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ZSOLT ARADI

A representative of a United States Government agency with jurisdiction abroad advised that the following information was received by him from a foreign government agency with security jurisdiction. The information was prepared by the foreign agency as of February 18, 1958.

ARADI comes from Upper Hungary. He worked as a journalist for the newspaper "Magyarseg", the editor of which was AMIRASNYI. When this newspaper, which at first tended to the left, showed indications of turning toward the right, he gave up this job and became an editor, together with BORISE BALLA, of the literary periodical "Izunk Szara." Subsequently he was an editor of the newspaper "Vicilia." These two newspapers maintained close contact with leading Catholic circles in Hungary. This circumstance enabled him, at the end of the '30s, to become a leading member of the Catholic newspaper "Uj Nemzedek."

The role which ARADI played during these years is remarkable insofar as he -- a man with a definite inclination to the left -- was able to maintain personal connections with the Catholic Church. Early in the '40s, he joined the Hungarian Foreign Ministry as a press man, and because of his knowledge of foreign languages (German, French, English, Italian) he was transferred to the Press Section of the Hungarian Consulate at Milan. Here, he was imprisoned by the Americans. Soon, however, he succeeded in becoming "rehabilitated", and obtained a job as an interpreter with an American agency. In this capacity, he worked as an "interrogator" at Milan, Salzburg, and Munich.

The group of National-Hungarian emigrants regards him with skepticism, as he is suspected of being a party to the delivery of innocent military persons, politicians and artists into the hands of the Soviet Union.

He used his good personal connections with influential circles of the Hungarian Roman-Catholic Church to cover his tendency toward the extreme political left. It must be assumed that this was how he succeeded in emigrating to America and obtaining a job with "The Voice of America." At the end of July 1952, he and LASZLO BOTOS

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returned to Munich. An item in the newspaper for emigrants, "Kereses Henger" (New Hungary) of February 26, 1954 stated: "Friend ARADI, the well-known publicist, entered the service of the Free Europe Committee, and started his job at the office of the National Committee of New York. According to the information we have received, he will be in charge of the Committee's Press Service."

According to a report received from another source, ARADI allegedly began using this name only at a later date. His true name is not known. He is said to work at indistinguishability with the "Voice of America." His wife, whose maiden name is ACH, is Jewish just as he is. It appears from another report that ARADI maintains connections with a certain MILA JANVAS, who in turn maintains connections with Eastern agencies. These reports received from informants have not been evaluated.

In addition to the above information, the foreign government agency furnished the following data, which it stated was from a friendly service, not further identified.

"Subject: ARADI, Zeolt, born April 29, 1908 at Ecsen/Hungary.

"1) A certain ARADI Zeolt, personal data unknown, resided at Rome and maintained connections with Colonel (ret.) FUY Jenos who made use of him as an informant or courier respectively. ARADI is believed to have emigrated overseas (country unknown).

"2) Until 1945, the Hungarian Colonel (ret.) FUY Jenos was an assistant of the Hungarian Military Attache at Rome; he stayed there after the end of the war, and in December 1947 he was recruited by the Hungarian Military Intelligence Service (KISFOL). His handling agent was the then Colonel GUY Koltan (who was eventually arrested), and he sent reports to Budapest on the Hungarian Embassy at Rome.

"He succeeded in organizing a large net in Italy, in recruiting highly qualified informants in the Italian Army, and thus in engaging in successful work.

"3) This espionage ring, and the information on ARADI mentioned in 1) above became known in 1949 through the deserted LASPOL officer VURAY (VURAY also brought from Hungary reports made by FUY).

"The ring was broken up, and it is believed that in connection with FUY a large number of persons in Italy were arrested. No details are known in this respect.

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"4) According to the available information, ARADY went overseas prior to VURAY's escape, and before the western Counter-intelligence struck. No further information is available concerning his whereabouts or his further fate; in particular, it is unknown whether he, too, was arrested.

"5) Since no further indications are available, it cannot be determined with certainty whether or not the ARADY mentioned here is identical with the ARADY mentioned by your office."

The foreign government agency commented that the above information from the friendly service no doubt applied to the subject.

The representative of the United States Government agency advised that a check of the general files of his agency revealed the following information on one BELA JARVAS, born November 19, 1919 at Szekes, Hungary, who may be identical with the BELA JARVAS mentioned in the above information.

JARVAS is reported to reside at No. 2a Feilitzsch Strasse, Munich, Germany. He was the chief editor and publisher of the "Parlament", a newspaper published in Munich, Germany. This paper met financial failure after the first publication and JARVAS paid off his debts to workers and printers upon return from a visit made by him to Berlin, Germany, in September or October of 1952. Although JARVAS' financial benefactor is undetermined, no evidence exists with the source agency to substantiate the one derogatory political allegation that JARVAS was supported by the Hungarian Government. The possibility exists that the original allegations arose as a result of JARVAS' association with personalities who are strongly suspected of being engaged in intelligence activities, the exact nature of which are still undetermined.

The representative of the United States agency advised that his agency's files contained no record on the subject.