

Memorandum for Record,

5 May 1948

Subject: Malcomb STEVENS.

1. Stevens came to Washington today for discussions. He was disturbed that [] and certain other individuals might get the feeling that he was being made a tool of the Bokhardt group if he obtained a job with the Voice of America, as seemed possible. Bokhardt, who is strongly anti-Semitic, is very much opposed to Himmler having anything to do with the VOA on the grounds that he was so prominently connected with proceedings which brought the leading Hungarian war criminals to justice. He has suggested that Stevens instead be used on the VOA program, and proposed as an alternate that Stevens act as a representative to purchase a Hungarian-language daily newspaper which would be backed by a number of prominent Hungarian political figures. I advised Stevens that it was my belief that neither Himmler nor others would feel that his going to work for the VOA could be construed as meaning anything more than the VOA's taking on an exceptionally talented and well-trained individual who had recently become available. He was advised that the Hungarian newspaper proposal was entirely his matter and should not be considered unless he wished to become deeply involved in the Hungarian-American political scene.

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2. Stevens indicated that if the VOA did not work out there was a possibility that something might develop with TIME magazine. I told him that, no matter what the future brought which concerned us, he must find some sort of employment in Austria. He recognizes this.

3. I explained to him that our plans for his possible continued use were still in an extremely hazy stage and might in fact not work out. He accepted this with good grace and understands that he is to try to find a job/^{no}matter what our plans for him may be.

4. He expressed the feeling that he was not deeply interested in working with Hungarians, that his real interest lay in the German problem; he also recognizes that his real value to us was his service overseas. I believe he would like to return to Europe at a later date after he initiates his first papers, that is if he is able to bring his family over here and to get them settled. If this is impossible, he stated that he would return to Europe as he is unwilling to stay in America without his family.

5. He acknowledged that he still owed the organization \$150.00 and agreed that \$50.00 a month should be deducted from his salary until this bill has been liquidated.

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6. I gave him the assignment of writing me fairly comprehensive sketches on certain of the more prominent dissident Hungarians resident in the United States, Paris, Germany, Austria, and Italy. I explained this on the basis that it was biographical information on such individuals which we would like to have in our files; thus he can feel that is doing something to earn his salary which would in the future be useful. He said he would mail these materials to me shortly.

7. I explained that while we would pay the transportation down to Washington and back to New York that he would get per diem only for today, 5 May; any further stay in Washington was entirely a matter of his own personal business.

8. Stevens was introduced to me by [] under my own name. On the way back from the restaurant where we were lunching we were picked up by [] and [] of FBI, to whom he was introduced under their own names. This was done at []'s specific suggestion after I, en passant, proposed to him the use of another name. [] discussed with [] certain current negotiations with State concerning []'s designation in the presence of Stevens, the meaning of which was fairly clear. I held my business conference with Stevens in an interview room of the Personnel office. He did not have the opportunity to observe any additional staff personnel during that period.