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EYES ONLY

21 FEB 1958

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Emmons Brown

SUBJECT : Talk with Mr. Zsolt Aradi

ZOLTAN?
Zsolt is
correct

1. This is an outline of the conversation I held with Zsolt Aradi on 21 February 1958. Aradi began by saying that he wanted my opinion of three possible lines of work which he might undertake. He explained that, since he left Voice of America, he has been writing and that his books and articles have been quite successful. However, he feels the need to do something other than write.

2. He then launched into a detailed description of the circumstances of his dismissal from VOA. According to Aradi, he was charged with being a homosexual and with having shared an apartment with a homosexual in Munich when he was there with the VOA station. Briefly, he denies that he is a homosexual, claims that he was assigned to an Army billet to be shared with this other person and that this other person is still an employee in good standing in the federal government. He said that he had been of considerable help to Charlie Thayer, then Consul General in Munich, and believes that some of his trouble with the State Department and later USIA may stem from his close association with Thayer, who as you will recall was dismissed from the Foreign Service while on duty in Munich.

not
quite
accurate,

and I doubt this caused Aradi's difficulties
3. Getting back to the three jobs in which he is interested, these are:

HORANY

a. To head an office being established in Paris with money from the Free Europe Committee. This office is to be the headquarters for an international Christian Democratic union and is to pull together Christian Democratic political forces in Western Europe, Eastern Europe and South and Central America. Aradi says that Dr. Horany had talked to him about this job and had explained to him that he is the candidate of the Hungarian Christian Democrats in New York and I gather, furthermore, has been accepted as the best person for the job by other emigre Christian Democrats there. It was Aradi's impression that the Free Europe Committee representative in Paris would have to approve his selection for this post and it was his desire that I arrange for him to meet and talk with anyone who might be interested in his assignment to this position.

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b. The second job, and one which Aradi would hope to get after he returns from Paris, is that of setting up an International Christian Democratic Center in New York. Apparently this has been talked about among the emigres and may even have been broached to Dr. Schuster.

c. The third job, which has nothing to do with Free Europe but which is a rather interesting related connection of Aradi, is that of being executive director of the American branch of the International Association of Catholic Industrial and Managerial People. This association, which has existed in the United States in a somewhat reactionary and moribund form, is at present being shaken up by one John Q. Adams, the President of the Manhattan Refrigerating Company. Adams considers Aradi as the ideal choice for this position and I gathered that this is a part-time job which would enhance Aradi's prestige and would provide him with even greater contacts among foreign Catholics than he now has.

4. As I mentioned to you on the telephone, Aradi appeared in Germany shortly after the war and worked as an agent for the German Mission for a number of years. At that time, we were doing straight intelligence work. In this field Aradi was not a great success. He promised more than he produced. He did, however, have a remarkable gift for developing an ever-widening range of contacts with the Roman Catholic Church and for inspiring confidence on the part of important Catholic lay and church figures. It was through Aradi that I stayed in touch with Father Zeiger, one of the most influential Jesuits in Germany, and through that connection that I got to know the apostolic delegate, later the papal nuncio.

5. Apparently Aradi renewed all of these contacts when he went back to Munich with VOA (Zeiger has since died). Since 1953, when he was released from VOA, he has used them and expanded them in connection with his writing. He claimed that, on his last trip to Europe, he met and talked with about 400 influential Christian Democrats in France, Italy, Germany and Holland and that some of the more important ones are collaborating with him on the book which he and Dr. Schuster of Hunter College are writing on the subject of a revolution in European politics.

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6. From time to time he sees his cousin who is the Austrian Ambassador to Warsaw. He claims to have put his cousin in touch with the Agency in 1947 and he believes this contact is still maintained.

7. A year or so ago, he managed to bring his mother to the United States but, being a very old lady and very patriotic, she decided to return to Hungary. He claims that she had lived in Hungary undisturbed up until the time that she left and that, in her letters to him, at the present time there is no indication of any pressure being put on her.

GORDON M. STEWART
Director of Personnel

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