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STRATEGIC SERVICES UNIT, WAR DEPARTMENT
MISSION TO GERMANY
U. S. Forces, European Theater
APO 757

PE-19919-216

26 July 1946

SUBJECT: YSOLT ARADI

FO : FSRO
Strategic Services Unit, War Department
Washington, D. C.

1. The attached memorandum was written by Mr. Aradi at my request in order to set forth the facts of his case. I first became acquainted with Mr. Aradi two years ago when he was recruited for our organization at the time of the Fall of Rome. If my memory serves me correctly, he had an opportunity at that time to place his services at the disposal of the British as well as certain other American agencies, but he selected OSS because of the opportunity for service and also due to certain promises that were made to him at that time. While I am reasonably sure that nobody promised to obtain American citizenship for him, I believe that he was assured that every effort would be made to do so and that we would try to take care of him and his family to the best of our abilities.

2. As happens so frequently, promises that are made during the stress of war are often forgotten because the emergency has passed and also the people who were directly interested have severed their connections with the organization. Although I have never been directly associated with Mr. Aradi, it is my firm conviction, supported by expressed opinions of others who worked closely with him, that he has always done an outstanding job and devoted his entire ability to forwarding the interests of America in general and OSS/SSU in particular. If these are the facts, then every effort should be made to fulfill our specific and implied promises to him.

3. Copies of Mr. Aradi's memorandum of 26 July are being forwarded herewith to FSRO, Washington, as well as the Commanding Officer in Vienna and Rome. We request that they write to Washington to present any additional specific information they may have as well as to offer their suggestions as to the best possible solution to this problem. It is

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FSRO, Washington

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further suggested that the FSRO get in touch with Mr. Howard Chapin in New York, who was originally responsible for recruiting Mr. Aradi, in order to get a more specific idea of the promises that were made to him at that time as well as an evaluation of his service and an estimate of our obligation to him. In view of the anticipated withdrawal of United States Forces from Italy, it is particularly desirable that this action be expedited as much as possible.


EDWARD J. GREEN
Commander, USNR
Deputy Chief of Mission

Enc. - 1

cc: CO, SSU, Austria
CO, SSU, Rome
Chief, SI, Heidelberg

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Commander Edward J. Green
SSU/WD Mission to Germany
APO 757

Dear Commander Green:

When I joined this organization in early 1944, I made clear at that time to Major Howard M. Chapin, Chief of SICE, what my intentions were about going to the United States. Since that time I haven't taken any steps outside of this organization to reach this aim, and I feel now that I should call your particular attention to this case as my first Commanding Officer in Bari. With this statement I do not want to go out of channels, having the complete support of Mr. Alfred C. Ulmer, Chief of the Austrian Mission of this organization, but I feel that the case has become so urgent that I have to call your attention to it.

Before I joined this organization I didn't belong to any other similar outfit and was not interested in intelligence work. But I had and still have very valuable and high level connections which would be able to facilitate my going to the United States and getting citizenship. During the past two years in spite of this above-mentioned fact, I haven't approached them because in my opinion it seemed to be disloyal; and on the other hand I had the confidence and the constant promises of leaving members of this organization that this problem somehow would be settled. Now having spent two years with a United States intelligence agency, which is known by most of those people who would have helped me to go to the United States, I simply cannot approach them because obviously such a step would cause consternation to them, I not having the support of the United States Government.

I don't doubt that my case will be settled sooner or later and I am still not doubting that this is only a question of time, but my personal situation which is as follows urges me to ask for immediate action.

My family, wife and three children, are living in Rome, Italy and still have a Hungarian passport. Sooner or later, as it has been announced, the Hungarian Government will give orders to issue new passports and will order all Hungarians in Italy to register on the basis of this new passport. It is obvious that in my particular position

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I simply cannot do it. In such a case I should ask the Italian Government for protection which in my opinion is not the proper way to handle it.

Should I at some time leave this organization and stay in Europe, there is a constant threat and danger for my own person and for all the members of my family. My activities are certainly known by Soviet agencies and no protection at all would be possible to obtain from any other government.

I am very anxious to stay in this organization and continue my work as long as possible and as long as my services are required. Asking for immediate action doesn't mean that I want to leave this service.

In the opinion of Mr. Ulmer, Chief of the Austrian Mission, there is a possibility of getting the State Department to issue a visa in Vienna. Mr. Ulmer kindly offered to furnish me with the necessary affidavit. I hope that finally through this way the question will be settled, but I still think that (1) my case as any other case should be handled individually; (2) considering the confidential nature of these cases, they should be supported from Washington and shouldn't depend exclusively upon local Consular decisions.

As I declared in the early days of 1944 and as I repeated in June of this year, I declare and state again that I am ready to enter the United States Army on United States territory or anywhere if it is necessary. If this would be impossible, I simply ask you to facilitate as soon as possible the issuance of the visa for my whole family, and to facilitate my transportation to the United States. After having spent some weeks or months on United States soil, I am ready to come back alone to Europe to continue with the service, in which case I would get United States citizenship through the regular immigration channels after five years.

I am calling your attention to these facts exclusively for the reason that it becomes impossible for me to continue under this present situation. For instance, sooner or later, to enter Italy it won't be sufficient to have only military orders, but you must have regular passports or AGO cards; in such a case I would have to choose either to stay in Italy or in United States occupied territories in Europe, which would mean that I am completely cut off from my whole family. This is only one example to show what kind of situation will arise if the problem isn't settled.

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I am very grateful to the United States Government and to this organization for everything that I have had in the service. I do not want to push decisions and do not want anyone to feel that I am not satisfied with the treatment I received while serving with the United States Government, and there are certainly others who deserve more and whose problems should be settled faster because of their greater sacrifice.

The reason for this letter is to protect my family and to make a clear, obvious case, which I think as an honest man, I owe to this organization, and, not being an adventurer, to myself.

Sincerely yours

ZSOLT ARADI

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