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	DATE	11 Aug 1951

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 BY: **EE/A** DATE **23 Aug 51**

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ABSTRACT	*	INDEX	*
DATE 23 Aug 1951			

VIA: AIR # 10-311
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DISPATCH NO. MAVA-9047
MIL/4704

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TO : Chief, Foreign Division M DATE: 11 August 1951
Attention:
FROM : Chief of Station, Vienna *HPD*
SUBJECT: GENERAL - Operational
SPECIFIC - Background and Developments in Johann TREPICZ-
 Relationship.
Reference: MAVA-8987, MAVA-8818, MAVA-8934

1. At a meeting with , on 5 August continued the debriefing started on 4 August. During this phase of the debriefing concentrated primarily on Johann TREPICZ and his relations with the Austrian Legation in Budapest. This report includes several new developments in the TREPICZ case and an indication that this possible provocation may now be reaching an important stage in its development. The biographical material contained herein might duplicate that material forwarded in MAVA-8934.

a. Physical Description:

describes TREPICZ as a short bald-headed Jew, about fifty-two years old. He is approximately 1.65 meters tall, plump, and wears glasses. He is the professorial type and is quick and alert.

2. Biographical Information: (In addition to that material submitted in MAVA-8934 had the following to say about TREPICZ'S background.)

a. TREPICZ comes from a well-to-do Viennese family. His mother was a singer. Subject had apparently been spoiled in his youth and had, as a result, acquired a very high opinion of himself. In 1919 under the pressure of youthful fervor, he left Vienna and went to Hungary where he joined the Bela Kun revolutionary group. When the Bela Kun Communist Government collapsed under the pressure of the White Guards and following the Rumanian occupation of Budapest, TREPICZ returned to Vienna.

b. TREPICZ did not remain in Vienna very long but went to Berlin where he established a small publishing house - probably with money provided by his parents. In 1933 the publishing

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house closed because of financial difficulties, and TREPICZ, allegedly already fearing the anti-Semitism of the Nazi movement, went to Hungary. He allegedly did not return to Austria because he felt that anti-Semitism would spread to all Germanic countries. [] Note: When [] asked how TREPICZ with his record of affiliation with the Bela Kun Government was able to re-enter Hungary with apparently little difficulty, [] stated that this matter also attracted his attention. He allegedly questioned TREPICZ on the matter. TREPICZ explained that he had been so young and had played so minor a role in the Bela Kun rebellion that the Hungarians had no record of his activities in Hungary between 1919 and 1921.)

c. TREPICZ established himself in Hungary where he worked as a representative for Veitscher Magnesit. After the Anschluss in Austria he allegedly joined the Austrian underground resistance movement in Hungary. During 1943-1945 he allegedly had a secret office for preparing and delivering false documents to assist Austrians and Jews in Hungary. According to TREPICZ'S own statement to [], he had connections with BUMBALLA'S O-5 group. TREPICZ stated that after the Soviet occupation of Budapest, one of his close associates in the Austrian underground in Hungary was arrested by the Soviets and disappeared. In mid-April in 1945 about 100 members of the Austrian resistance were arrested in Vienna by the Soviets; those arrested included NESTOR, fnu, also a friend of TREPICZ. These arrests supposedly took place shortly before the establishment of the Renner Government. Immediately before the arrests were made TREPICZ had a row with LOIDL, fnu, and left the Austrian resistance movement. [] believes that he left the group because of racial prejudice and his past communist affiliations. During 1945 TREPICZ allegedly still worked with the Oesterreichische Vereinigung in Ungarn. [] Note: It seems inconceivable that the Communists would permit TREPICZ' continued presence in Hungary in view of his self-confessed association with the Austrian underground in Hungary, unless he was of use to them. It is possible that TREPICZ was a Communist penetration of the Austrian emigre group in Hungary.

3. Other Austrian Legation Opinions of TREPICZ:

a. In 1946 Meinrad FALSER, who at that time was Austrian political representative in Budapest, submitted an adverse report on TREPICZ to the Austrian Foreign Office. He said among other things that TREPICZ was an unpleasant person who wished to impose his own ideas upon the work of the Austrian political representation in Budapest. [] believes that FALSER to a large extent was influenced by his anti-Semitic leanings and

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his close association with PIATNIK, fnu, URBAN, fnu, and JUENGER, fnu, all Austrian Nazi refugees in Hungary.

b. In 1948 Wilhelm HEININGER, at that time Austrian Minister to Hungary, wrote that TREPICZ was not as bad as FALSER had described. He stated that TREPICZ appeared to be harmless and described him as the victim of "diplomatus." It will be noted that HEININGER is not anti-Semitic.

