

Chief, FBI

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D. G. Harboer

Dorothea GAWELIAK

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1. On Wednesday, 1 December, the under-igned interviewed Subject in his room at the Ehrenhof Hotel. The introduction was made by Lt. Col. Jack EMAN, former ROSEY chief in Germany, who remained throughout the entire conversation. The writer was introduced as Mr. HERRMAN, an associate of EMAN, engaged in political and operational planning in the Near East. EMO is still under the impression that EMAN remains in charge of Operation ROSEY, and therefore talked freely. Also present during the interview was Dr. DACHETIAK of Boston, an American citizen and high official of the American branch of the Federation of Armenian Revolutionaries. DACHETIAK acted as an interpreter, since EMO speaks no English and little German. However, portions of the conversation were carried on in Russian by EMO and the writer. DACHETIAK does not understand Russian.

2. The conversation was opened by EMO who presented the political aspects of the work of the Federation of Armenian Revolutionaries, and most of the discussion was predicated upon the opposition that there would eventually be war with Russia. EMO feels that steps should be taken now to organize the Germanian people so that the moment the conflict breaks out they can go into action in organized fashion. The Armenian hope to further a Germanian Union which would include the Armenians, Georgians, Azerbaijanis and Subcaucasians, and are seeking American aid in developing this anti-Soviet bloc. Although EMO is a legendary figure among the Armenians, he is not high enough to actually unite the other Germanian groups, and feels that American representation is all that is needed to bring about organization.

3. The Armenians feel that their only hope lies with the United States and the knowledge of the fact that American troops would be cooperating with resistance groups would have a tremendous effect upon the population. During the conflict the Armenians would agree to provide from propaganda directed against the Turks and no territorial claims would be made at this time. They want all prisoners of war to be handled by the Americans, expediting some of them by returning them to America by parachute to inform the people that the Americans were actually coming and not the Turks. Armenians are to have complete control over all occupied areas and it is acceptable to the U.S.A., the liberation group would be willing to furnish approximately one thousand Armenians for occupation duties.

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4. IRO's demands on the other hand are that Armenian territorial claims be upheld; that they be guaranteed safety against massacres by the Turks, whom they still fear; that Armenia be admitted to the UN (League of Nations as IRO termed it); that Armenia be recognized as an accredited government and given moral assistance. The type and form of the Armenian government would not have to be decided until the war had ended and boundary disputes would be settled by arbitration.

5. At the present time the Armenians are sorely craving a propaganda campaign against the Muslims which is actually not very extensive because of the risks involved. Everything is done on a person to person basis. No literature is carried across the borders into Armenia. They had learned long ago that the Soviets used to distribute anti-Armenian propaganda purportedly originating with the Armenian resistance groups and then liquidated the persons on whom the literature was planted. The liberation group's efforts, according to IRO, are to call America to the Armenians by equating them with the American way of life - the freedom in this country, the privileges enjoyed by labor, etc. This information is transmitted by word of mouth to individuals inside Armenia. The group is apparently utilizing to risk the safety of many individuals by the dissemination of propaganda through printed matter.

6. Boundaries are so well guarded that getting people across the borders is an extremely difficult task. On the Iranian border, for example, all Armenians have been removed up to a depth of twenty kilometers and these areas are heavily patrolled by frontier troops, with additional troops backing them up to a depth of fifty kilometers. The Turkish and Iranian borders are also heavily fortified even with barbed wire. Complete Russian control exists everywhere inside Armenia. Even high Communist Armenian officials have been executed for protesting against present unjust boundaries.

7. Until November 1947 the Liberation Group had made use of Armenian republicans from Syria and Lebanon to obtain information behind the Iron Curtain. Since collapse of the republican units, the group has had five or six individuals who are able to circumvent back and forth across the border, but no organized courier routes actually exist. An example of the difficulties involved in dispatching border crossings, IRO stated that in one instance it was necessary to send a man through Kurdistan (presumably Turkey III), thence to Moscow and finally down to Armenia. This involved a long circuitous approach from the East.

