

Attachment to MAVA-6139/01

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COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
430th Det. U.S.F.A.

Land Upper Austria Sub Detachment
APO 174 U.S. Army

3P

DPOB?
CIT Hungary
DCC
A

25 May 1950
Linz Field Office (SP)
SY/ep
SOI L/19048

SUBJECT: AUSTRIA - Circumstances surrounding the attempted abduction of ZAKO, Andreas and Death of KOVACZ, Attila

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

The following information was received from confidential informant #6120. Although most of the facts outlined herein were reported in the press and are generally known, this report is nevertheless forwarded in the belief that it might throw additional light on the incident. Evaluation: Source "C" (fairly reliable); Information "3" (possibly true).

Killed by Soviet Agents in Austria
Project
67-28173
NONC

By constantly watching General Andreas ZAKO, former head of Hungarian Intelligence, who is presently residing at Solbad Hall, Tyrol, under the alias of KOVACS, Andreas, Soviet Intelligence agents were able to determine that ZAKO was dependent upon Attila KOVACZ for all of his intelligence reports. Attila KOVACZ lived only a few doors from ZAKO and was quartered with a Hungarian DP (name unknown) who was working for the French, and acted as a bodyguard for him. Further observation by Soviet Intelligence agents disclosed the fact that the Hungarian DP visited his fiancée every Saturday in Kufstein, leaving Attila KOVACZ alone in his room.

*M/S
Use for
2 cards
DPOB?
CIT Hungary
OGG LHM
Austria*

Karl HAAS and Miklas BODNAR were ordered by Soviet Intelligence agents to drug Attila KOVACZ with a special drug, which would render him helpless but not unconscious. Together with KOVACZ they would proceed to ZAKO's quarters and do likewise. In front of ZAKO's quarters, a car and driver would be waiting. This plan was disrupted because (a) the Hungarian DP returned earlier than anticipated, and (b) Attila KOVACZ put up a violent struggle which resulted in his being shot. Hearing the shot, the Hungarian DP rushed to KOVACZ's assistance.

Surprised by the Hungarian DP's appearance, HAAS and BODNAR fled. BODNAR was wounded in the lower part of his arm. Both HAAS and BODNAR were recognized by the DP. Realizing that Attila KOVACZ was mortally wounded, the DP made no attempt to pursue the assailants. After notifying the French Gendarmerie, the DP tried to render assistance to the wounded man. The car in front of ZAKO's quarters drove away after hearing shots. HAAS and BODNAR were apprehended by the French Gendarmerie in the village Volders near Solbad Hall, and turned over to the French Deuxieme Bureau at Innsbruck. As a result of his wounds, Attila KOVACZ died in the hospital at Innsbruck. This was a hard blow to ZAKO because only KOVACZ, Attila, knew the entire intelligence network. All files of the intelligence network were in code

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SOI, 25 May 1950, Linz Field Office (SP), Subject: Austria - Circumstances surrounding the Attempted Abduction of ZAKO, Andreas, and Death of KOVACS, Attila

and only KOVACZ, Attila was able to decipher them.

FILE CHECK:

SOI, S-6088, Salzburg, dated 19 December 1949, Subject: Hungarian Emigre Politics, mentions in part that ZAKO, Andreas, General, is living in Innsbruck, that he had been the head of the Hungarian Intelligence and that he had been the head of a delegation of Hungarian refugees, who went to Paris, France, between the 4th and 12th of November 1949 to confer with high-ranking personalities of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French General Staff.

SOI, S-4598, Salzburg, dated 14 June 1949, Subject: Hungarian Emigres Activities in the US Zones of Austria and Germany, mentions in part that ZAKO, Andreas, General is the head of the Austrian section of the "Hungarian Comradeship League."

SOI, L/1233, Special Projects Branch, Linz, dated 12 May 1949, Subject: Hungarian Anti-Communist organizations in Austria, mentions in part that KOVACS, Attila, Lieutenant is now in the employ of the French Intelligence at Innsbruck. It also mentioned ZAKO, Andreas, Major General, former chief of Hungarian Staff Section 6/Z, presently residing at APSam bei Bad Hall, Tyrol, as being the head of the "Comrades Alliance."

SOI, L/10969, Voeklabruck Section, dated 20 January 1949, Subject: Magyar Harcosok Bajtarsk Kozossege (Union of Hungarian Fighting Comrades), mentions in part that ZAKO, Andreas was the leader of a small intelligence group working for the French.

SOI, S-4247, Salzburg, dated 20 April 1949, Subject: Hungarian Government in Exile, mentions in part, that ZAKO, Andras, is currently employed by the French as an intelligence agent, and is in charge of the Hungarian Army in exile and is presently residing at Innsbruck. It also mentions that ZAKO is an extreme nationalist and former head of G-2 of the Hungarian General Staff and leader of the so-called KOPJAS (Hungarian Wehrwolf Unit) movement created by the Hungarian Army in 1944 under the control of the German High Command. It is alleged that ZAKO was a member of the Magyar Kozossege (Hungarian Community), a secret organization founded in 1922 to preserve Hungarian unity and to fight Communism. ZAKO is also described as a key figure in Hungarian emigration.

SOI, L/11370, Voeklabruck Field Office, dated 24 February 1949, Subject: Hungarian Government in Exile - Recent Developments, mentions in part that ZAKO, Andras is presently employed by the French as an intelligence agent and is in charge of the Hungarian Army in exile and in charge of

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SOI, 25 May 1950, Linz Field Office (SP), Subject: Austria - Circumstances surrounding the Attempted Abduction of ZAKO, Andreas and Death of KOVACS, Attila.

a positive intelligence network, which, he hopes, will be used by the Western Powers.

MOIC, S-6149, Salzburg, dated 15 December 1949, Subject: IVANYI, Ladislaus, FIS operator, mentions in part that the KDPJES movement, which is headed by ZAKO (fnu), General, and KOVACZ, Attila, is working for the FIS.

SOI, L/8600, External Affairs Section, dated 1 July 1948, Subject: Hungarian State Security Department, mentions in part that BODNAR, Miklas, a former investigator of District Hq. State Security Department, MISKLOC, Hungary, illegally entered the US Zone of Austria on 3 June 1948. Personal history statement is on file.

SOURCE: 6120

Samuel YARMOLINSKY
S/A CIC

Approved:

John K. ALLEN
Chief of Operations
Sub Det "B"

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OS Classification: ~~None~~
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