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G. SZASZ, Vitez

1. Subject is a contact of Baron APOR's and a possible leak of information on SI Hungarian activities. He is the Councillor and Director of the Hungarian Legation to the Quirinal--now under Swedish protection. X-2 Washington information on subject comes from a report of a British officer, Major A. F. DUNLOP, Head of Hungarian Section, PWB, after an interview with subject 4 July 1944. The report is quoted in its entirety below. (The Dr. KOVACS mentioned is a Dr. Ladislav KOVACS, reported a Jewish refugee practising medicine in Rome since 1934. KOVACS claims to be strongly anti-Nazi, has worked to help Jewish refugees, and has certain contacts within Hungary through his brother. However, KOVACS has been close to Albert GOERING, the brother of Hermann, and though he explains this friendship and is apparently most sincere, it is recommended that his statements be thoroughly investigated.)

Born in 1892. Father and mother both German. One grandmother Hungarian, one English. Name formerly SOMMER.

Born in Hungary to which father had moved as an engineer. Served as Lieutenant in the Hungarian Navy from 1911 to the end of the last war, during part of which period he served on the same ship as Admiral HERTH, and carries a personal letter from the Admiral, of which he is inordinately proud. Was conferred vitez for his services in the war.

Has been Chancellor of the Legation in Rome for 20 years. Claims to be no politician and not really interested in politics.

Since the Legation was withdrawn in October 1943, he has remained as representative of the Hungarian Government.

Dr. KOVACS reports that he held strong pro-German views until about the spring of 1943 when he began to change, and when the Germans entered Rome he became definitely anti-German.

His opening to the conversation was an immediate statement

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of Hungary's traditional claim to her 1,000 year old frontiers with a sweeping gesture to the relief map on the wall. In his opinion this was the fundamental problem of Hungarian politics.

In spite of his traditional views has decidedly liberal sentiments. During the autumn of 1943 he was responsible for the release of 280 Jews from the clutches of the Nazis, and has continued that work up to the present. During the months of October and November, he received official sanction for his operations from the KALLAY Government.

He stated that since the 19 March he has had only one communication with the SZTOJAY Government, namely the removal of Hungarian citizenship from Dr. KOVACS. It is interesting however that he has allowed Dr. KOVACS, a pronounced Jew, with opposition leanings, to live in the Embassy and receive official protection.

At pains to show that he was most anxious that the Americans and British should soon be in Hungary, at any rate before the Russians. He was of the opinion that for the most part the people of Hungary were now definitely anti-German and anxious to be rid of them. On the other hand, the Russians were disliked and feared.

However, as he has not been in Hungary since 1942, these views must only be taken as a personal expression of opinion.

His position is extremely incongruous for he is still the official representative of the Hungarian Government. He has neither resigned nor has he been dismissed by HORTHY or the SZTOJAY Cabinet. Since the liberation of Rome, he has come under the protection of the Swedish Legation.

He therefore must be regarded as an enemy alien still accredited to his government and his actions and contacts are bound to be suspect."

2. On the basis of the above report, the British made the following recommendation concerning subject:

"Councillor and Director, R. Hungarian Legation at the Quirinal. Protecting interests of Hungary in Rome. Both parents were German. A Hungarian Blimp. Maintains contact with APOR and ARADI. 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."

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