

SECRET CONTROL

Symphony

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES FORCES AUSTRIA
SSU, WD MISSION TO AUSTRIA
APO 777

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: Vienna, Austria
SCI/A

Field Hq. File No. LVX 226

REPORT MADE AT: Vienna, Austria : DATE: 1 May 46 : PERIOD COVERED: 1 May 46 : MADE BY: DD 110

SUBJECT, SPECIFIC: Project SYMPHONY : STATUS: Pending
GENERAL: SZAK Ladislas, agent for Political Police, Hungarian State Police

SOURCE: SZAK Ladislas

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B26
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

REFERENCE: LVX 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221

COMMENT:

1. SZAK Ladislas is unquestionably identical with the LASZLI mentioned in LVX 220. Although no mention is made here of the implication in LVX 220, that Subject caused the arrest of the French Mission in Budapest, this seems also definite. Hereafter he will be known under the name of SZAK Ladislas. In addition it is also to be noted that SCHWARTZ was arrested during the same period.

2. The position of the Hungarian State Police on the question of smuggling Jews across the border is not clear, although it appears that the policy of the State Police is not as tolerant toward smuggling as the interest of individuals employed by the State Police. See paras 7 & 9.

3. Additional information in para 12 is being passed on to CID, USFA.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 4 Washington
 - 1 London
 - 2 Amzon
 - 2 Rome
 - 1 Budapest
 - 3 Salzburg
 - 4 Files
- W-4*
B-4
W
G
M
I-5
I-1

cd

APPROVED:

DD101

OFFICER IN CHARGE

SECRET CONTROL

Ladislav SZAK (also Sazli)

LVX 226

1. Subject was mentioned to DD 110 by CONDUCTOR as being a former inspector of the Hungarian Political Police who came (to Vienna) to spy on the Jewish Agency people and to report to his chief whatever he had seen.

2. Interrogation of Subject disclosed the following. He was born in Budapest in 1923 and is a student in the Architectural Section of the Budapest Polytechnical School. Around July 1945 his uncle, Aladar ILLEK, a non-Jew, Deputy Chief of the Budapest Town Police, living at 22 Panonia, suggested that Subject act as an informer for the Political Section of the Hungarian State Police in order to report on Nazi activities of the students in the Polytechnical Institute. A few days later he received a letter from this organization and was told to report to Section D-24 (Defensive Section of the Political Police). He talked with the sub-Chief, Janos KOMLOS, 1st Lieutenant of Police, in his office at Andraszy utca 60. KOMLOS said that from now on his mission would be to bring periodic and frequent reports on the underground Nazi organizations of students of the Polytechnical Institute. Three or four times per week Subject brought in the reports on students' meetings in an abandoned villa and on those who were in possession of bombs and firearms. Sometimes Subject gave his reports to the chief of the Defensive Section, 1st Lieutenant of Police, George SZOELLIST, who like KOMLOS is a Jew and a fervent Communist. Subject added that in Section D-24 (which is now called B-6) there were about 24 police officers, 20 of which were Jews and all of them Communists.

3. Subject asserts that the rising anti-Semitism and the Russian terror prompted him to leave the country and to try to continue his studies in the UNRRA DP University in Munich.

4. He contacted the "Transport Leaders" of the Jewish Agency (messengers for CONDUCTOR) whom he only knew under the operational names of "Johnny", "Jackie", and "Stephen". Apparently those men had a financial deal with Captain LOUIS of the French Mission in Budapest. (See LVX 220) Subject paid Captain LOUIS \$40 for a false document certifying that he was a repatriated French worker, which was provided with the stamp of the French Mission in Budapest.

5. The transport left Budapest on 1 April 1946 and was accompanied by "Johnnie", "Jackie" and "Stephen" and by Captain LOUIS. The latter jumped off the train in the railway station of Győr (halfway between Budapest and Vienna), because the three messengers had not split all the money with him. The transport contained about 35 to 40 Jews, all provided with French repatriation papers. They were all sheltered in the Rothschild Hospital in Vienna. The three messengers immediately returned to Budapest.

