

AIR

WSSA-1819

Chief, Foreign Division W

7 August 1950

Operational/Redbird

Recent Developments - Tilestone Project

REFERENCES: A. WSSA-1795 of 26 July 1950  
B. [ ] of 4 August 1950  
C. [ ] of 27 July 1950

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B26  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

REDBIRD

1. At a meeting between Tirralirra and [ ] on the evening of 3 August 1950, the following information was received from Tirralirra concerning current developments within the Tilestone project.
2. Tirralirra reaffirmed his decision to meet Colonel Sova in Germany and stated that he intended to depart from Sweden on 10 August in order to utilize the Liberal International Congress as a cover for his trip. Under questioning on this subject, Tirralirra announced that he did not plan to return to Stockholm after his conference in Germany but would proceed to England and return to Sweden sometime in the future, only in the event some particular significant project was being developed from Sweden. Substantiating evidence of this decision is the fact that his wife is traveling with him, their personal effects are being forwarded to England, and their apartment in Stockholm has been given up. We had had no previous knowledge of Tirralirra's decision and [ ] immediately queried him concerning a successor for his present role in Sweden. He stated he had none other than Vladas ZILINSKAS, with whom he had collaborated closely and who was thoroughly informed and capable of handling his activities. Tirralirra had previously advised ZILINSKAS that he was maintaining contact with the Americans, but he could not state at this time whether ZILINSKAS would be willing to take up contact with us. Since our reference B, word has been received from Tirralirra that ZILINSKAS is willing to meet us and apparently take over Tirralirra's role. We have entered into this arrangement with full realization of ZILINSKAS' alleged cooperation with the British, but feel that even if the allegation is true, it will result in no significant harm to us. Another situation influencing our decision in this matter is the recent news from [ ] to the effect that he and his family intend to emigrate to Canada in early September of this year, providing transportation can be procured. Inasmuch as Tirralirra and his wife plan to leave Stockholm on 8 August 1950, an element of urgency was involved in arranging this meeting with ZILINSKAS. From an operational standpoint and our previous experience and information, we believe ZILINSKAS will be a more candid contact, that he is more astute and capable, and that this new relationship will be beneficial to us, for Tirralirra is known to harbor certain reservations due to his political

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attachments and personal antipathy toward the VLIK organization.

3. A dispatch setting forth the results of our initial meeting with ZILINSKAS will be promptly forwarded. In connection with [ ] departure, we have a reliable Lithuanian at our disposal in a similar position in the Embassy, who would be acceptable to both parties concerned, and ready to assume [ ] role as a cutout. He has not yet been approached pending definite word of [ ] departure.
4. The most recent illustration of Tirralirra's failure to deal candidly with us concerns ARUNAS. At the meeting on 3 August, Tirralirra denied that recent word had been received regarding ARUNAS. This is, of course, not true, as [ ] reported that when the contents of the telegram were revealed to Tirralirra, the latter was elated and stated to [ ] that in their prearranged code the text of the telegram meant that ARUNAS had again arrived in Poland. The telegram was seen by [ ] and we do not doubt [ ] veracity. [ ] brought up the inquiry re ARUNAS on the basis of a previous statement Tirralirra had made concerning ARUNAS' probable return to Poland in mid-July, thus diverting suspicion from [ ] (The telegram was sent to the cover address of Mac Schkowsky, Kaplansbacken 5, Stockholm. Text as follows: "Irena Juz Zirowa, signed JOZEF.") When questioned as to ARUNAS' method of communication with Tirralirra, in the event he (ARUNAS) did reach Poland, Tirralirra named the above cover name and address. In conclusion [ ] stated it was unfortunate ARUNAS had not returned in mid-July as we might possess the possibility of removing him. This had an obvious effect on Tirralirra and he immediately asked numerous questions concerning our possibilities, whether or not VLIK personnel were aware of these possibilities and would be involved, etc. [ ] did not elaborate on his statement other than to say that plans made now would be premature inasmuch as ARUNAS had not arrived in Poland. Tirralirra remained silent. The above is a typical illustration of how the political struggle between the Tilestonians and the VLIK organization defeats our objectives. It was apparent that Tirralirra's primary concern was that Arunas should not come into the hands of the VLIK representatives. Also it may very well be that in order to enhance his own prestige he wished to relate this information personally to General Sova or an American officer during his visit to Germany.  
  
Tirralirra claims that the last information known to him indicates that the ARUNAS-report still remains in Poland. The above paragraph is considered an amplification of reference C.
5. Regarding the relationship between the Tiebars and the British I.S. and the American I.S., Captain Andreasson is quoted as saying that the rift between the British I.S. and the Tiebars continues and that no autumn expedition is envisioned; with respect to the Americans he said only that no assistance could be counted upon, as there were numerous disagreements

(high level) with the Americans, concerning matters of which he was not informed and could therefore not describe further.

6. The plan for an expedition in late autumn for the purpose of bringing out at least one Estonian is still being vigorously pursued by [ ] but it is doubtful that he will receive sufficient financial support from the Tiebars to mount the expedition. Tirralirra also entertains some doubt as to whether or not the Tiebars will honor their previous commitment authorizing [ ] to make the attempt if financial support could be obtained. In any case the trip must be made in [ ] boat - a fact which in itself makes the trip hazardous, according to Tirralirra. (Inasmuch as Tirralirra's knowledge and experience with the actual operations is known to be very limited, his comments in this respect should be evaluated accordingly.) More details concerning the probability of an Estonian expedition managed by [ ] will be available after our pending meeting with him. It is possible that [ ] may succeed in developing an operation through Finland which would in some measure eliminate the dangers of a long overseas trip. An evaluation of these prospects will soon be forthcoming.
7. It is expected that a meeting will be arranged with [ ] during the week of 6 August 1950, at which time the Estonian phase of the Tilerstone project can be more specifically discussed.

Distribution:

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