

WSSA-1321
17 Nov 49

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Filestone Project

Ref: a. WSSW-964
b. WSSA-1212

2. The desirability of a unified Baltic front with the VLIK in Germany as a headquarters has long been recognized as an operationally sound arrangement. However, according to the information available to us, there are still remaining a number of circumstances which make the success of such a united effort highly doubtful. The first of these is the fact that the Filestonians, particularly Filestone, have always resented any tendency toward subordinating their position to VLIK Germany. This feeling appeared, at least on some occasions, to be the result of personal animosities between the various members of both groups and the desire of the Filestonians to protect their own autonomous operations. Filestone, however, has always been the champion of this attitude and it is a possibility that his successor, Tirralirra, would not be as determined nor as insistent upon the past freedom of action of the Stockholm group. It will be recalled that Filestone has frequently referred to himself as the only authorized representative abroad for the Lithmanian Resistance Group and as such has refused to subordinate this position to any other Lithmanian. In the past Tirralirra has also maintained this attitude and therefore we have no reason to believe that Tirralirra's opinions on this subject have been changed. The colleagues of Tirralirra, would obviously not wish their position subordinated as their national interests are involved. Therefore unless a change of attitude on the part of Tirralirra, wholly unknown to us, has taken place we do not feel this proposed unification will be anything short of a long, involved, indecisive process. We have not at this time sounded out Tirralirra on this matter as by so doing, assuming that he would not be receptive to the unification proposal, he would immediately take whatever counter measures are open to him in order to retain the autonomous nature of the Swedish operations and thus eliminate the possibility of success in winning him to our side through a more indirect approach. We can, however, whenever you may consider it a propitious time take the matter up directly with Tirralirra and thus be advised firsthand of his feeling on this matter.

3. Another point to be considered and one which we consider of primary importance is the fact that we feel certain that the Tiebars would not permit the Filestonians to operate here were it known that they were directly tied-in with operations being directed from Germany. As further explanation, we feel that should Tirralirra and his Baltic colleagues here wholeheartedly wish to accept an operational position under VLIK, Germany, they would be forbidden to do so by the Tiebars unless the Tiebars were brought completely into the picture, in which case the actual control, of at least the Swedish group activity, would fall to the Tiebars which is precisely what we are hoping to by-pass. (See document)

(continued)

5. [] can be eliminated from your list of eligible candidates for leadership in Sweden as he immigrated to the United States at the end of May, 1949, and is now living at Los Angeles, California, engaged as a gymnastic and swimming instructor. According to his own statement, TIMANOU has not been engaged in any intelligence activities after the introduction of Filestone to us in November 1946.

6. [] has provided the following information concerning Lt. Col. V. BLAZYS. He is ca. 50 Years old, a former member of the Nationalist Party in Lithuania. During the German occupation he was for some time employed at Vilnius. Later he was arrested as a hostage and sent to the Stutthof concentration camp. After the war he came to Sweden, via Denmark, arriving sometime in 1946. A wife and daughter were left in Lithuania and to date no word has been received concerning their fate. BLAZYS is a member of the Committee of Lithuanian Society in Sweden and he has taken over the duties as a mediator in Lithuanian affairs after the departure of former Minister GYLIS. BLAZYS is employed by the Swedish government as an archive worker and receives a salary of 350 Swedish kronor per month. He is in poor health as he is suffering from a tuberculosis infection.

More accurate information concerning his potentialities as a future leader of Baltic activities here could be obtained from Tirralirra. Any report from Tirralirra would no doubt be strongly biased if he personally was opposed to any encroachment on his activities and position here. Tirralirra has not been approached as it was not deemed advisable for security reasons nor necessary at this time.

7. With reference to paragraph 2 of reference a), it now appears that the failure of the Estonian agent, PAUL, to return according to schedule has all but canceled the Filestone-Charlie effort originally scheduled for the autumn of this year. [] has furnished no indications that any plans for a fall expedition are being activated. In our most recent communication from Tirralirra dated 15 November we were informed that he felt Filestone-Charlie had for the time being been pigeon-holed by the Tiebars and from all appearances no attempt would be made this autumn. He based his opinion upon the fact that [] had in a vague manner indicated this, also the individuals who would make the trip had not been definitely selected, no training had been set up, and no funds were available for any of the completion of the necessary tasks to be done prior to departure on such an operation. From all appearances here Filestone-Charlie will be held in abeyance until the spring of 1950. Any indications of change will be forwarded immediately.

See document for paras 8 and 9.

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