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OGC 77-76
8 November 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: [] J, O/SA/DO/O

FROM : [] J
Office of General Counsel

SUBJECT : Meeting with Assistant United States Attorney,
Southern District, New York, in response to a request
for Files Concerning Tscherim Soobzokov.

REFERENCE : Memo for [] J fm [] [] , Same Subj.,
dtd 3 Oct 77.

1. The undersigned, in accordance with the above-referenced memorandum, met with Mr. Harry Batchelder, Assistant United States Attorney, Southern District of New York, and Messrs. Anthony DeVito and Reuben Fier, special investigators assigned to this case, on 30 September 1977 to discuss the request they made to the Finance and Accounting Office, U.S. Army, Civilian Payroll Section, for any and all files concerning Tscherim Soobzokov.

2. Our rather lengthy discussion disclosed that a grand jury has been convened to investigate claims made against Mr. Soobzokov. These claims include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Possible war crimes and atrocities allegedly committed by Mr. Soobzokov during World War II. The evidence tends to show that Mr. Soobzokov held the rank of an Obersturmfuehrer in command of a Waffen-SS Einsatzgruppen. This evidence is rather convincing, and witnesses have been found who link Mr. Soobzokov to having personally executed three individuals.
- b. Confidence shams allegedly done by Mr. Soobzokov in procuring employment for newly arrived aliens.
- c. Alleged frauds of the Social Security system. Mr. Soobzokov is alleged to have supplied applicants with falsified documents making them eligible for Social Security when, in fact, they were not so eligible.
- d. Alleged Federal income tax fraud by Mr. Soobzokov in failing to report large amounts of taxable income which he received from some of the above mentioned activities.

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e. Alleged political corruption by the local city police force, three state politicians, and four Federal agencies.

f. Alleged threats against the life of grand jury witnesses and delaying the grand jury investigation by causing possible witnesses to depart the country (possibly against their will) so as to prevent them from testifying against Mr. Soobzokov.

g. Alleged aiding and abetting illegal aliens to enter and remain in this country.

h. Innumerable counts of perjury on the part of Mr. Soobzokov to the grand jury and several other investigatory bodies.

There are other areas the investigation is proceeding into but these are, at present, of secondary importance to the initial request made to us by the investigators for files.

3. Messrs. DeVito and Fier made this request to the Finance and Accounting Office, U.S. Army, Civilian Payroll Section, in an effort to present the Grand Jury with as complete a record of Mr. Soobzokov's activities as is possible. They agreed with my suggestion that Mr. Soobzokov's CIA association was of minimal interest to the grand jury investigation. Consequently, they agreed not to pursue Mr. Soobzokov's activities which were conducted overseas on behalf of the Agency, but to confine their request for documents to any Agency documents which may contain statements made by Mr. Soobzokov that reveal or throw any light on his claimed activities during the World War II time period (1941-1946) with either the Russian or the German armies. They further agreed that any information so provided them by the Agency would be presented to the grand jury without attributing it to the Agency as its source. I in turn promised to have Agency records searched for any information which might be relevant to their investigation.

4. During the course of our discussion, Messrs. DeVito and Fier showed me evidence which, I feel, should be referenced to the Counterintelligence (CI) Staff of this Agency. The evidence was as follows:

a. Mr. Soobzokov's wife travels on a regular basis to the Soviet Union. This is unusual since her father was a Russian traitor in World War II. She apparently has no difficulty in obtaining a visa and travels quite freely while in the Soviet Union. The investigators hypothesize that her trips are to obtain falsified documents used in the above referenced Social Security fraud. They are puzzled, however, at the frequency of her trips.

b. When Mr. Soobzokov left Jordan for the United States in the early 1950's, his brother Mos (Mousa) returned to the Soviet Union. Mos reached the level of a middle-level ranking Communist party Commissar before dying sometime in 1972.

c. The investigators have made several requests for information concerning war crimes and war criminals to the Soviet authorities. The Soviets, to date, have been quite helpful in answering or researching the names. Messrs. DeVito and Fier stated, however, that the Soviets were refusing to give any information concerning Mr. Soobzokov's military activities during the second World War. The Soviet authorities have not given any specific reasons for their refusal.

d. Mr. Soobzokov was allegedly instrumental in having key witnesses for the grand jury investigation returned to the Soviet Union on very short notice. The investigators stated that there was apparently no difficulty in Mr. Soobzokov's obtaining clearances for these individuals to return to the Soviet Union.

e. There are telephone billing records that show Mr. Soobzokov placed several long-distance calls to Communist party officials currently stationed in the United States with their missions.

f. There is documented evidence that a Communist party officer spent approximately one week at Mr. Soobzokov's house via his personal invitation.

5. In light of the above stated comments, I feel this matter should be passed on to the CI Staff so that they may decide whether it warrants investigation of Mr. Soobzokov's current activities. If any such investigation is considered, however, no information of any type should be passed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), nor to any third agency which might pass such information to the FBI. This was the request of Messrs. DeVito and Fier due to the fact that the FBI is involved in the grand jury investigation of Mr. Soobzokov, and that any such premature disclosure of the investigators interest in FBI contacts with Mr. Soobzokov may be damaging to the continued grand jury investigation.

6. It is the opinion of the undersigned that Mr. Soobzokov's file should be retrieved from archives, as well as any other files which would pertain to his Agency association. These retrieved files should be carefully examined for any and all possible materials which may pertain to the focus of the grand jury investigation, i.e., any statements pertaining to Mr. Soobzokov's claimed activities during World War II with either the German or the Russian armies.

It is further suggested that these files be carefully examined to insure that Mr. Soobzokov has indeed been separated from any Agency contacts since his termination sometime in the late 1950's. The above information of CI value should be referenced to the appropriate Agency officials for possible action. Finally, relevant information which the Agency possess regarding Mr. Soobzokov's activities during World War II should be communicated to Messrs. DeVito and Fier. This information, if any, should be explained to them in detail so as to assure them of continued good faith on the part of the Agency, and so that the fact may be stressed that Agency involvement with Mr. Soobzokov ended sometime in the late 1950's.

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