

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA: AIR
SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH

DISPATCH NO. TKH-W-425

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

TO: [] DATE: 29 May 1949

FROM: Acting Chief, Foreign Branch T

SUBJECT: GENERAL: Operational
SPECIFIC: [] Information on Ferenc Vajta

REF: TKH-356 [] 229

1. As a further effort in aiding you to evaluate [] information, the following discussion of his reports on Ferenc Vajta are submitted for your possible interest.

2. Headquarters has in its files a large amount of material on Vajta. A study of this material indicates that it is highly unlikely that Vajta is connected with Soviet intelligence and/or is a "dangerous Soviet spy" as [] has stated. Vajta's general history is one of Fascist-Hungarian and Nazi connections prior to and during World War II. The files reveal that he was reported to be an agent of the Hungarian Secret Service in Rome, Belgrade and Istanbul, and that this Service was famous for Gestapo activity at that time. His character, to say the least, is despicable, as is guilty of atrocious war crimes, one example being that an investigation revealed that he was the originator of the notorious death march under the Szalasi regime in which 20,000 Hungarian Jews were forced to march from Budapest to Vienna. During this march more than 6,000 Jews perished. Those who survived were handed over to the Gestapo by Vajta through personal arrangements made by him. In view of the foregoing, Vajta would, in all probability, be immediately shot if he fell into Soviet hands.

3. In April of 1947 Vajta was arrested by the Rome police at the request of the Communist Hungarian Charge in Rome. The Budapest government requested his extradition as a war criminal. The Hungarian government probably desired Vajta in order to punish him for his previous Nazi collaboration and war crimes. Vajta was eventually released by the Italians but he was told to "disappear". The police kept his documents for some time, and he was hidden by the Jesuits until he had recovered his papers. However, on 1 September 1947 the Italian Foreign Minister issued an extradition order against Vajta. A young ~~Spanish~~ CIC officer, acting unofficially, helped him escape to Barcelona, Spain. Vajta eventually arrived in Madrid on 25 September 1947. ~~There is information in our files as to Amador's statement that Vajta had out to the U.S. military government to the Soviet secret police. There is informa-~~

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

FORM NO. 51-29
APR 1947

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA: A R
SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH

DISPATCH NO. TKH-W-425

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

TO : []
FROM : Acting Chief, Foreign Branch T

DATE: 26 May 1947

SUBJECT: GENERAL - - 2 -
SPECIFIC -

tion in the files which states that Vajta was employed by the French intelligence service for the purpose of locating a cache of gold and precious stones originally stolen from Hungarian-Jewish refugees. The foregoing information is furnished with reference to Paragraph 6 of your TKH-336.

3. With reference to Paragraph 6 of your TKH-336, there is nothing in our files which would substantiate Amandin's allegation that Vajta tried to prevent contact between the U. S. military government and Hungarian refugees in Italy. Vajta, while in Rome during 1947, attempted to form an organization to be known as the "Unione Continentale" whose purpose would be to assemble emigre anti-Communist elements which would replace the "Intermarium" group. (The "Intermarium" group was an anti-Soviet refugee group which was designed to provide an army to fight on the side of England and France against the USSR.) It is reported that a large sum of money, placed in Vajta's disposal for the purpose of aiding in the formation of this group, came from the Vatican.

4. This office has no information to confirm or deny the allegations made by Amandin in Paragraph 6 of your TKH-336.

5. TKH-336 is a further example of Amandin's furnishing information with little supporting evidence. His conclusion that Vajta is connected with Soviet intelligence is based upon his (Amandin's) memory of events that took place 13 years ago. The apparent "proof" of his allegations rests upon the following premises: 1) Vajta was "in communication with" the Soviet Embassy (what this means is not clear). 2) "It was understood" that Vajta and his friend Rajnise were "highly regarded" by the Soviet Minister in Hungary (the exact meaning of this is equally obscure). 3) Vajta and his friends were often entertained at the Soviet Embassy. 4) It was an "open secret" that Soviet Embassy did not "sever ties" with Vajta after Hitler came to power and after Vajta joined Hungarian extreme rightist youth movements (what these exact "ties" were is only vaguely revealed by Amandin).

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICER

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

