

SECRET

7 January 1949

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Offie
FROM: Mr. McCargar
SUBJECT: KOPJAS Organization

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

1. The following is submitted as comment on the contemplated use of Gen. Andras Zako and the KOPJAS organization as revealed in the attached cables 20105 and 20294 from Frankfurt and Munich, respectively.

2. According to information submitted to OPC by other branches of CIA, it is a matter of public knowledge that the KOPJAS was first organized in 1944 by the Hungarian General Staff as a "Nazi last-ditch stand" type of organization to operate behind the advancing Soviet lines. It was intended to continue resistance even after the Armistice. The organization is notoriously insecure, is composed from top to bottom of Hungarian emigres January 1945 who unquestionably represent the most unrealistic outlook current among emigre groups, and probably has a greater percentage of Hungarian Nazi party (Arrow Cross) members than even the Hungarian Communist Party of 1946-48. Their program for Hungary consists of a return to the old regime with all its trappings. They are the same "brilliant military minds" who delivered lectures in Budapest from 1940 to 1942 extolling the "German plan" for building an invasion bridge across the English Channel.

3. This group has been tied up for a year now with the French Military Intelligence Service. The latter's efforts have been mainly directed at using KOPJAS as a purely intelligence organization. However, they have also had the secondary aim of disrupting the unity of Hungarian refugee groups now established in this country. The French at one time even endeavored to force the acceptance of Gen. Farkas, who has various connections with Gen. Zako and the KOPJAS, on the Hungarian emigre movement. The scandal which resulted when John McCormac of the New York Times published this story last summer forced the French to drop it for the moment. Meanwhile, Gen. Zako has involved himself with Count Joseph Palfy, a legitimist and formerly "Mindszenty's man" in Sulyok's party, who apparently feels impelled to play with Hungarian politics out of a sense of "noblesse oblige". So far, I have been unable to discover that Count Palfy has any additional qualifications.

4. So far as the actual ability of KOPJAS to conduct underground intelligence operations with respect to Hungary is concerned, I believe it is a fact that the border crossing operations depend in very large

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part on former but still loyal tenants and retainers of Archduke Albrecht of Hapsburg, whose estates were located on the Austro-Hungarian frontier, and who has considerable standing as a listed war criminal.

5. I presume the policy of using such people is based on the philosophy that we will use any instrument at hand to combat Communism. This is a close corollary of the policy that it makes no difference how you fight a war so long as you win it. We are still paying for applications of that policy in the recent war just as we are paying daily for our support in the postwar period ~~of~~ just the type of people represented by the KOPJAS.

6. I do not consider it important that contemplated use of this organization may be for purely intelligence purposes. Word will get around inevitably of U.S. connection with this organization and will just as inevitably be represented by the KOPJAS as U.S. support. This in turn will seriously affect the precarious balance now existing among the various groups and interests contained in the Hungarian National Committee, a balance which it is vital to have maintained, and in the maintenance of which we are going to have considerable difficulty anyway. I also believe that the appearance on the scene in any significant capacity whatever of the KOPJAS and similar groups will greatly prejudice any long term policy designed at lessening friction in the Danube Basin since such people give no evidence of ability or desire to overcome the multiple hostilities of that area.

7. The plan for Hungary presently being prepared contemplates the creation of an underground movement operating into and out of Hungary and coordinated with the political factors in the problem. It has not yet been demonstrated that such an organization and such coordination is impossible of creation. It would therefore seem undesirable to prejudice the effort in this direction by allowing any U. S. agency to establish connections with the KOPJAS.


J.G. McC.

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cc: OPC Files
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