

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS

PRIOR TO FILING

TO: ACTION BRANCH

1. Fill in Sect. 2. on back. Detach back flap and forward to RID.
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FROM:

PROPER FILE NO.

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TO: ALL ADDRESSEES

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COMMENTS

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS
		RECEIVED	FORWARDED	
1. CA/PROP		21 Apr 70	4/1/70	[ ]
2. <del>AB</del>				
3. C/CA/BI		23 Apr		
4. <del>JS</del>		4 May		
5.				
6. DC/CA		27/4		
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File [ ]

MK - 0117 - 39/3  
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHODSEXEMPTION 3828  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

61673

TRACE REQUEST		ABSTRACT	INDEX	FILE NUMBER (PRIMARY CODE)
				200-124-39/3
DATE MICROFILMED		DOCUMENT DATE		DOCUMENT NUMBER
		14 APR 70		OSMA 26151

DISPATCH	CLASSIFICATION	PROCESSING ACTION
	CONFIDENTIAL	MARKED FOR INDEXING
TO Chief. WOLIME; Chief, European Division; Chief, Soviet Bloc Division		NO INDEXING REQUIRED
INFO:		ONLY QUALIFIED DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING
FROM:		MICROFILM
SUBJECT Soviet Contact With Radio Liberty Employees		
ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES		
<p>1. A copy of the attached self explanatory letter was received from the Madrid representative of Radio Liberty on 9 April 1970. The Madrid representative confessed to a certain uneasiness regarding the developments cited in the letter but stated that he did not believe RL's employees could be restricted in their personal off-duty contacts.</p> <p>2. [ ] expressed its concern over these developments and pointed out to the Madrid representative that Radio Liberty and its personnel were certainly a prime target of the Soviet services. It accordingly should be assumed that the Soviets would seek to exploit these contacts with RL personnel to their advantage. Such exploitation could run from simple elicitation of information regarding RL and its personnel to subversion or recruitment of RL personnel -- and conceivably even sabotage.</p> <p>3. Noting that the Gerona police had not received the requested guidance from the Madrid police and noting that RL in Spain depends upon the Ministry of Information and Tourism, [ ] recommended to the Madrid representative that he bring this problem to the attention of the Ministry, suggesting that the Ministry would wish to consult the police regarding these developments. Anticipating that some of the RL employees might invite Soviets to the site or that the Soviets might seek to visit the site on their own initiative, [ ] further recommended that the manager of the station immediately inform the employees that Soviets would not be admitted to the station. The Madrid representative accepted both recommendations and said he would act on them promptly.</p> <p>4. It is presumed that RL Headquarters or RL Munich will, if they have not done so already, provide further guidance to the local RL on this matter. Any guidance which Headquarters may wish to pass to the Madrid representative [ ] will be welcome.</p> <p>5. If you are not already in touch with [ ] on this matter, it is recommended you contact him to keep an eye on developments and to offer guidance.</p>		
DISTRIBUTION: 2 TO E/TB/S ES COPY [ ] 2 to: C/WOLIME C/EUR 2 TO SB/X/EV /ATT SB (all with attachment)		
CROSS REFERENCE TO	DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER	DATE
GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification	OSMA-26151	14 April 1970
	CLASSIFICATION	HQS FILE NUMBER
	CONFIDENTIAL	200-124-39/3

**RLCONFIDENTIAL**

Playa de Pals  
7 April 1970

Mr. Andre Yedigiaroff  
Assistant to the President  
Radio Liberty Committee, Inc.  
30 East 42nd Street  
New York, New York

Dear Andre,

On 15 March a Soviet cargo ship carrying a load of wood for a Corona paper factory arrived in Palamos and remained until the 19th. During the course of its stay the crew enjoyed the relaxed and hospitable policy adopted by the Spanish officials and had very considerable contact ashore and to a lesser extent aboard the ship with the Russian-speaking employees of our Program Coordination Department.

One individual in particular, Victor Sienkiovich, went on a kind of emotional binge, inviting the crew members to his home, drinking excessively with them in local bars and, finally, seeing the boat off with a small gift for each of the 25 members of the crew. Americo Fernandez also had them to his home in Palamos and Consuelo Arguëlles brought a small group of them as far as Lafranch in her car, driven by her husband, Arturo Diaz del Real, a member of our technical staff.

