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MEMORANDUM.

Report on conversations with Hungarian Personalities in Rome by:-

MR. J.D. STEWART - P.W.B.
MAJOR A.F. DUNLOP - P.W.B.
CAPTAIN R. LORIMER - P.I.C.

A report was received on June 20th from Lieutenant Pearson, P.W.B., on his interviews with four Hungarians in Rome shortly after its occupation. It was decided that as further useful information might be obtained for propaganda use and also as political background, Major Dunlop, Head of the Hungarian Section, P.W.B., should proceed to Rome for further interviews. In view of the likelihood of interesting political intelligence being obtained, it was agreed that Captain R. Lorimer, P.I.C., should accompany him with a watching brief.

During the first two days the following personalities were interviewed:-

Mons. ARADY Zsöld	-	Ex-Press Attaché to the Hungarian Legation at the Vatican.
Dr. LENART	-	Doctor.
~~Vitez SZASZ~~	-	Councillor and Director of the Hungarian Legation to the Quirinal.
Dr. KOVACS	-	Doctor.

On the third day Mr. Stewart, Political Adviser of P.W.B., Bari, joined the party and an interview with GABRIEL APOR, Hungarian Ambassador to the Vatican, was arranged.

Reports on the Free Hungarian Association in Rome and on conversations with Hungarian personalities, together with conclusions and recommendations are given at Appendices A - I as follows:-

Appendix A	-	Free Hungarian Association in Rome.
B	-	Report on conversation with Zsöld ARADY
C	-	" " Dr. LENART
D	-	" " vitez SZASZ
E	-	" " Dr. KOVACS
F	-	Mr. Stewart's report " " Gabriel APOR
G	-	Report on M. VASVARY
H	-	Memorandum on Status of Hungarians in Rome.
I	-	Report on conversation with Dare TOTH in Bari.

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Bari

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1. [illegible]

Following the liberation of Rome by the Allies, [illegible] resident in the city proposed the formation [illegible] Hungarians. There was no particular [illegible] this body, but a group consisting of APOR, [illegible] DR. KOVACS seem to have inspired it.

The first meeting was held on 2nd July, when from the [illegible] inhabitants of Rome a committee was elected [illegible] opinion. This committee of 15 containing a Diplomat, [illegible] Democrats (both have been in Rome for 20 years) and a [illegible]

Br Gabriel	APOR	Minister at the Holy See
Zsolt	ARADY	Former Press Attache to the Holy See
J.	BOROSS	Baker
J.	CSURGAY	Barber
St.	HUSZKA	Int.Agricult. Inst.
L.	KISS	Film Director
Dr. L.	KOVACS	Doctor
P.	KOVACS	Worker (Soc.Dem.)
Dr. R.	KRAJCSOVITS	Doctor
Dr. A.	LENART	Doctor
Mgr.	MARTARY	Professor at the College of Propaganda
A.	TOMAY	Script Writer
L.	TOTH	Sculptor (Communist)
St.	VANDOR	Banker
J.	VASKO	Joiner (Soc. Dem.)

2. The objects of the Association are stated as follows: -

a) to try to enlist the sympathies of the Foreign Offices at London and Washington.

b) to approach other free Hungarian groups with a view to forming a common policy; groups named were: - (i) Diplomats committee (ii) Karolyi's group in London (iii) Bakach Bessenyei's group in Berne (iv) Eckhart's group in U.S.A. (this rather an afterthought)

c) Endeavour to organise and foster resistance in Hungary.

d) Advise on Hungarian affairs.

e) Obtain Radio time and other facilities for the promotion of propaganda to Hungary.

3. Contact with the British forces was being maintained for the present through Captain Young of S.C.I.

Contact with Hungary was to be maintained through at least one existing channel. It was hoped that other contacts could be shortly arranged and the possibility of sending one of their own members into the country was being discussed.

4. On the subject of the relations of the Committee with the Hungarian Government Dr. Lenart stated that the Committee were prepared to denounce both Horthy and the Sztojay Cabinet.

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breaking his relations with the present government. When pressed to say whether Apor had also severed relations with the Regent, Arady became evasive, expressed the opinion that Apor would break with Horthy if Horthy was proved to have freely collaborated with the Germans; pointed out that the sovereignty of the Hungarian State is not vested in any person, but in the Holy crown of Saint Stephen. At the same time it was announced that the Ambassador had called for the formation of a Committee for the Preservation of the Constitutional Liberties of Hungary and despatched telegrams to all the other Hungarian diplomats who had been deprived of their Hungarian nationality.
Since the 19th March all telegrams from the Embassy to the Vatican have had to be routed via Berlin. It seems reasonable to suppose that this telegram was stopped en route for a telegram reached the Vatican from Prime Minister Sztojay stating that Reuters had carried a report that the Ambassador had called for the formation of a Free Hungarian Committee, and had appealed to the other dismissed Hungarian Diplomats. Would the Ambassador confirm this report. No reply was despatched to this request. The position therefore remains that the Ambassador while he has refused to treat with the Government is still the official Hungarian Representative to the Holy See for he has neither been dismissed from his post by the Regent nor has he been deprived of his nationality by the Government, as in the case of the other dissident Diplomats.

