

COUNTRY: Hungary/Austria

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO: 1144 4356

SUBJECT: Recruitment for the French Guard
Company in Rum

DATE: 21 March 1952

ORIGIN: Wels, Austria

DATE OF INFO: early 1952

EVALUATION: B-2

SOURCE: An interviewer
of VOA

Source had daily contact with iron curtain escapees arriving in the US Zone of Austria and is very well acquainted with the problems of the refugees.

Single male Hungarians of military age are recruited for the Rum Guard Company, sponsored by the French, by one Father Jozsef Lacs Kovics, a Hungarian priest in Wels, Fabrikstrasse 6-8. Father Lacs Kovics is the only Hungarian priest in town and since there is no Hungarian Welfare Agency in the area, most Hungarian escapees turn to him for help and advice after being released from the MIS Interrogation Center. He is approximately 50 years of age and came to Austria in 1944 with the retreating Hungarian forces. Lacs Kovics, an adherent of Zako, conducts his recruitment openly and is convinced that there will be no objection on the part of the US or other authorities to his recruiting activities. He made the above statement to source.

Lacs Kovics also stated that General Lajos Nadass allegedly left the Zako group because of a disagreement with Zako and is now employed with a cartographic unit of Hq USEA.

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SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2
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DATE 2006

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