

SECRET CONTROL

16 May 1947

COUNTRY: HUNGARY/AUSTRIA/France/ITALY/SPAIN
SUBJECT: Ferenc VAJTA, Hungarian National Probably in the Service of the French Intelligence Service in Austria.
DATE OF INFO: March 1947
EVALUATION: See Text

1. Following is supplementary information on the activities of Ferenc VAJTA reported in DB-2922, 31 January 1947, as one of several Hungarian nationals recruited by the French Surete in Innsbruck, Austria, for "political assignments". His arrest as a Hungarian War Criminal has been requested by Hungary, and there has been a report that he has been apprehended in Italy.

2. Regarding his collaboration and activities with the French I.S., Ferenc VAJTA offered the following explanation to a Hungarian national in Italy:

- a. Late in 1945, while in custody of the French at Hotel Post, Innsbruck, he was allegedly contacted by a representative of the French Bureau de Documentation with the request that he (VAJTA) collaborate with the French Intelligence Service on Balkan matters.
- b. In the fall of 1946, upon his recuperation from an illness, he returned to Austria and was given the assignment of organizing two Bureau de Documentation bureaus for Balkan affairs in the French Zone of Germany. This assignment, according to VAJTA, was accomplished and these two bureaus reportedly are still operating in that zone.
- c. VAJTA further asserted, that for his own activities he had complete backing of the French Intelligence, and although he is not a French citizen, he is in possession of the best French travel documents.

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3. Source further reported that VAJTA's statement regarding his arrival in Rome (December 1946) was for the purpose of providing help for the Hungarian refugees through his "high level Italian contacts".

4. While in Madrid around March 1947, VAJTA was reported to have approached the Foreign Office in Madrid with a statement that he was in Madrid ostensibly to take care of Hungarian refugee matters, but in reality was a representative of INTERMARIUM. Source of this information (according to report from Lisbon) is also said to be of the opinion that VAJTA is in the service of the French Intelligence Service.

COMMENT: Of the many conflicting reports received from various sources regarding VAJTA's activities, the one most consistent is his collaboration with the French I.S. The latter is possibly true in view of his background as a former German agent, journalist, propagandist with intense anti-British and anti-American bias, intelligence operator and diplomat. He appears to be an unscrupulous opportunist who apparently does not hesitate to take advantage of a profitable situation.

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