

SECRET

8 Feb 51
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

Subject: Interview with Mr. Ladislav Farago

1. I talked with Mr. Ladislav Farago in my office today. Also present was Bernard Brodie, Special Consultant, USAF, Farago's sponsor.

2. Farago alleged he was and is an intimate friend of a Hungarian high-up in a military underground organization. The commander, he states, is General Andor Zako, now living in the French Zone of Austria, with the knowledge and consent of the Austrian government.

3. Farago said that the underground is organized in Hungary on a strictly military basis, with the personnel composed mainly of former commissioned officers in the Hungarian army and air force, some of whom had had experience with the Hungarian underground during the last German occupation. He mentioned a total of 40,000 persons, widely distributed in Hungary, with high subversive potential, as well as a trained intelligence collecting organization.

4. Farago stated that the General had authorized him to get in touch with US military intelligence activities, and to offer the organization's services in the collection field and for service as guerrillas.

5. I asked Farago for the name and address of Zako, which he promised to furnish 8 February. I said the US was generally in favor of genuine underground movements whose probity could be demonstrated, and that I would undertake to investigate what could be done. Probably, I added, the first step before any further action, would be an interview with Zako. He said that was certainly in order. He was not in a position to furnish such additional information, beyond the fact that his friend (par. 2 supra) was once the US Army's CIC chief in Hungary (not a US citizen). He did not mention this man's name.

JOHN B. ACHESON
Brigadier General USAF
Chief Collection Division
Directorate of Intelligence

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