Although in an interview with me after the ship sailed Sienkiovich at first admitted that the crew learned his full name and where he works and then tried to convince me that that was not the case, one of the other employees, the repatriate José Coizart, stated that queries put to him by the crew when he approached the ship revealed that they had obtained said catch.

Sienkiovich advised me that another ship was on its way and this was confirmed with the arrival yesterday, 6 April, of the same. The previous evening I had briefed Max Relis, who had arrived from Paris, on the situation. My specific concern in so far as Max was involved was that nothing be done which might cause embarrassment to our host government. Through Fernando Friol I had in the meantime attempted to determine what the Spanish official position is to be in these matters. The Corona police chief was advised of the contacts that our people had had, the complete liberty of movement that the Soviets had enjoyed, etc. Friol, in his capacity as a member of the Spanish police, suggested that greater vigilance be afforded to the movements of these people but not in the form of a request from RL because I did not want us to have made a recommendation counter to what might turn out to be the official, considered policy of the government. The Corona police requested Madrid for guidance but have been greeted with total silence, even as late as today following their report to Madrid that the second ship has arrived.

The second part of my briefing of Max consisted of filling him in on the various shades of political difference among our Russian-speaking personnel. I was assisted in this by Paul North, who accompanied me to the meeting with Max on Sunday. Max came out to the station yesterday and debriefed Arguëlles and Fernandez. When he met with Sienkiovich later in the day, for the latter was off and had to be advised by special messenger to meet Relis in Palamos, Sienkiovich had already made contact with the new ship and was in a bit of a hurry because he and the captain and first mate were to meet for drinks shortly thereafter.

CS COPY

H/W ATT TO OSMA 26151

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Sienkiewich advised Max that the two ships had met in Gibraltar after the first one sailed and that the second ship was, consequently, briefed on the rather interesting experience of the first. Max is quite anxious to exploit these contacts and has, apparently, come to the conclusion that Sienkiewich is his best bet for the purposes.

Max called Paul North this morning before leaving for Barcelona and Paris to say that he met with Sienkiewich this morning and, together, not the captain and first officer. Max had specifically told me that he would not make any such contact. He stated that he thought it would be a good idea if Sienkiewich could get aboard to attend a dinner party and recommended that we intervene to get the Marine Commandant to change his orders in this respect. I have decided not to do so since I do not feel that RL should at this time take such a positive official step until both we and the Spanish have had a chance to digest this matter more thoroughly. Friol advises me that his police sources have asked him to be their eyes and ears and that they are particularly desirous of getting feedback on life in the USSR.

It is our understanding that the wood is of Swedish origin, bought from a Finnish company which, in turn, contracted the transportation out to the Soviets. The first ship is from Tallinn and I have a copy of the manifest. I don't yet have details on the second but I believe I will be able to keep getting copies of the crew manifest. The first ship brought 1500 tons of wood as has the second. I understand that the total order consists of 15,000 tons so at the present rate there could be a total of ~~15~~ ships involved. It is reported that the Japanese are also in the bidding so it remains to be seen how many more Soviet ships will come. The prospect of more ships is the reason why I have at this point vetoed the idea of Sienkiewich getting on board the present ship. (While I was writing this he called Friol here in my office. The latter has agreed with me not to intervene to get Sienkiewich on board. According to Sienkiewich, who is pressuring in this respect because he feels that he has a mandate from Relis (who gave him some money for his crew-entertainment activities), the crew states that they have a radio on board with which they are in constant contact or direct contact, rather, with Leningrad. Sienkiewich is trying to convince us that his getting on board will result in some kind of information-gathering inspection of such radio equipment, to RL's benefit, but he is not a technician.)

I am trying to balance security common sense and the very explicit mandate I received from Mr. Sargeant when I came on board (RL, not the ship) to not do anything to disturb our relations with the Spanish government; on the one hand, with the needs and mission of the Committee, on the other. I have little control over the private activities of our employees and have not issued any clear orders in that respect, even as a bluff, because of the ambivalence of the local official position so I would very much appreciate your guidance and instructions. Many possibilities present themselves in this, for us, rather unusual chain of events. Who knows but that we may wind up with a defector on our hands? I presume that we would want to remain in the background of any events that might reach the newspapers, is that not correct?

Hoping to hear from you and with the promise to keep you informed,

cc. Messrs. Dennis & Burgener

Sincerely,

*Pat Meade*

Patrick J. Meade

200-124-39/3