



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

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In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

0 Konstanty Zygfryd Hanff
Internal Security - Poland

On July 2, 1976, Konstanty Zygfryd Hanff, a resident of New York City (NYC), and Editor-Publisher of a Polish-English language bulletin "Wolna Polska" (Free Poland), made available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) a letter which had recently come to his attention and which was addressed to Mr. Leon Ilutovich, President of the Zionist Organization of America and signed "David S".

A copy of this letter follows:

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10 Aug 76
100-300-99



New York April 3, 1976

Mr. Leon Ilutovich
President of the Zionist Organization of America
145 East 32-nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Sir,

I accidentally came across a periodical called "Free Poland"
/No. 4, December, 1975, Box 768 Madison Square Station P.O. New York,
N.Y. 10010/ in which I found to my astonishment and indignation a name
of a German, Konstantin Siegfried Hanff who was known to me during
World War II. He was living in Vilno /Eastern Poland/ at the time of
my staying with my family there.

Therefore I want to let you know that Hanff is a nazi war criminal
and a murderer of Jews and other people during the war.

In 1941 and later Hanff was serving as an important Gestapo and
SS informer. A lot of innocent people were tortured and put to death
in extermination camps as the result of his close collaboration with
the nazi police.

On October 19, 1942 Hanff caused the arrest of seven hiding Jews who
were shot the next day at the municipal cemetery in Vilno. Especially
painful and tragic to me and my family was the fact that my brother-in-
law Samuel Malman was among them. This could be confirmed by some Jew
who had lived through the ghetto in Vilno and got out of the hell.

I also know that Hanff appeared in Latvia in 1944 as a noncommissioned
officer of a German unit which had police tasks and was dealing with
pacification. He personally took part in executions in which many
Jewish men, women and children were murdered.

I have heard that after the war he was tried by a soviet court of
justice, but strangely enough he was paroled very soon and he left
for the United States.

All these horrible recollections are again very painful for me, after
so many years. I am strongly convinced that we Americans, and especially
those of Jewish origin, in the memory of our brothers who were dying
of starvation, were tortured and put to death, should not allow such
a criminal as Hanff to go free and unpunished. It is a provocation
that such a murderer dare contact high level American politicians,
Senators and Congressmen.

Therefore, I beg you to look into this case. For this purpose I am
enclosing copies of Hanff's war-time documents, signed "Hans Heiler"
which I have received from Austria,

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Because Hanff is living now in this country, I think the...
...the documents and the case.

I take the liberty to send copies of this letter and of these documents to some American politicians, to other Jewish organizations and newspapers as well.

I am sorry, Mr. President, I cannot give you my full name. I am an old and crippled Jew. I have lived through the nazi and soviet hell and am still living in the fear of revenge. That is why I beg you to understand and accept my position.

Sincerely yours,

David

David S.

Konstanty Zygfryd Hanff

Hanff advised that he considered the letter to be part of a propaganda campaign directed against him and the organization "Free Poland" by the Communists, and wanted to deny strongly the allegations set forth. He, therefore, directed a letter in reply to Mr. Ilutovich, a copy of which follows:

Free Poland

Mr. Leon Ilutovich
President of the
Zionist Organization of America
145 East 32nd Street
New York, New York 10016

BOX 768
MADISON SQUARE STATION P. O.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10010

May 12th, 1976

Dear Mr. Ilutovich,

Through my friends from Chicago I have received a copy of an anonymous letter (with attached "documents") distributed there in a propaganda campaign undertaken by the Communists against my person and our organization.

Since this letter was addressed to you, I would like to kindly ask you if it really was mailed to you ?

However, I feel that I owe you some explanation.

Our judgement is that despite whoever wrote this letter, the idea of it originated in the so called Bezpieka (Security Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of "Polish People's Republic").

No doubts, the idea is clever. This letter is designed not only to discredit me by charging with "war crimes" but, moreover, to prevent further co-operation between us and any Jewish combat organization. This may serve to both of us, how the KGB and SB is afraid of such co-operation.

I hope, you will understand that i should not engage myself into discussion of false charges made in an anonymous letter. However, I think, you are well aware of methods used by the KGB and SB in preparation of such campaign. Activities of our organization aiming to destroy their network in this country created enough reasons for such an attack against my humble person.

I would like to draw your attention mainly to the fact that I was born in 1926, which means, the alleged "war crimes" described in "David S.'s" letter took place when I was 14-17 years of age.

Now, please compare statements made in this anonymous letter with an article published in a weekly which also serves as a covert operation fo the Communist regime. So, on one hand I am called a criminal, murderer, SS and Gestapo informer, officer of German police, etc (all this before my 18th birthday) and, on the other hand, I am called Bezpieka officer, well known Communist, provocateur, sent here with the task to sell-out anti-Communist to the Soviet regime.

Another purpose of these wild attacks is to make us busy in order to waste our time in self-defense, instead of continuing our own activity.

I would not react to it at all if it would not be the matter of my great admiration to the Jewish people and our possible co-operation with some Jewish organizations in the near future, which is seriously considered among our staff. We can see it now, that our enemy made this move in anticipation of danger which this way can be created for the KGB and other servile services.

I would very much appreciate, if you will be so kind and express your opinion about this case.

Very truly yours,

Konstanty Z. Hanff, Ph.D.
Publisher of FREE POLAND