

AIR

N. A-1547

NLBA

Info: Chief of Station, [ ]

To: Chief, [ ]

1 August 1954

From: Chief of Mission, [ ]

Operational/INTEL

Report from [ ] REBERKIN/REBBOX Spotting Survey  
of Soviet Escapees and Refugees in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan

1. In making arrangements for a brief survey of refugees and escapees from behind the Iron Curtain (who are now located in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Jordan) [ ] discussed the situation with [ ] and [ ] (who are still unwitting). [ ] as a pretext explained that he had mentioned the 600 escapees to ODUNIT authorities, and that they had considered that some of these persons might be interesting in connection with the worldwide ODUNIT interview program for former Soviet POW's and escapees, but that a survey would first be necessary.
2. ( ) agreed willingly to cooperate with [ ] [ ] explained that the files on individuals are located in the Tolstoy Foundation offices located in each country. Many of the most interesting refugees are located in Jordan and [ ] is arranging to go there this week.
3. [ ] commented that, in relation to Jordan, she had been introduced in April 1954 to a Mr. Paul PHILLIPS (presumably with the U.S. Operations Mission in Jordan) who had inquired from her if there were any new and interesting refugees in Jordan. [ ] was introduced to PHILLIPS by TSCHERIM (KARIM) SOBSOKOFF, a Circassian refugee, who was characterized as being "an ambitious operator who is widely considered to be a British (and/or American) agent" and a flake P&SI, or "Sir Patrick" (Jordanian security) man. SOBSOKOFF is nominally an employee of the Amman municipality and is a leader of a small faction of the Circassians in Jordan. SOBSOKOFF was described as a "dangerous" man with whom one must maintain "very careful relations". (Note by [ ] SOBSOKOFF must be well-known to KUBARK in Amman).
4. Another Circassian group in Jordan includes the more conservative Circassians who left the Caucasus over 60 or 70 years ago (but who helped to open the doors of Jordan to the WW II Circassians). Influential Jordanian Circassians include the Mufti family (1. Said Pascha MUFTI, former Deputy Prime Minister, 2. his brother; Rafaat MUFTI, Chief of Jordanian Passport Division and of Aliens, and 3. their brother Dr. MUFTI, who is apparently influential in security matters).
5. The Jordanian WW II refugees are principally North Caucasians (mainly Circassians, Kabardintzy and Karatchaevtzy with a few Ossetintzy, Georgians and Dagestani). They are mostly in a precarious financial status and are competing for work and aid with the Palestinian refugees. The whole group has to be dealt with most delicately and with extreme care.

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6. It was agreed that in the preliminary survey of these people:
- a. There would only be a file or record check used to prepare the data (and no interviews at this juncture);
  - b. Young children, old women, mental cases, etc., would not be listed in detail;
  - c. No one would be told of the survey or for whom it was being prepared (this, I specifically stated, was to include [redacted]'s superiors in the Tolstoy Foundation):
7. In regard to the Tolstoy Foundation, Inc. [redacted] discussed her relationship with her immediate superior, Iden A. [redacted] described Iden A. as a "very difficult woman" whom she had only met several times. [redacted] said she once threatened to quit because of difficulties with Iden A, but that Iden A thereupon had doubled [redacted]'s salary from \$100 to \$200 per month. The Tolstoy Foundation has been under contract with the U. S. Escape Program (contract # N SCU-22029).

APPROVED: [redacted]

Chief of Mission, [redacted]

20 August 1954

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5 - Headquarters