

SECRET

1 November 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR []

Subject: Zsolt Aradi

1. In the spring and early summer of 1944, the OSS office in Bari, Italy was making every effort to penetrate for intelligence purposes Austria and, particularly, Hungary. At that time I was Intelligence Officer and Chief, SI at Bari and, as such, had general supervision over intelligence operations.

2. In connection with our desire to obtain Hungarian experts and possible penetration agents for Hungary, I called on Baron Apor, Hungarian Minister to the Vatican, about the middle of June 1944. Baron Apor is a very distinguished and patriotic Hungarian, whose brother was the Catholic Primate in Hungary. There was and is no question about Baron Apor's pro-Allied sentiments. He suggested that the former Press Attache of the Hungarian Legation at the Vatican, Mr. Zsolt Aradi, might perform valuable services for OSS, as Mr. Aradi had edited liberal Catholic newspapers and magazines for Hungary and was very close to high Catholic dignitaries in the Vatican as well as in Hungary. Before recruiting Mr. Aradi, I called upon Mr. Myron Taylor, the President's representative to the Pope, and inquired as to his opinion of Baron Apor. Mr. Taylor informed me that he had known Aradi for many years and had no doubt whatever as to his integrity and pro-Western Allied sentiments. Mr. Taylor said that we could have complete confidence in anybody suggested by Baron Apor for service with OSS. I thereupon employed Mr. Aradi and he came to Bari about the first of July 1944 to work in the Hungarian section of SI. When the intelligence sections of OSS/Bari were transferred to Caserta in October 1944 Mr. Aradi was likewise transferred to Caserta. He worked under the direction of Lt. Col. Howard M. Chapin.

3. When Col. Chapin was transferred to Salzburg Mr. Aradi accompanied him, and it is my belief that Mr. Aradi is still connected with the offices at Vienna and Salzburg.

4. Mr. Aradi prepared a series of reports on Hungary and on the Catholic Church which I believe were very useful. He is well and favorably known to many important persons in the Catholic hierarchy and has been able to obtain valuable information.

5. There is no question in my mind concerning the integrity and loyalty of Mr. Aradi to our organization. He is a highly intelligent and effective worker and he merits every consideration.

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