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Jan 11-192

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2005

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

DISPATCH NO. WNOA-168

DATE: June 24, 1948

TO: Chief, Foreign Branch W

FROM: []

SUBJECT: Agents and Informers

Willy LAGDA

REFERENCE: [] 151

DESENSITIZED
PER DOI 70-17

1. Attached are two interrogation reports on subject, copies of which are no doubt on file at Washington, as is indicated in our files here. It was felt that these might well have become "buried" and require a considerable time to unearth. It is requested that Attachment # 1 be returned when you have finished with it, as it is our only copy and may well be useful if we have any further relations with subject. Paragraph 11 of Attachment # 1 is not considered an accurate evaluation of subject's abilities or integrity, a view concurred in by the British and by all of [] people who have any knowledge of subject's history in Norway. Subject was completely vindicated of all war crimes charges, and was described to the writer by [] as "one of the very few really decent Germans" (in positions of authority) in Norway during the occupation". Subject made a most favorable impression on the writer on the various occasions when he talked with him.

*did he
know
that*

2. In December, 1947, subject was interrogated by the writer, at the suggestion of [] as to his knowledge of Communist and Soviet activity in North Norway. At that time [] believed that subject might be more willing to talk frankly with an American than with the Norwegians, since he was still awaiting trial. Subject reported nothing of interest then, a fact which he has since accounted for as being due to the presence of a Norwegian officer.

*know
much*

3. After subject's acquittal and subsequent release from prison, he expressed a desire to talk to "the American who visited me in prison". This was arranged after [] approval was obtained. At the first meeting subject stated that he had been engaged in combatting Communism for over twenty years and that he would never again engage in intelligence work professionally. He said, however, that he is still as fanatically opposed to the Soviet as ever, and that he did not wish to retire from this field of activity without placing the fruits of his work at the disposal of those who are still carrying on the fight. He said that he would be willing to turn over all his contacts to us and assist in the handling of them as long as we felt that his help could be useful. He would require no compensation other than bare living expenses, which

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would be necessary since he now has no funds whatever, and can hardly live on his wife, who is barely able to make ends meet as it is. He would also require our undertaking that the safety of none of his contacts would be jeopardized in any way except as unavoidable in the course of performing their essential intelligence-gathering functions. He also insisted that his name should not appear in connection with intelligence reports or other documents connected with the handling of his contacts, or otherwise except where essential to the re-establishment of contact with these individuals. It is the writer's opinion, in which [] concurs, that subject's motivation is as he stated. The only personal benefit which he might be expected to derive from such an arrangement is the possibility that he might thus escape de-Nazification proceedings against him, if that question should arise. Subject made no mention of such a possibility, but the point should be taken into consideration.

What do we want to do with him? He is a spy, and he has been in Germany.

4. [] stated that he had made subject an offer to work for him in Germany, an offer which was not definitely declined, but he felt that subject was reluctant to accept, but was unwilling to refuse until after he had been repatriated. Subject confirmed this spontaneously to the writer. The British have considered using subject in Scandinavia, but are undecided and are willing to give us precedence if we want him. They have not yet approached subject on this matter.

Doing this would be a mistake. He has been in Germany.

5. During the above meeting and two subsequent ones, subject gave the writer the names of a considerable number of his contacts in Finland and North Norway, together with such details as are essential to contacting them. He was given an undertaking to respect their security as described in paragraph 3 above. No other commitment was made to subject except that he would eventually be contacted and told definitely of our decision to use him or not.

What is the value of his contacts?

6. During the discussion of subject's Finnish contacts, he disclosed considerable knowledge of the Stella Polaris complex and revealed his awareness of the present whereabouts of the principal figures therein. This may no longer be correct, since the writer's own information on the subject dates from the summer of 1947. Obviously the writer did not confirm subject's statements on this point, and subject made no effort to obtain such confirmation.

7. Subject left for Germany on 22 June 1948, under escort of [] together with several other German officers who have been released or whose sentences have been completed. He will go to the home of his wife, whose address is given in reference, and who has a small dress-making business in Lubeck. He hopes to move his family either to some place further within the British zone from the Russian zone border, or if possible, to Bremen.

8. There follows a list of the more important contacts which subject has so far disclosed.

(1) ⁴ KURVE, Danish, radio technician, radio operator for subject in Helsinki, 1942. Arrested in Helsinki, 1945, by Finnish State Police, escaped after few weeks in prison. Uncle lives in Oslo.

(2) ⁴ Max OIASTI, Finnish State Police. Strong anti-Communist,

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worked for subject while he was at Rovaniemi. Can be contacted.

(3) MALLAS, former Finnish Minister at Rome, now stated to be in Stockholm.

(4) PIPPING, held a rank in Finnish Army during war stated to be the equivalent of our Judge Advocate General. A Swedo-Finn who is very anti-Finnish (according to subject there is some sort of Swedo-Finnish nationalist or separatist group in Finland, of which PIPPING is a leader). Has very extensive connections in political circles on a high level. Worked closely with subject.

(5) RALLIO, Pentti. Was a Captain in the Swedish communications corps (this is probably an error for Finnish communications). Was sent to Stockholm by subject in March or April, 1945, for counter-espionage work.

(6) VARANIESMI, Kaukko. Captain in Finnish Army. Also his father of same name, who is the customs officer at Øvretermio. Close friend of subject and worked for him during war, furnishing valuable OB information.

There are many others, whose names will be forwarded as time permits.

2 Attachments

DISTRIBUTION: Washington 2
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