

28 December 1959 27944

TO : Security

FROM : Research

SUBJECT: Mikos CSOMOSS aka Miklos CZOMOS

After a long wait, we have been able to run down the intelligence history of this man and get to the bottom of the allegations against him. First, our previous statement that he was once a Consular official in Hungary was in error. He was not, but he was in touch with a Hungarian Consular official there in 1945. That has little bearing on the case.

During 1944, CSOMOSS was a member of an American intelligence net in Hungary, and in 1945 he came to Salzburg, crossing all borders illegally he said, to set up contact between the American intelligence service and an alleged group of anti-communist resistance people in Hungary. All evidence gathered at that time led to the conclusion that CSOMOSS was acting as a Soviet agent provocateur. He was accompanied on this trip to the West by a man wearing the clothing of an Orthodox priest. CSOMOSS and this individual quarreled over the funds they received from the Americans to support the "resistance" group in Hungary, and were overheard accusing each other of being impostors and fakes.

A few months later, in early 1946, CSOMOSS came out of Hungary again and proceeded to Salzburg, claiming this time that he had bribed Soviet officials to get a travel permit, and insisting that he had to smuggle a lot of material back into Hungary to appease his Soviet friends. After staying for about two months in the Salzburg area, during which time he attempted to elicit information about other American intelligence activities in Hungary, he left for Hungary, heading a convoy of 13 automobiles loaded with Hungarian repatriates. He was stopped at the Enns bridge, then the border of the American and Soviet occupation zones, and loudly told American guards he was working for American intelligence. He was allowed to pass and went through the closely controlled Soviet zone of Austria into Hungary. Since his cars were not properly documented he could not have done this without the connivance of Soviet officials. On the other hand, it was preposterous to believe that a Hungarian could bribe enough Russians to get himself and 13 carloads of people through all the controls between Enns and Budapest. Hence it was concluded at that time that he was a Soviet provocateur.

In late 1946 it was announced in the Hungarian press that CSOMOSS had been arrested and sentenced to a long prison term in Russia. Through the years that followed, various refugees reported that CSOMOSS was in the Berkut Camp but, enjoying preferential treatment and exempted from physical labor, an honor often reserved for stool-pigeons.

CSOMOSS' activities since he arrived in Austria have aroused considerable suspicion in refugee circles. He has moved about Europe without any apparent source of funds, attending refugee conferences. He has joined a number of refugee organizations and has attempted to pass himself off as an authorized representative of Hungarian Freedom Fighter General Bela Kiraly, although Kiraly has denied sponsoring him. He has engaged in the secret distribution of anti-US propaganda in Vienna.

From the above, it is believed that CSOMOSS was probably arrested in 1944 or 1945 by the Soviets for having joined an American intelligence net in Hungary during World War II. The communist Hungarian security service was not organized at that time. In 1945, the Soviets probably sent CSOMOSS to Salzburg to find out what he could about the American intelligence service. He later came out in early 1946 on a similar mission. As is often the case, the Soviets nevertheless became suspicious of him and arrested him, sentencing him to a long term in Warkuta, but still using him as a camp informant. His flight from Hungary during the Revolution was perhaps prompted by a desire to escape the wrath of the Revolutionary mob. Not a few AM and Soviet agents fled for this reason. Later, it is noted, CSOMOSS returned to Hungary and was able to come out once again on a legal passport. Moreover, he was able to get his family out.

It is interesting to note that CSOMOSS did not, as far as we know, make any approach to American authorities in Vienna or elsewhere asking indemnity for the period of arrest he suffered at the hands of the Soviets.

We have no proof that CSOMOSS was a Soviet agent from 1944 or 1945 on, but almost all the facts in his case point in this direction, and the officer who handled his case in 1944, 1945, and 1946 is convinced of it. He characterizes CSOMOSS as an alert, energetic, and unscrupulous individual of above average intelligence.

The Research Section can say safely that CSOMOSS' conduct since he arrived in Vienna during the Revolution, as reported by several reliable sources, make him one of the most blatant cases of Soviet or Hungarian espionage against anti-communist individuals or groups in Vienna which has come to our attention.