as stated by FARKAS, although presumably he has greatly exaggerated its scope and success. If this is indeed the case there is no reason to doubt that such an organization has covert connections with religious groups, particularly the Roman Catholic Church.

c. If such a group, no matter what its actual strength, be presumed to exist in fact, we are considering the possibility either of attempting contact with it apart from FARKAS, or of inducing FARKAS himself to return to Hungary with a message for the purported group.

10. The security of [redacted] during this interrogation has been good and it is unlikely that FARKAS has learned his real name. FARKAS' morale continues good.

[redacted]

Distribution:  
FDM - 2 (w/attachments)  
Salz - 1  
FARKAS 200 - 1  
[redacted] - 1  
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