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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

29 August 1947

CASE OF MR. ZSOLT ARADI

- Source:
- a. Affidavit of Howard M. Chapin, 23 August 1946
 - b. Memorandum of [redacted] dated 1 November 1946
 - c. Memorandum to Chief, Reports Board, OSS, dated 12 March 1947
 - d. Memorandum of [redacted] dated 15 April 1947
 - e. Memorandum of [redacted], dated 27 January 1947
 - f. Copy of undated memorandum to the Special Assistant to the Secretary of State, subject "Visa Priority Applications", original of which was signed by the Director of Central Intelligence and delivered to Col. Eddy, Special Assistant to the Secretary of State, on 2 May 1947.

1. Mr. Zsolt Aradi is stated to have been born in 1907 in Hungary, to be married with three children, to be an author and journalist by profession and to have been employed by the Office of Strategic Services and its successor, the Strategic Services Unit of the War Department, as an intelligence officer, consultant, and agent.

2. It is reported that Mr. Aradi was employed by OSS in June of 1944 and served as confidential assistant to Lt. Colonel Howard Chapin, AUS, for 18 months, during which time Col. Chapin commanded the Secret Intelligence Section of the OSS in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations. Lt. Col. Chapin states that through daily association with Mr. Aradi he attests to Mr. Aradi's devotion to the ideals of liberty, tolerance and democracy, and to the value of his work in promoting these ideas. At the time of Mr. Aradi's employment, Mr. Robert P. Joyce, then Intelligence Officer and Chief, SI, OSS, Bari, and later Chief of OSS in Switzerland, discussed the employment of Mr. Aradi by OSS with Baron Apor, Hungarian Minister to the Vatican, who suggested

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That Mr. Aradi might be useful to us and with Mr. Myron G. Taylor, the President's representative to the Holy See, who spoke well of Mr. Aradi's integrity and pro-western Allied sentiments, and who expressed confidence in anyone suggested by Baron Apor.

3. It is stated that from December 1944 to approximately December 1946, Mr. Aradi conducted his intelligence operations in Italy and Central Europe, contributing particularly by reports on Vatican policy in Hungary, Austria, Germany and Southeast Europe, and towards the USSR. These reports are generally rated as of high quality with some evaluated as of unusual interest. He is also reported to have supplied useful information on Hungary and Austrian political developments. Mr. Aradi is stated to be a Jesuit and an extremely devout Catholic who, before the war, wrote against both the Communists and the Nazis on religious grounds. He is stated to have worked with complete loyalty under trying conditions inasmuch as his passport was voided by the Hungarian Government effective 1 February 1947 and only his service with American forces has preserved any status for himself and his family. In view of his outspoken anti-Communist writings and activities, it is alleged that his return to Hungary would mean loss of freedom or life. It is indicated that he could not remain in Italy after American troops withdraw.

4. He has applied for American passports for himself, his wife and children and was informed by a letter from the American Consul, Naples, dated 23 October 1946, that he had been granted No. 802 on the Hungarian quota and that his wife and children had been assigned Nos. 268, 269, 270 and 271 on the German quota. These quotas are over-subscribed and it would be several years before Mr. Aradi or his family could enter this Country. In view of the nature of his service, he could not continue to receive the protection of the American Services during such a period and would be subjected to considerable personal risk. It is also stated that his services may be utilized by the United States Government in the future under conditions which would make possession of United States citizenship highly desirable.

5. In view therefore, of Mr. Aradi's valuable efforts during the war, his continued faithful service since the end of hostilities and his possible future usefulness, favorable consideration is warranted of his application for an immigration visa. It is stated that Mr. Aradi has presented evidence that he would not become a public charge in the event of his

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admission to the United States. Unless priority is authorized by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in pursuance of the authority contained in 61.313 (a) (3) (1) (b) of Regulations appearing in the Federal Register of December 24, 1946 (11 F.R. 14611) the alien will be required to wait several years before his name is reached on the quota registry list.

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION

-of-

ZSOLT ARADI

for an immigration visa to the United States.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF NEW YORK) SS.:

EDWARD M. CHAPIN, being duly sworn, deposes and says
I am American citizen, born at Amherst, Massachusetts,
June 19, 1905, of native born American parents. My temporary address
is 82 MacDougal Street, New York City, N. Y., U. S. A., and my permanent
business address is General Foods Corporation, 250 Park Avenue, New York
City, N. Y., U. S. A.

I desire to assist Zsolt Aradi in his application for an
immigration visa to the United States, and hereby make the following
statement for the information of the United States Consul in Naples,
Italy, or other appropriate officer of the United States Government.

Zsolt Aradi was born in Hungary approximately 40 years ago.
In 1944, as a result of his active opposition to the Hungarian Government
then engaged in war against the Allies, his Hungarian citizenship was
revoked and he is now stateless. By profession he is an author and
journalist, and immediately prior to the service described below was
press representative on the staff of the Hungarian Minister to the
Vatican in Rome, Italy.

Shortly after the liberation of Rome by Allied Forces in
June 1944, Mr. Aradi, at the request of representatives of the U. S. Army,
rendered his available services in the further prosecution of the

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war. After a careful security check had determined his complete loyalty to the democratic ideals for which the United States was fighting, he was employed as a civilian by the 2677 Regiment, C.S.S., then attached to AFHQ Mediterranean Theater of Operations, in the section which I commanded as a Lieutenant Colonel, A.U.S. He served as a confidential assistant on my staff for 15 months prior to my return to the United States, and is still attached to the United States Forces in Austria, with headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

During the period of his service under my command, Mr. Aradi conclusively proved his loyalty to the United States. Through daily association with him, and through close supervision of his work, I was in a position to evaluate precisely his political, social and economic views, and I hereby attest to his personal and unwavering devotion to the ideals of liberty, tolerance and democracy for which the United States stands. At considerable personal sacrifice and risk, and with the utmost discretion and loyalty, he has worked hard and productively in the defense and promotion of these ideals, and as an employee of an official United States Government agency, has contributed importantly to the country's wartime and post-war activities. In addition, his work on behalf of the United States has been of a nature to preclude any possibility of his return to Hungary. I believe these services fully warrant special consideration in connection with his visa application.

I understand that Mr. Aradi can present acceptable evidence that he will not become a public charge if admitted to this country. I hereby undertake and guarantee that morally, socially and politically he will conduct himself as a patriotic citizen of the United States.

Sworn to before me this)
day of August 1946)

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