

AIR

SECRET

OBBA-8193

NOFORN

Chief, WE

14 June 1957

Info: Chief, KE ✓
COS, Vienna

Operational/PARSIMONY/HIWAY/VENUS

SMOTH Aid in Identification of AVH Case Officer

Ref: OBBA-7616, 29 Mar 57

1. In OBBA-7616 [] advised Headquarters and Vienna of a contact by [B] double agent "Peter" with an AVH intelligence officer who identified himself to "Peter" as one KERTESZ. [] requested photographs of the known Hungarian personnel who answered the physical description added by "Peter". [] noted that it desired to have the information promptly in order to avoid being "scooped" by local SMOTH prior to the next contact, which was scheduled for 28 April.

2. Headquarters' prompt reply in OBBA-4609 provided a number of photographs but prohibited [] from having them shown to "Peter". In reply to []-500 (25 Apr 57), Headquarters in DIR-14552 (26 Apr 57) modified the prohibition but requested that, if possible, the photographs be shown to "Peter" by [] himself. DIR-14552 reached [] on 27 April, and [] immediately notified [] that he had photographs available. While [] mentioned to [] the condition precedent cited by Headquarters, [] realized that he would have difficulty complying inasmuch as he himself is not in touch with "Peter" and has no jurisdiction over [] the case officer who maintains the contact. [] agreed, however, to tell the case officer of our willingness to assist. [] held the photographs pending anticipated word from [] as to the date on which [] would next see "Peter".

3. On 28 May, in reply to a question [] commented that local SMOTH had provided photographs which had permitted definite identification of the AVH officer as Jozsef * KERTESZ (no biographical data), who is assigned to the Hungarian Embassy in Vienna. [] was upset by this revelation but, according to [] [] had said nothing to him the previous day about having met "Peter" when the two [B] officers were discussing that very individual. At [] request, [] determined that local SMOTH had on 6 May simply forwarded to [B] without any strings attached, photographs among which was one which permitted identification of the Hungarian. On 27 May, [] replied to the SMOTH memorandum.

4. While pleased that "Peter"'s latest contact with the AVH has been identified, [] continues to resent the fact that circumstances permitted [] being "scooped" by SMOTH after all, possibly because [] simply

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SECRET

NOFORN

OSBA-8193
14 June 1957
Page 2

forgot to mention our possession of photographs to [] [] should add
that neither [] nor [] has reported any further meeting between "Peter"
and KERTESZ.

14 June 1957

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- 3 - WE
- 2 - EE
- 2 - Vien
- 2 []

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