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c. The chief clerk of the Austrian Legation in Budapest SCHMIED, whom [] describes as a crook and a blackmailer (and who has since been ordered to return to Vienna) stated that TREPICZ was a Communist agent. [] believes that SCHMIED made this remark only because he had been unable to impose his dishonest will upon TREPICZ, who is described by [] as a scrupulously honest fellow as far as money and financial matters are concerned. [] Note: It seems odd that [] should be so taken in by a professed ex-Communist, who, although affiliated with the Austrian underground in Hungary, was able to escape both the Soviet and the Nazi punitive measures taken against this movement.)

d. Austrian Legation relations with TREPICZ cooled somewhat during the stay of Wilhelm HEININGER in Budapest because of HEININGER'S indifference to Hungarian matters. HEININGER allegedly told TREPICZ that he had no desire to receive information on Hungary or the Hungarians. [] Note: [] will endeavor to determine from [] the amount and type of information TREPICZ has passed to the Austrian Legation in Budapest.)

4. [] Association with TREPICZ:

a. [] first met TREPICZ on 4 April 1951 after TREPICZ had called the Austrian Legation by phone and requested an interview (MAVA-9046). At this meeting which lasted for about two hours, TREPICZ tried to sell himself to the Austrian Legation, declaring that he was well versed in Hungarian matters and felt that a rapprochement between Austria and Hungary was vital to both countries. He advised [] to take an interest in Hungarian affairs. TREPICZ pointed out that much could be done to improve Austro-Hungarian relations on the cultural level and declared himself more than willing to assume functions of cultural attache in the Austrian Legation in Budapest. During this conversation [] states that he did his best to disillusion TREPICZ and believes that he succeeded in removing any doubts from TREPICZ'S mind that the latter could ever be employed officially and as a member of the Austrian diplomatic establishment in Hungary.

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[] Note: This desire to improve Austro-Hungarian relations on the "cultural level" is an additional indication that TREPICZ might still be a Communist.)

b. [] states that his relations with TREPICZ have been most cordial. ([], with his knowledge of Hungary and the desire to learn of Hungarian affairs, found in TREPICZ a person from whom he could learn much in casual conversation.

c. On 24 July TREPICZ called on [] at the Austrian Legation with the following story which [] repeats almost verbatim because of its importance to the []-TREPICZ relationship. TREPICZ stated that as an instructor and interpreter with the University of National Economics in Budapest, he had been editing and translating a textbook on foreign trade. [] Note: [] stated that he thinks it odd that TREPICZ who professes that he no longer has anything to do with Communism, should be employed by a Marxist school. How is TREPICZ able to translate and edit a book, undoubtedly in modern Marxist terminology, if he has "had nothing to do with Communism since 1921"? He was told by his superiors in the university that the book was important and that he was to see Dr. Istvan BECK, who had written the Austrian section of this book. Dr. BECK is allegedly a ministerial counsellor in the Austrian section of the Hungarian Foreign Office. [] Note: [] states he personally has met Istvan BECK during his frequent calls on the Austrian Foreign Office. He describes BECK as about forty to forty-two years of age, tall, brown hair, and "the dark eyes of a fanatic." BECK is well read, speaks excellent German, and lived or was educated in Munich. [] states that he is one of three persons working in the Austrian section of the Hungarian Foreign Office. He works under Imre KUTAZ, a deputy to Dr. SIK, head of the Political Section of the Hungarian Foreign Office. [] states that KUTAZ, who personally signs all diplomatic travel permits, is most certainly an AVO official. BECK met [] in Room 116 of the Foreign Office.) During the conversation with BECK, TREPICZ allegedly stated that he knew [] well. BECK answered that he knew of [] and added that he appeared to be intelligent. TREPICZ then stated that he had told BECK that cultural relations between Austria and Hungary should be improved. BECK allegedly agreed. TREPICZ allegedly pointed out to BECK that improved cultural relations in Austria would permit the Hungarians to know Austria and the Austrians better. TREPICZ then made the odd remark that he had told BECK that he should insist on improved relations "because what would the Hungarians do if the regime in Austria changed?" [] Note: Grisette believes that TREPICZ meant that the Hungarians must

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learn as much about Austria as possible now so as to be in a knowledgeable position should Austria become a people's democracy.) [] stated that he was greatly shocked to hear this remark and allegedly told TREPICZ that he had been extremely foolish to say this because he had, in a way, committed himself as an antagonist of the present Austrian regime. TREPICZ defended himself by saying that the term "regimewechsel" was non-Marxist and therefore could not give BECK the impression that he was a supporter of Communism. TREPICZ also stated that before he left BECK, he asked BECK if he, TREPICZ, could repeat the conversation to []. BECK allegedly smilingly advised him to do so by all means.

