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ITALY # 476

25 October 1948

TO : Washington

FROM : [] Italy

SUBJECT : Zsolt ARADI []

REFERENCE : [] 1988, 1940, 2029; WASHG 4001, 3971

1. Generalia.

- a) Name : As given above.
- b) Aliases : Subject has never used an alias. At one time he used a number of different pen names for journalistic and literary purposes (among them the name Antal ZOMBORY), but had not done so for the past fifteen or twenty years until receiving his current assignment: at the present time his articles which appear in the "Amerikad Magyar Nepszav" under a Budapest dateline are signed Janos SZALAY.
- c) Date of Birth : 29 April 1908 .
- d) Place of birth : Zombor, Hungary.
- e) Identity document : "Certificate in Lieu of Passport" No. 20481 issued by the American Consulate General, Munich, Germany, on 11 December 1947.
- f) Citizenship : A Hungarian by birth, Subject subsequently became a stateless person by reason of his own declaration to the Rome Questura in March or April 1947 in connection with official census of foreigners resident in Italy.

Subject entered the United States on 13 April 1948 on a regular quota Hungarian immigration visa which had been granted to him in accordance with special provisions (Amendment 24 December 1946 to immigration procedure) referring to foreign personnel of agencies operating under the Joint Chiefs of Staff during wartime.

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After entry into the United States Subject applied for citizenship, and subsequently received notice that his "first papers" had been issued as of 8 September 1948.

2. Marital Status.

On 15 October 1937 Subject was married to Erdmute nee ACH, widow of Hans KUBIERSCHKY, a German electrical engineer who died in Buenos Aires in approximately 1935. Subject and his wife are now undertaking divorce proceedings for personal reasons. Mrs. ARADI, who lives at her husband's address at No. 5 Via Giuseppe Di Notaris, Rome, is known in local art circles as a talented and "coming" sculptress, although she has only recently decided to become a professional artist.

3. In addition to his stepson Klaus KUBIERSCHKY, born at Munich on 3 March 1933, Subject has the following children:

- a) Juliana, age 10, born at Budapest 7 September 1938;
- b) Michael, age 6, born at Rome 19 May 1942.

4. Mrs. ARADI, a German citizen prior to her marriage to Subject, as well as her children, is stateless. She and her children have also received immigration visas in the same manner as Subject, however, and intend to proceed to the United States in January 1949. It is Mrs. ARADI's intention there to investigate the possibilities for establishing herself as a sculptress on a commercial basis, and to apply for United States citizenship for herself and children.

5. Most probably the children will remain in the custody of their mother; the girl Juliana, however, may remain with her father. These arrangements will in any case depend on future circumstances, and will be worked out in the general framework of an amicable divorce.

6. Subject's Parents.

Subject's father Arpad ARADI, age 71, a retired Hungarian civil servant (School Inspector), and his mother Juliana nee SZALAY, age 64, are now living at Balatonakarattya in Hungary. Subject is in regular correspondence with them by open mail channels. Subject hopes eventually to be able to bring his mother out of Hungary into Italy.

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7. Other relatives

Judit FALUDI nee ARADI (aunt), age approximately 80, a widow, lives at Budapest, and is supported by her two daughters whose husbands were at one time extremely wealthy. The daughters are:

- a) Charlotte nee FALUDI who is married to Count Andor SOMASSICH, formerly a wealthy landholder;
 - b) Fru, married to Alexander NAGY, an engineer and formerly a wealthy landholder.
8. Susanna REOK nee ARADI (aunt), age approximately 60, married to Ivan REOK, a very well-known Budapest surgeon and biologist. She has two daughters, names unknown.
9. Maria KOVACSY nee SZALAY (maternal aunt), widow, whereabouts unknown. Has one son Zoltan KOVACSY, whereabouts and activities unknown.
10. Ilona SZTRIPESZKY-SZENDO nee SZALAY (maternal aunt), a widow whose husband was a Hungarian civil servant of the finance administration, now lives at Koseeg in Hungary. Two sons:
- a) Nikolaus SZENDO, approximately 30 years old, lives in Kosceg, activities unknown;
 - b) Michael SZENDO, approximately 26 years old, now lives in Astart in Austria. A complete cripple as the result of wounds sustained in World War II, he refuses to return to Hungary because he was a Hungarian SS draftee.
11. Rosa, widow of one KISS, remarried, NU, whereabouts unknown, has three sons: one is a restaurant owner, one a civil servant, and one Imre KISS is a skilled railway mechanic. Present whereabouts and activities unknown.
12. Subject's cousin Steven ARADI (son of Subject's deceased uncle Bela), age approximately 50, is a high functionary of the council of the Budapest People's Courts according to a press report Subject once saw in a Hungarian newspaper.
13. In addition to the relatives mentioned above, Subject has numerous cousins and second cousins, all of whom he has met at one time or other many years ago, but with none of whom he has ever maintained any close contact.