8. Apparently many Armenians are deserting their homeland. IRO estimates that about 100 have gotten out safely in the past year while double that number were killed in the attempt. The Russians have been conducting mass evacuations of the Armenian population. Some twenty thousand were sent to camps in Siberia and another fifty thousand were transferred to Turkistan and other republics.

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9. DRO's group had had two channels of communication into Armenia through the herdsmen who every Spring and Fall take their herds through the mountains. He hopes to reestablish these channels and believes they might provide the means of getting in radio equipment.

10. When asked specifically whether he was getting any valuable information out of Armenia, DRO replied in the affirmative and stated he was getting information on Russian GB. As examples he quoted a report that General BAGRAMOV, chief of all Russian frontier troops, had been removed; and that he had obtained information on a huge ammunition dump located between Tiflis and Aghstafa (?), 120 miles from the former. The latter report was verified by two independent sources of DRO.

11. With regard to liaison between the Armenians and Americans, DRO stated that contact was maintained in Cairo and Beirut, but that they had ordered no contact be established in Tiberias, the reason being that the central offices of the Armenian Group are in Cairo and Beirut. In the latter city the liaison is maintained with Mr. Roosevelt of the American Legation. DRO stated that he had furnished Roosevelt with a copy of the identification document issued to Armenian repatriates from Syria. Additional copies of this document can be obtained. Other information furnished Roosevelt included lists of Communist agents, etc. Apparently the relation with Roosevelt is not harmonious because of the latter's inability to give the Armenians' definite guarantees, such as mentioned in paragraph four. DRO seems to be quite willing to gather intelligence but this is merely a means to an end, his prime objective being the Caucasian Union and the liberation of Armenia.

12. As for DRO'S RASHI contact - he conferred with RASHI (spoken of as BERNDT) in Geneva prior to his entrance into the United States. Also present was TIGHEE, a former adjutant of DRO. All is not well between DRO and RASHI. Differences of opinion exist between the two on how operations should be conducted against the USSR. RASHI evidently feels that penetration should be accomplished by the use of large numbers of individuals, primarily merchants and by the use of various tribes. DRO is opposed to the large numbers theory and feels that the tribes involved contain too many Communists. Furthermore, DRO does not favor the idea of working under a German, or for American occupation authorities in Germany. He fears a severance of his connections in Germany should the Russians overrun that country, and wants to deal with high American officials in Washington. His reasons are obvious when viewed in the light of his political aims. Other difficulties included in the RASHI contact are those involving communications from Lebanon. It was gathered from DRO's statements that he communicates with RASHI by means of coded letters which are channeled to the United States and thence to Lebanon or Germany. The contact in this country was not named. It may well be DAGHLIAN in Boston.

13. According to our previous information RASHI had been sent to Cairo this past summer. DRO stated that RASHI had wanted to make the trip but he opposed it and RASHI had never come.

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14. When queried on the support he now receives from RUSTY, DRO claimed there was none. He stated that he had received a few hundred dollars and things such as cigarettes and tobacco, but was not receiving payment at present. On the other hand DRO told Lt.Col. DEAN that he could get ten thousand dollars in an hour from DEAN's organization (meaning RUSTY).

15. DRO is definitely opposed to cooperation with the British and claims the latter's aims in the Near East are not in harmony with those of the Armenian group. He also disclaimed any knowledge of British intelligence operations. However, in Germany efforts had been made to obtain information on his operations by the Georgians, Von HENSE and ALKIBAYA, who are employed by the British in Hamburg.

16. When asked what specific aid the Armenian group needs now, DRO stated none, except for occasionally facilitating issuance of a U.S. visa to Armenian Liberation officials who might want to visit this country. His chief aim at the moment seems to be obtaining assurances of American aid in the event of hostilities.

17. DRO has been in the U.S. about 3-4 weeks, having obtained entrance with a passport (under his true name) from Lebanon, of which country he is now a citizen. He intends to visit Chicago, Detroit, and California, returning to Lebanon about the 15th of March 1949.

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