

14 May 1957

SUBJECT: Hungarian Program Tapes and Scripts Viewed by German Federal Republic

On 13 May 1957 Mr. Miklos LAZAR, former employee of the Hungarian Desk, contacted [ ] and told him that he had information of interest to Radio Free Europe. LAZAR was met outside the RFE building. LAZAR began by saying that despite the fact that he has a suit in a German Labor Court against RFE regarding his termination he still has loyalty towards the organization as a whole. In this connection he stated that he has recently learned information that may be of interest to RFE. A few days ago a number of Hungarians who were terminated, namely: Imre VAMOS, Bela HORVATH, Joseph MOLNAR, and Ernoe KIRALY got together at KIRALY's home. They invited him as well. They had a letter drawn up addressed to [ ] asking that Mr. CONDON make available the reel tapes, recordings and scripts used during the Hungarian revolution to the German Federal Republic and not those that were actually sent. In this connection LAZAR said that he feels that the group only surmises that some of the scripts and tapes sent to the Federal Government for checking were doctored up, whereas he, LAZAR, knows for a fact that Victor MARJAS spent two days and two nights going over tapes and scripts deleting those that might be embarrassing to the radio. LAZAR added that undoubtedly [ ] and [ ] are fully aware of this. LAZAR also said that KIRALY has excellent contacts with leading SPD personalities in West Germany and that the group will use those contacts to try and defame Radio Free Europe to the extent that the SPD may use anti-RFE slogans in their election campaign.

The above information was brought to the attention of [ ] on 14 May 1957. [ ] stated that the tapes that were supplied the German government when they checked our programming were not altered. They were the master tapes made at the transmitter sites. There is only one machine available at RFE to play back these tapes and the tapes as well as the machines were turned over to the German government. [ ] confirmed that he had received a letter from the group, signed by Imre VAMOS, Lajos THURY, Joseph MOLNAR, and Ernoe KIRALY. In the letter they have asked him to make available to them the tapes sent to the German government for checking and that if they are not made available to them they will take the matter up with the West German Government. Their letter indicates that they feel they have been made the scapegoats of the mistakes made during the Hungarian revolution and want the tapes in order to show that they were innocent.

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