6. Subject remained two weeks in Vienna, asserting that all he did was wait for transportation to Munich. He had left all his papers in Budapest and the only thing in his possession was the false French repatriation papers from Captain LOUIS, so he decided to return to Budapest to fetch his Hungarian papers. He arrived there on 11 April 1946. Although the frontier was closed.

he said that he could get through by showing a certificate with his photograph signed by Mr. TEICHHOLZ, Manager of the Rothschild Hospital, certifying that he was a former concentration camp inmate and provided with a stamp of the Concentration Camp Inmates' League of Austria.

7. Subject asserts that as he had left Budapest without notifying his chief in the Political Police, he wanted to report back there just to take leave from them. He had read in the papers of the arrests of Gabor SALZER and of a number of his accomplices; also of a number of Jewish Agency men and of Alfred SCHWARTZ (See LVX 217, 218, 219). He asserts that he was sufficiently interested to try to intercede for them. It so happened that KOMLOS and SZOELLOSI were the officers who were treating the cases of the immigration racket. Although they were interested and asserted that they also were Jews, they still were good Communists and Hungarian policemen, and would not do anything for the prisoners. During his visit Subject saw "Stephan" being interrogated by a member of Section B-6.

8. Subject received again a new French repatriation paper from Captain LOUIS and wanted to take the train in the Budapest railway station on 16 April. When he arrived there he saw KOMLOS and SZOELLOSI and a number of men checking all departures. They immediately apprehended him and told him that the French paper that he had was illegally secured. Subject asserts that his former chief still let him through and said that if he left tonight they would not bother him and they went as far as saying that if he contacted the Hungarian 1st Lt. KOTONA at the frontier station of Hegyeshalom, he would let Subject through.

9. In the railway station Subject met one PALVARY (fnu) who lives in Hegyeshalom and is an intimate friend of Lt. KOTONA, and who makes a profession of smuggling Jews from Budapest to Vienna. In PALVARY's company was one HOFFMANN (another messenger for CONDUCTOR) who was accompanied by the three sisters ROSENBLUM, Eva, Ilona and Ida.

10. PALVARY managed to smuggle the four persons over the frontier at Hegyeshalom with the complicity of Lt. KOTONA, and Subject arrived in Vienna unharmed.

11. It is the opinion of CONDUCTOR and his men that Subject is still an agent for the Political Police in Budapest and that they will deal with him in their own way.

12. The girl "Ida" mentioned in para 9 is identical with the "Ida" described in LVX 221. A check with Mr. HUBER of CID, USFA, disclosed the following: Some time ago the CID arrested one Pvt. WINTER a former Hungarian citizen who was a member of ACA Budapest, for dollar smuggling. Ida ROSENBLUM approached the CID and promised them important information if they would let WINTER out of jail and let him travel to Budapest for three days. This the

CID refused to do; however they demanded the information from the girl. The latter soon came back with such valuable intelligence about such a big case that the matter is classified Top Secret and directed by the Deputy Commander of USFA. Since then "Ida" has been travelling back and forth to Budapest bringing out information and hoping to have WINTER released as a reward for her efforts. The CID has done very little checking about the background of this woman whom they only know as "Ida" and the "Field Representative" of a Budapest firm of lawyers. It was absolutely unknown to them that the group had been checked in the Budapest railway station and let thru by the Political Police who knew that the papers they carried were absolutely false.

OB 13. Subject asserts that he knew very little about the heads of the different sections of the Political Police and that this organization is in a constant flux where sections and men are constantly reshuffled and renamed. He knows that the head of the Political Police in Hungary is one Peter GABOR, Jewish Communist, who has a rank of Captain, First Class in the Police. GABOR's deputy is one Joseph TIMAR (Jewish Communist, age around 36, rank, Captain of the Police). Section A-10 (Prosecution of War Criminals) was headed by Janos SZERDAHELYE, who is now in charge of the Political Internment Camp in Buda. He also knows of section C-10 which is in charge of all investigations against Fascists, especially Arrow Cross people. Subject also knows of a section E-27 but does not know what its activities are. It is interrogator's opinion that Subject knows more about these matters and that he should be re-interrogated in Salzburg when he arrives there.

14. It is to be noted that Alfred SCHWARTZ (See LVX 219) has also been arrested by the Hungarian Political Police although he had a semi-official status with the Hungarians in Vienna.