Education

14. 1914-18 : attended elementary schools at Vienna, Magyar-Cvar, and Trencsen;
- 1918-26 : attended classical course at "Gymnasia" of Trencsen and Kapsovar;

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1926-31 : attended courses, completed all required examinations of Political Sciences and Laws Faculties of University of Budapest.

15. Language Qualifications.

- a) Hungarian : highly cultured native degree of fluency;
- b) German : almost native degree of fluency in all branches;
- c) Italian : as German;
- d) French : high degree of fluency in reading, speaking, writing; understands with almost native facility;
- e) English : extremely high degree of fluency in all branches;
- f) Slovakian : understands and reads with facility; cannot write; at one time spoke with native fluency, is now completely out of practice.

16. Military service.

None owing to physical disability (inverted testicle) which, however, has in no way impaired any of Subject's activities.

17. Journalistic activities, 1931-1941.

In 1931 Subject became a regular staff member of the Budapest daily "Magyar Sag" with which he had collaborated even prior to completion of his University studies. Subject's collaboration was chiefly in connection with domestic political reporting, and he held this post until December 1933 when he resigned because he did not wish to take a stand in the paper's inner policy feud between Monarchist and Nationalist elements.

18. The same year Subject and his friends Boris BALLA (now in Syracuse, N.Y. where he is a professor at Loyola University) and Laszlo POSSONYI (with whom Subject has subsequently lost all contact) founded the bi-monthly Catholic review "Korunk Szava" in association with Count George SZECHENYI (deceased 1938) who acted as editor-in-chief. In 1935 Subject and his two friends withdrew from the undertaking because of policy disagreement with SZECHENYI who subsequently became the review's full owner.

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19. In December 1933, following his resignation from "Lagyar Sag", Subject became associated with the "Nemzeti Ujsag", Budapest's leading Catholic daily. His collaboration was chiefly in the field of foreign affairs editorial writing until 1939 when he went to Rome as the paper's correspondent there.
20. Always active in Hungarian Boy Scout affairs, in 1933 Subject acted as editor of the daily five-language newspaper which was published for the Boy Scout encampment and the public during International Scout Jamboree held at Budapest that year.
21. In 1935, following their withdrawal from the "Korunk Szava" undertaking, Subject, BALLA, and POSSONYI founded a new bi-monthly review, the "Ujkor". This review which later became a weekly, like the "Korunk Szava", always followed a definitely anti-Nazi and anti-Communist line, and was socially liberal in complexion. The "Ujkor" expired in 1937 for lack of funds.
22. Also in 1935 Subject and the same two friends founded the Catholic quarterly review "Vigila". The review, owned exclusively by its three founders, was dedicated to history, philosophy, art and literature. In 1937 both Subject and BALLA withdrew from "Vigila", chiefly in order to balance their various financial debts and credits and to consolidate their personal financial positions. "Vigila" continued to appear as a monthly after their withdrawal, ceased to exist only in March 1944 when Hungary was occupied by the Germans. In 1945 or 1946, however, under a completely new staff, publication of a monthly review under the same title was begun. This subsequent enterprise was headed by two close acquaintances of Subject:
 - a) Catholic Father-Professor Alexander SIK who is still in Hungary, current activities unknown. Father SIK's brother is the current Hungarian regime's Minister to the United States;
 - b) William JUHASZ, an anthropologist, currently in Budapest, activities unknown.
23. In last 1936 Subject was called to serve as chief of the foreign press section of the preparatory office of the International Eucharistic Congress held in Budapest in 1938.
24. In January 1939 Subject was sent to Italy as Rome correspondent of the "Nemzeti Ujsag", and at the same time he was accredited as Rome correspondent of the "Pester Lloyd". Immediately upon his arrival in Rome Subject contacted his friend Count Giuseppe Dalla TORRE and began writing (unsigned) articles on Hungarian matters for the Vatican's "Osservatore Romano."