d. [] explained to [] that until his relationship with [] began, he would have passed off TREPICZ'S remark as foolishness. He now feels that TREPICZ made these statements for some ulterior reason. What, he cannot guess. He also noted that just before he left Budapest he saw TREPICZ and TREPICZ, who was working on a survey of the provincial press asked him for "further instructions." [] remarked to [] that TREPICZ'S statement was out of pattern because to date all of TREPICZ'S work for the Austrian Legation had been done upon his own initiative with very little guidance or instruction from []

e. Referring to TREPICZ'S alleged remarks to Istvan BECK [] believes that he deliberately informed BECK of his relationship with [] in order to protect himself. [] is of the opinion that TREPICZ might believe that to carry on relations with the Austrian Legation in Budapest without at least having informally informed the Hungarians might have serious repercussions. ([] Note: In spite of [] belief that TREPICZ'S meeting with BECK is innocent, [] is of the opinion that this might be TREPICZ'S way of informing [] that he has a high-level contact in the Hungarian Foreign Office who also believes that "Austro-Hungarian relations should improve." TREPICZ might now expect [] to ask him to develop the relationship with BECK. When we couple this development with TREPICZ'S alleged request for "instructions" the indications of provocation become clearer.)

5. Financial Discussion:

a. [] was questioned on TREPICZ'S sources of income and supplied the following information. TREPICZ receives from the

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University of National Economics 1,100 forints per month. He augments this income by the private tutoring of students and officials in different ministries. From this private tutoring he earns between 1,400 and 2,000 forints per month. This gives him a gross income of between 2,500 and 3,000 forints per month. When doing translations for the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce he is paid by the page. From the Austrian Legation he has received payment only for the translation of the KOVAC article in the Szapad Nep and for another similar item. No payments have been made to him since Grisette received the 10,000 forints from [] and the plan discussed in paragraph 8 of MAVAS-8934 has not been put into operation.

6. Conclusions:

Assuming that what [] reports to us on the TREPICZ case is true, it is possible to draw the following conclusions:

- a. TREPICZ has been a Communist for many years.
- b. TREPICZ, because of his Communist background and connections, managed to escape the Soviet liquidation of the Austrian resistance movement in Hungary.
- c. TREPICZ possibly acted as a Communist penetration of the Austrian resistance movement in Hungary.
- d. Because of his past usefulness to the Communists he has been able to survive in Hungary.
- e. His history of association with the Austrian Legation in Budapest is a possible indication of a long-range Hungarian penetration of this Austrian establishment.
- f. TREPICZ'S job in the Economic University of Budapest, a Marxist institution, is a further indication that he still has Communist leanings.
- g. TREPICZ'S alleged conversation with BECK is possibly a move to attract [] attention to a potential "source" in a Hungarian Ministry. This and TREPICZ'S request for "instructions" might be firm indications that TREPICZ is a provocation agent and that the Hungarian penetration of the Austrian Legation has reached an important stage in its development.

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7. Instructions:

a. [] has specifically instructed [] to pay TREPICZ only for such articles as he translates for the Austrian Legation and not under any circumstances to hire him on a steady payroll basis. If possible, Grisette is to show himself reluctant to pay anything more than the minimum required for similar translations.

b. In view of the overrapid development of the TREPICZ contact and the increased possibility that this is a provocation, possibly tied up with the VALI affair, [] has been instructed to disengage himself from TREPICZ as far as possible. He should make no attempts to contact and develop TREPICZ, but should rather avoid seeing him even if this means hurting TREPICZ'S feelings.

c. He further has been instructed to be aware of an increased intelligence activity on TREPICZ'S part and told that he might expect that in the near future TREPICZ will bring him increasingly interesting items of information. If this information should directly affect the Austrians, [] should accept it without comment; if the material should appear to be of great importance and not directly concern the Austrians, [] should make mental note of the information but inform TREPICZ that he, as an Austrian, has little interest in such information.

8. Recommendations:

a. No more funds to be paid to [] until he satisfactorily accounts for the 10,000 forints advanced on 21 July 1951.

b. That [] be continually debriefed on his relations with TREPICZ.

c. That [], if he can without compromising himself, continue to debrief TREPICZ on his past life in Hungary.

d. That [] through the Austrian Foreign Office and other Austrian agencies, attempt to procure as much biographical material on TREPICZ as possible.

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e. That [] be directed to report intelligence gleaned from personal observation and casual conversation, rather than attempt to develop sources.

— []

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Distribution:

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- 3 - Vien.
- 1 - Mil.

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