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ZAKO

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

Via: Air Pouch
Specify Air or Sea Pouch

DISPATCH NO. MSBA-3199

TO: Chief, Foreign Division M DATE: 26 June 1950

FROM []

SUBJECT: General: Operational
 Specific: [] - Hungarian Emigré Group
 Reference: []-2849 and SALZ-014

1. For the record here are a few details in addition to those contained in BERN-2849 which Source supplied at our meeting on 19 June. Andreas ZAKO (born 1900) claims to have an organization of 12,000 members who, until recently, regularly paid dues amounting to about SwFr 5.00 per person per annum. ZAKO claims that one of the reasons that he finds himself in financial difficulties is the fact that many of these members who are now spread all over the world no longer pay their dues. The budget of ZAKO's organization was set at SwFr 60,000 a year. Part of these funds were used for the border-crossing activities described in reference. When asked what ZAKO had done up until now with the intelligence brought out by his couriers, Source replied it had been used in the Munich Hungarian paper Hungaria and in another newspaper published by ZAKO, the name of which Source did not know. ZAKO lives at Absam, near Sol-Bad Hall, Tyrol, Gasthaus Bogener. He receives mail under the following address: Robert SZENKOVSKY, Poste Restante, Sol-Bad Hall. Source did not know whether a person by that name actually existed or whether ZAKO merely had a post office box in that name.

2. Miklos KORONAL, born 1913, has been ZAKO's aide since 1940. He lives at the same address as given for ZAKO, is married. The organization, which he and ZAKO founded in 1948, is said to be non-political (sic) and to have representatives in every non-Communist country - reaching as far as Australia!

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7. SALZ-014 left us with a rather uncomfortable feeling. Assuming that events took place exactly as described, it follows that either ZAKO did not correctly inform Source or that Source did not give us all the facts. There has never been a mention of Colonel NARDES, nor that BARCZA was approached for financial contributions, nor that the latter refused because of the Nazi leanings of the ZAKO group. As a matter of fact, we have repeatedly asked Source about the political views of ZAKO and he has insisted that ZAKO was completely apolitical and had for a time collaborated with the Germans only because of his intense hatred of the Communists.

8. There is another aspect which we do not like. According to SALZ-014, BARCZA considers ORBAN a scoundrel. This opinion has certainly not been relayed to us by Source. At our last meeting he did say that he wanted to cut ORBAN out of the picture if anything came of the project, and upon our question as to his reasons for this, he merely stated that he did not like journalists and did not think they were too secure. This had certainly not been his attitude before, and if indeed BARCZA caused this change of heart, we feel Source should have so advised us. If, on the other hand, Source himself is responsible for BARCZA's poor opinion of ORBAN, the former certainly should have let us in on this secret.

9. This will probably reach you after you will have already made a decision on this project. In any case, we do want to say that we are not happy about it and cannot help feeling that Source is not being entirely frank with us and is presenting the case in the most favorable light in order to convince us that it is worth a try. We are more and more inclined to believe that it is not.

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