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25. 1941-43; Press-Cultural Attache at Hungarian Consulate General, Milan.

In June, 1941 Subject resigned his "Nemzeti Ujsag" and "Fester Lloyd" commissions as he had received a temporary assignment to proceed to the Hungarian Consulate General in Milan as that mission's Press and Cultural Attache. The original move in that direction had come from Hungarian Minister to the Holy See Baron Gabriel APOR who desired Subject's assignment to the Milan Consulate in an unofficial capacity under his own jurisdiction and direction. Hungary's Ministry to the Quirinal, an individual whom neither Subject nor APOR trusted, obtained Subject's Attache designation from the Hungarian Foreign Office purely as a face-saving device. Subject's chief collaboration was with his close friend APOR.

26. At Milan Subject's duties were connected with placement of Hungarian Cultural propaganda, and he was required to submit occasional general situation reports to the chief of the Hungarian Foreign Office's press section.

27. In connection with Subject's appointment to the Milan Consulate, it should be noted that he was not employed under the regular form of contract, that he was not accredited as a regular Hungarian foreign service employee, and that he was not required to take the usual oath of allegiance.

28. 1943-44: Attache of Hungarian Legation to the Holy See.

In June 1943 Subject left the Milan Consulate General and, at the request of Minister APOR, was assigned to the Hungarian Legation to the Holy See as an Attache. Duly accredited as a diplomat by the Holy See, Subject was not entered on the rolls of his own country's Diplomatic Corps, largely a result of bureaucratic red tape because of Subject's age.

29. Covertly while assigned to the Milan Consulate General, later openly when attached to Hungary's Vatican mission, Subject's principal assignment was that of informing the Vatican and, through the Vatican, world public opinion of Hungary's desire to break an unpopular alliance and to withdraw from the war. To this end Subject maintained close contact with Count Giuseppe Dalla Torre and Federico ALESSANDRINI; the latter, now editor-in-chief of "Quotidiano", was extremely close to Acting Vatican Secretary of State Msgr. MONTINI.

30. In March 1941 Subject, along with the entire staff of Hungary's mission to the Holy See, resigned when his country was occupied by the Germans.

31. Collaboration with American Agency.

In June 1944 in Rome Baron APOR presented Subject to American Colonel LADA-

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- MACCORSKY (fnu). Subject accepted the latter's proposal that he should participate in the United States' war effort in an intelligence assignment, and was subsequently placed in contact with Mr. Robert JOYCE, an OSS intelligence officer in Rome. JOYCE completed Subject's recruitment, and assigned him to OSS-SBS Bari where he worked in the Central European SI Section under Major Howard K. CHAPIN.
32. The Central European SI phase of Subject's activity, chiefly in connection with Hungarian operations, lasted until June, 1945 when his entire section was transferred to Austria. During the Austrian phase Subject's duties were of a general intelligence nature, chiefly concerned with German matters.
 33. In December 1946 Subject was transferred to the German SSU (War Department Detachment, Heidelberg) Mission. His subsequent duties were limited to exclusively German operations.
 34. Subject remained with the German SSU Mission until March 1948 when he came to Italy, thence in April 1948 proceeded to the United States. In Washington Subject was completely debriefed and liquidated by central headquarters of the agency with which he had collaborated during the war and subsequently.
 35. On 8 August 1948 Subject returned to Rome for personal reasons.
 36. [] COMMENT: This is the first installment of biographical statement which is being prepared by Subject. It was considered necessary to obtain this information locally in order to implement the project noted in reference cables.
 37. It is requested that the information contained in this KAPOK and subsequent KAPOKS regarding Subject be made available promptly to WASHG.

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