

SECRET

21 October 1947

TO : COPS

FROM : Chief, FBM

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Use of Zsolt Aradi.

- Aradi, Zsolt*
1. Assuming that all difficulties as to naturalization of Aradi and his family have been straightened out, we recommend that his employment by this organization be continued.
  2. Appraisal of his contacts and production, and conversations with various staff members, show that his best production undoubtedly lies in the field of positive intelligence on the subject of Vatican policy. He has a Catholic and Jesuitical education, giving him the appropriate background for this type of work, and is estimated by [ ] to be perhaps our best operator in this field at present. His past operations, as well as his normal social and occupational background, have provided him with a wide range of contacts, most of which deal with this target.
  3. Aradi should encounter only minor difficulties in obtaining cover as a correspondent in Italy, since he is a competent journalist. If we decide to return him to Italy as a correspondent, he will necessarily have to work out most of the details himself. We may be able to assist him in many ways, as for example with recommendations to possible employers.
  4. Since Aradi is well known as a rightist, both in Hungary and Italy, (as well as having once been named in a Hungarian newspaper editorial as an American intelligence agent), he must be considered partially blown to other intelligence services, and will have to operate on a semi-overt basis. We feel that his cover is little more than a valid reason for his presence in Italy, although it will to some extent screen his intelligence contacts as well as contacts with his case officer.
  5. Since he has functioned as a staff officer in the past, the change to chief agent status may be somewhat difficult for him to make. However, since various staff members have pointed out that he finds enjoyment in the work as such, rather than in his official position, we believe that the necessity for such handling of his case can be made clear to him.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
8 2006

SECRET

6. Aradi has been engaged recently on the operation of Project BELLABONNA. According to the head of the SC desk for Germany, the SC value of this operation is almost nil, and the positive product has been insignificant. On the other hand, he has demonstrated the ability to develop contacts in Bavaria among potential members of the future German government. Exploitation of these capabilities will not be hampered by cover as a correspondent in Italy, since he will always have sufficient reason to travel, especially between the Holy See and Catholic Bavaria.

7. The following action is therefore recommended:

a) That he be debriefed extensively as to current operations on his arrival, as well as on the Vatican situation;

b) That he be assisted in establishing residence here and in effecting his naturalization;

c) That all aspects of his future operations be discussed with him in detail, both as to main targets and possible cover arrangements;

d) That, in the absence of indications that another course of action would be preferable, plans be made through FBP to obtain cover as a correspondent for his return to Italy, where he will operate mainly on positive intelligence targets concerning the Vatican.

*RM*  
RICHARD HELMS

②  
SECRET

SECRET

APPENDIX I

*Attached to Memo 21/10/47  
FBM To COPS*

NAME: Aradi, Zsolt

CODE: Carryall, formerly Kilkenny, Sarazen, no pseudonym known.

PERSONAL HISTORY

Date of Birth: 29 April 1908  
Place of Birth: Zombor, Hungary  
Father: Arpad, born in Szolnok, Hungary in 1877; converted to Catholicism from Jewish faith  
Mother: Julianna (born Szelay) born in Gyongyos, Hungary, now living in Balatonkarattya, Hungary, with her husband.  
Wife: Erdmute Ach, born in Koenigsberg, East Prussia, in 1912; now living in Rome.  
Children: Claudio, 11  
Juliana, 5  
Michael, 2  
One of the children is his wife's from a previous marriage, and all three are now in Rome with the mother.  
Nationality: Stateless  
Documentation: None legally; his wife and children have Hungarian passports on which the visas are due to expire and cannot be renewed.  
Education: Elementary school 1914-1918 in Magyarovar, Hungary and Vienna; High school from 1919-1931 in Trencsen and Kaposvar, Hungary; University of Budapest Law School from 1926-1931.  
Religion: Hungarian Catholic (moderate)  
Politics: Member of Kereszteny party.  
Member of Free Hungarian Committee, Rome.  
Christian Socialist Unions.  
In general to be described as liberal, right of center.  
Work History: 1928-1943, free lance journalist and writer on Hungarian periodicals.  
Founded Korunk Szava (Roman Catholic Socialist Review)  
Editor of Usker (Uj Kor)  
On managerial staff of Magyarasag before it turned Nazi; Editor of Nemzeti Ujsag  
June 1941-June 1943 Press Attache to Hungarian Consulate, Milano; June 1943-May 1944 Press Attache to Hungarian Legation to the Holy See.  
At least Magyar, Italian and English. Probably French and German.  
Languages:  
RECRUITMENT: On recommendation of Baron Ap6r, Hungarian Minister to the vatican, and confirmation from Myron G. Taylor, Presidential representative to the Holy See, done by Robert P. Joyce.

