

SECRET CONTROL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
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COUNTRY: Hungary/Austria/France/Italy
SUBJECT: Hungarians Recruited by French Surete
DATE OF INFO: 28 January 1947
EVALUATION: P-2

1. A former Hungarian Foreign Office official, now an emigré in Italy, has reported that the French Surete in Innsbruck, Austria, has recruited the following Hungarian nationals, now displaced persons in Austria, for "political assignments":

Ferenc VADIA,
Istvan KISSAKU, formerly Secretary in the Foreign Ministry.
Tober BARATH, College Professor.
Almer CSOKA, former journalist now in Bologna.

DISK COMMENT:

a. It is not clear what is meant by "political assignments", but it is believed that this means these persons have been recruited to obtain political intelligence for the French Surete in Innsbruck.

b. Ferenc VADIA is a known personality in the intelligence field. He was an agent of the German Abwehr (German Military Intelligence) who posed as a journalist. In June 1945, he was taken into the custody of an American intelligence agency (OAS) at Salzburg. Later he escaped from U.S. internment by 7th Army. In June 1945 he was reported working for the French intelligence in Innsbruck, Austria. There have been subsequent unverified reports about the discovery of his previous activities by the French, his arrest by the French, and a later release. This all may be incidental to his use by the French as an informant or intelligence agent, since it follows the usual pattern of recruitment of experienced local intelligence personnel by occupying forces in Austria and Germany.

c. Istvan KISSAKU was formerly the Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Secretary of State in SZALASI's Hungarian Nazi government. In 1945 and early 1946 he was reported at large in Switzerland and in possession of large sums of money for deposit with individuals in Switzerland. This was later under investigation.

d. There is no other confirmatory evidence of intelligence recruitment of KISSAKU, BARATH and CSOKA by the French other than the information in this report, which was evaluated by the field as P-2.

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