

VIA: Air
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. OPLA-679

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CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, WE

DATE: 19 February 1954

FROM :

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational
SPECIFIC— Ferenc VAJTA - Trip to Europe

Ref: OPLW-384, 25 Jan 54; OPLA-641, 26 Jan 54; OSMA-1303, 22 Jan 54; and others.

1. In reply to paragraph 11. OPLW-384, there is submitted here-with such information as [redacted] has been able to obtain from the Military Attache, Lisbon.

2. As Headquarters probably realized upon receipt of OPLA-633 and its enclosures, paragraph 2 of [redacted] 752 was based on statements made to the MA by subject, both verbally and in his letter dated 16 January. The MA is not able to furnish further particulars on this point.

3. The MA has no additional information regarding Subject's travel plans and contacts, other than the following. Subject told the MA Lisbon that the initial reason for his coming to Lisbon was to obtain a French visa, inasmuch as he had not had time to obtain one prior to his departure from Columbia. It is the impression of the MA that the French Embassy at Lisbon refused to issue VAJTA a visa. At the request of VAJTA who stated that the MA Paris "might have something about him," the MA Lisbon telegraphed to his opposite number in Paris. When the MA Lisbon told Subject that the MA Paris had replied to the effect that VAJTA was known to a member of that office but beyond this Paris knew nothing about VAJTA, VAJTA stated that this "member" was a female (not identified) of Hungarian descent whom he was planning to contact upon arrival in Paris. This person can probably be identified by Paris should Headquarters so desire.

4. [redacted] is unable to provide additional information regarding the activities of Subject during his stay in Lisbon. If Headquarters desires, [redacted] can query LOCOFOCO in this regard. Such an inquiry could be made as forming a part of an investigation being conducted by reason of Subject having posed as a representative of ODYOKE intelligence while in Portugal. Another approach would be to

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alert LOCOFOCO that Subject had been making false representations and to request them to furnish any data they might have on him.

5. [] would appreciate receiving any information that Bogova may obtain concerning Subject's financing and his failure to proceed beyond Lisbon and Madrid. [] speculates that, through use of the name of [] Subject might have been trying to effect a penetration of KUBARK Lisbon and/or Madrid on behalf of some unknown sponsor, although it is difficult to comprehend why such a round-about expensive method should have been employed. On the other hand, Subject's background is such that it would not appear unreasonable to speculate that he might have been looking for a sponsor and was using [] name as bait. But here again the question of his financial backing arises.

6. Headquarters comments and instructions will be appreciated.

[]

18 February 1954

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