SECRET

276

Transferred to Aragon

Germany 277

Case No. ~~AUSTRIA #11~~ Ital. C-3 to B-2

Name Aradi, Zsolt <sup>Gradua</sup> ~~Old Name~~ Kilkenny

Address Via Giuseppe de Notaris No. 5, Rome, Italy (Tel. 875-005) 11/7/45

Age 38 Date & Place of Birth 29/4/08 Zombor, Hungary

Nationality Hungarian Citizenship stateless Race white

Family Background Father: Arpad, b. Szolnok, Hungary, 1877; Mother: Julianna, nee Szalay, b. Gyongos, Hungary; both living at Balatonkaratty, Hungary. Wife: Erzsébet Ach, b. 1912, Kőszeg, Ger., living in Rome. Education 14-18, elementary school, Magaróvár, Vienna, Austria; 19-26, high school in Trencsen & Kaposvár, Hungary; 26-31, University of Budapest. (New)

Work History Active in youth movements & for religious & political magazines (Catholic press) in Hungary; '39-44 Hungarian newspaperman in Rome; 41-44, Press Attaché with Hungarian Legation to the Holy See. *see references*

Military Service *none*

Religion Catholic (father was a Jew) Moderate Strong Rabid

Politics Christian Socialist Union Moderate Strong Rabid

Languages Magyar

Special Skills & Qualifications

Contacts The Vatican, Hungarian intelligence, *see references*

Motivation

Contact - by whom, when, where? OSS Rome 6/44

Reference Documents IN 27990 11/7/45

P-13? Innocent? Period #30087 11/11/44

Password or Pick-up Signal:

Is contact considered entirely personal?

Operational History

Recruited as consultant on Hungarian intelligence and has continued his collaboration with OSS. Formerly source "Sarazen". He is our expert on Vatican affairs.

Evaluation

Source: Date of Information Kapok #31, (1098), 3/9/46

See this and amplification: See Back of Sheet.

5

See JCX 002-214, serials? 13/4/45 and X. TS 278, Mr. Kliesen.  
Some question of his sincerity -

Original organizer of "Free Hungarian Movement," formed with permission of Allied authorities - IBX 209 Rome 13/9/45

IN 38162 Prag 14/6/46 - Dr. Gaja SOOS singled out, as being in Amer. pay in article published in Hungarian weekly IGAZSAG.

Personal data - Wife, Margaret Erdmute, German descent, Hungarian national 3 children; - Claudio, 11; Juliana, 5; Michael, 2 (1944)  
Parents - father, inspector of schools (Jew converted to Catholicism); Mother; school teacher (Aryan Catholic).

Work History - 1928-1943, free lance journalist and writer, Hungarian periodicals. Founded "Korunk Szava" (Roman Catholic Socialist Review); also editor of "Usker" (also written "Uj Kor"), on managerial staff of "Magyarsag" before it became a Nazi organ; later an editor of "Nemzeti Ujsag".

June, 1941 - June, 1943 - Press Attache, Hungarian Consulate at Milano.  
6/43 - 5/44 Hung. Press Attache, Legation to the Holy See.

Politics member of Kereszteny Party (not suppressed after putsch 19/3 (44)  
Christian Socialist Unions. Member Free Hungarian Committee.

Contacts Barron Gabriel Ajor (subject claims to be intimate and to have influence with the Baron), former Hungarian Minister to Holy See.

Address (1944) Via Martiri Fascisti, 75.

Rev. Luttor (1944 head of Hungarian Legation to Holy See)

Szasz - Director Royal Hungarian Legation at Quirinal (1944 under protection of Swedish)

Seredi - Prince Primate of Hungary

Szentmiklesy, Szegedi Maszak, Count Dessewffy Gyula)

Document #30067, 11/11/44

On trip to Rome in early March, 1947, source had conference with Ferenc Vajta, former Hungarian newspaperman, who had worked for French IS and had been arrested by both CIC and French because of alleged Nazi activity. See Q file.

Appointment arranged by Father Tibor Gallus, head of Hung. relief in Rome  
Information from PIRA-299, 14/3/47, Subject: Ferenc Vajta, French Agent.

Current objectives: Moving among Catholic clergy to explore possibilities of obtaining operational facilities, such as courier services and safe houses, in addition to his efforts to develop long-range sources.

Initial contacts with Bavarian Minister of Economics provide lead to penetration of future German government.

MGMA-33, Progress Report for June, 14 July 1947

SECRET

APPENDIX I (Continued)

NAME: Aradi, Zsolt

*Personnel*  
*for Zsolt ARADI*

REFERENCES:

[ ]	[ ]
[ ]	[ ]
[ ]	[ ]
[ ]	[ ]
[ ]	[ ]
[ ]	[ ]

~~APP I p. 13-15 TO 6 LARICAL~~

SECRET

(6)