

DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION
S E C R E T

PROCESSING ACTION

TO	Chief, EE	XXX	MARKED FOR INDEXING
INFO.			NO INDEXING REQUIRED
FROM	Chief of Station, Austria <i>NW</i>		ONLY QUALIFIED DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING
SUBJECT	GROOVY/GRCAMERA/Operational Progress Report		
ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES			

1. This is to bring you up to date on our contact with GRCAMERA. While under the pressure of other events it has become all too long since we wrote you about him, our relationship remains satisfactory and generally in accordance with what was written in EAVA-31045 in December 1962 when my departure for home leave brought the first phase of our association with GRCAMERA to a close.

2. Since my return to Vienna about a year ago, I have seen GRCAMERA perhaps once a month, usually for lunch at my house or in a restaurant. In addition I have seen him on various social occasions and receptions and once my wife and I visited him in his office when he gave us a tour of the establishment. I think we have a good rapport and we know where we stand with each other. My contact with GRCAMERA is known to and approved by []

3. As was said many times previously, the editorial line of GRCAMERA's newspaper leaves little to be desired from our point of view. Since the paper is being read regularly at Headquarters we seldom bother to send clippings, except as desired on particular problems. We trust you share our opinion that the GRCAMERA paper is usually days ahead of our PSYCH guidances on most of the major issues of the day. It happens, of course, that from time to time an article finds its way into the paper which is not favorable to us and the paper's American correspondent usually strikes a note which is at least faintly critical of the U.S. Government and the American way of life, although it may be representative enough of the opinions of circles in Washington and New York with whom the reporter is in contact. By these minor irritations should not be permitted to detract from the big picture which shows an independent, by local standards high level, publication consistently in support of the U.S. position.

4. The above does not imply that GRCAMERA is our agent, but it does reflect that his thinking processes and ideals are quite similar to those of American policy-makers. He sees the

Distribution:
2-Chief, EE

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United States, along with many others of his class, as the principal champion of the West and he has no illusions as to what would happen here if American strength were to be weakened or dissipated. Coupled with this practical consideration is a devout liberal-Catholic ideology and a spiritually-anchored opposition to communism. Because of these factors, GRCAMERA can be viewed as our ally, if not as our agent.

5. Bearing in mind the above, if the situation is right, we can task GRCAMERA just as if he were an agent. The most recent illustration of this came in connection with the Greek elections in February 1964 when we arranged with GRCAMERA the surfacing of a story, on the day before the election, in general accordance with the lengthy Athens guidance provided for this purpose.

6. GRCAMERA's principal interest is, of course, in domestic politics. He missed narrowly becoming Minister of Education in the new Klaus government. (We were surprised that he came within the discussion range for that office because it had not been our impression previously that his type of independent mind was in demand by either of the coalition parties.) He discusses with us readily the political developments of the day, on which he is invariably well informed. Regrettably, this type of information can be used by us only for informal discussion with our Embassy colleagues; it is too perishable for dissemination purposes and seldom "secret" for more than 24 hours.

7. GRCAMERA has volunteered information on such Soviet Bloc personalities as Dr. BIRO of the Hungarian Legation and N.T. KHUDIN of the Soviet Embassy. GRCAMERA's assessment of BIRO suggested to us that the latter might become a suitable contact and we then proceeded on that assumption, while GRCAMERA's evaluation of KHUDIN confirmed our own negative reaction.

8. Partly in response to our suggestions, which were being conveyed also through [], and partly in response to the obvious newsworthiness of Eastern European developments, GRCAMERA's newspaper has stepped up considerably its coverage of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia. A full-time Eastern European editor has been hired and [] has appeared in print with increasing frequency.

9. We can claim credit for the improvement of relations between GRCAMERA's newspaper and the Embassy staff. After I sponsored three separate functions at my home for the purpose of bringing GRCAMERA and his staffers together with senior Embassy officials, most recently with the DCOM -- to overcome repeated criticism that the Americans were not interested in contact with newspapermen -- developments have now taken the desired course and routine social and professional contacts have been established.

10. GRCAMERA intends to travel to the U.S. this year, probably in the early fall, to combine the New York World's Fair with some election coverage. We will let you know the dates and itinerary later. From an operational point of view, there is no necessity for meeting him, but the old Vienna hands would certainly enjoy a first-hand and, you can be sure, very colorful account of what is happening in Central Europe.

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*could doubtless
be useful.*

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