Relations of ZSOLD ARADY to the Committee of Free Hungarians, Rome

This Committee met for the first time on 2 July, 1944, at Rome. It consisted of 11 (sic) members. Apor naturally presided at the meeting. Questioned on the point, he stated that it would rely on 30 Hungarians in Rome. These were not such people as the Committee could deal with. He was at pains to emphasize that the committee had decided to stand above politics; it had indeed been chosen to represent all classes, and its members ranged from Apor to two working men. It was only contained two Social Democrats of old standing (20 years and more having elapsed since they left Hungary) but even one near-communist (Tolh - also described by Lemart as a Western romantic, an artistic individualistic socialist). Asked what was the programme, Arady said that the agreed object of the committee was to get in touch with the P.O. A further question as to what it proposed to do then was answered by a rather vague statement of intention to organize internal resistance to the Germans, and to contact diplomatic committees (particularly Bulcsu Szemere of Berne), and other free Hungarians such as the London Group, with Eckardt, thrown in as an afterthought. What struck one here was his anxiety to get hold of a transmitter.

REPORT ON ZSOLD ARADY

(ex Press Attache to the Hungarian Legation at the Vatican)

1. Personal Details. Born 1900 in Budapest.
Father - Hungarian (converted Jew)
Mother - Aryan Catholic
Profession - Journalist
Founded the Roman Catholic Socialist reviews "Korunk Szavak", "Usker", and "Vigilia".
On managerial staff of "Magyarsag", before this became a Nazi organ.
Later joined "Nemzeti Ujsag".

2. Political Background.
Has always been a member of Koreszten Party and claims to have attached himself to the group in this party inspired by vitez Zichy Janos. Tends to exaggerate the progressive and social intentions of this group but does not pretend that the Christian Socialist Unions were anything else other than an organ of the employers for influencing Roman Catholic workmen. Ignores, in describing Nepartas a Democratic and anti Nazi party, the fact that this party was not suppressed after the putsch of the 19th March.

3. Contacts.
While working on Nemzeti Ujsag he often had conversation with Seredi, the Prince Primate of Hungary. In these conversations Seredi declined to endorse the aims of any particular political party; with the formal authority of the Roman Church. He said that he knew Szentmiklosy extremely well and mentioned him with palpable admiration. He also knew Szegedi Maszak, and Count Dessewffy Gyula. He tends to stress his acquaintance with the last three who were all members of the Kallay group. During the course of the conversation he did not claim close relationship with many other important Hungarian personalities. He stated in passing that he was acquainted with Peyer Karoly; but did not appear to be very familiar with the name of Anna Kethly. He had no personal acquaintance with Kovacs Imre or any other of the Szabad Szo group. He had been a colleague of Milotay Istvan on Magyarsag, and appeared to have a low opinion of his integrity. About Imredy he said that "he knew him like a picture". Imredy had become a liberal Catholic in order to curry favour with Popovics, the Governor of the Bank, and an influential Roman Catholic, but finding however that these efforts were fruitless, he turned to the Germans to help him to achieve his ambition. Among emigre Hungarians he knows Buday Gyorgy well.
He was very well acquainted with the group of Hungarians associated with the legation to the Holy See, and was Apor's go-between in the Ambassador's dealing with the Hungarian colony in Rome.

4. Since the war he has been Press Attache to the Hungarian Embassy to the Holy See, and is a great personal friend of Gabriel Apor the Hungarian Ambassador. Owing to his known "left-hand" reputation he was recalled by the new government after the 19th March.
He told the Ambassador that owing to his mixed parentage it would be suicide for him to go. He had to resign his diplomatic status, and during this period was protected by the Ambassador.
According to Arady a day or two after the 19th March the Ambassador Apor sent a telegram to the Regent saying that as he considered the Government unconstitutional he could no longer be associated with it. In reply he received a special letter from the Regent begging him to continue as a personal favour to the Regent. He continued to act as Ambassador until Rome was relieved by the Allied Forces.
Arady says that he used his influence against his continuing to act as Ambassador, and on 7th June Apor sent a telegram to the Regent

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[illegible] cases, with the [illegible] Berlin to Hungary [illegible] desirable to clarify the existing situation.

The more specific information obtained from [illegible] during the course of the interview is recorded in Appendix F.

ARADY Zsóld.

Ex Press Attaché in Apor's Legation. Apor's link with Hungarian community at Rome. Claims personal influence with Apor. In view of his close connection with Apor and Szasz (see below) we consider that he should be regarded as unsuitable for employment in the British Service. He has been deprived of his appointment, but not of his citizenship by the Sztojay Government. Regrettable consequences have already arisen from the combination of his relationship with Apor, with his too sympathetic reception here. He is aware of an ISLD infiltration plan which on his own statement he has communicated to Apor. Not only this, but he has agreed to submit to Apor's scrutiny the names etc., of the contacts which he is going to suggest to the ISLD agent. This is, in our opinion, a disgraceful breach of security and ought to be fully investigated.

vitez SZASZ (ne SCHMER)

Councillor and Director, R. Hungarian Legation [illegible] Quirinal. Protecting interests of Hungary in Rome. Both parents were German. A Hungarian Blimp. Maintains contact with Apor, Kovacs and Arady. Still diligently distributing anti-Trianon propaganda. He appears to be acting in accordance with international law, but the question of his legal position ought to be investigated. In the meantime no British officer or official should have any contact with him.

Dr. KOVACS Laszlo

Physician. Contact of Arady and Szasz. Professes to know a great deal about internal subversive movement in Hungary. Gave a remarkable account of his dealings with Goering's brother, Albert. This may or may not be true. This point alone should be cleared up if possible. He may be in possession of extremely valuable information, if it is not genuine, then his whole behaviour is thoroughly suspicious. We should therefore, we recommend, be [illegible] or SILO at Bari, and properly interrogated, preferably with [illegible] SLO, PIC, MI.

Dr. LENART

Physician. [illegible] a sensitive [illegible] probably [illegible]