

SECRET

File Venus

AIR

OEBA-5961

*orig in Vapere
Xref para 4 in []
cc in chrono
27 July 1956*

Chief, WE

Info: Chief, EE
Cos. Germany

Operational/PARSIMONY/HITWAY/VENUS

Gabor FUEREDI's Comments regarding VIPERE

1. As Operation VENUS reports reach this station from the [B] only after weeks of delay, this dispatch is being written to record certain comments by Gabor FUEREDI to "Peter" at their most recent meeting, which was probably on 13 July 1956. The information was provided by [B] who read the draft of the case officer's report. As this version is based on []'s memory of the details, it may vary slightly from the story recorded in the official report.
2. "Peter", during a discussion with FUEREDI, said that he had heard that VIPERE had returned to Hungary. When "Peter" made a rather uncomplimentary remark about VIPERE, FUEREDI opposed the statement, saying that VIPERE was really worth much more than "Peter" could guess. It appears that FUEREDI then either stated or implied that VIPERE had worked for FUEREDI but, the latter added, he had a rather strange character and he did so as well for "the Belgians and the the Americans". When "Peter" exclaimed that in that case VIPERE's life in Hungary would not be particularly pleasant, FUEREDI disagreed, pointing out that VIPERE has a good position in the cultural field in Budapest.
3. If FUEREDI actually knew that VIPERE was working for "the Belgians...", it seems possible that VIPERE revealed to FUEREDI that he had been detained and had agreed to work against the AVH. As VIPERE was certainly intelligent enough to outwit his [B] case officer, it is quite conceivable that he had, in effect, willingly tripled. If, as [] and [] tend to suspect, [] tipped off VIPERE to impending [B] action against him, FUEREDI could have felt quite justified in having his agent flee the country, in spite of having "worked for the Belgians...".
4. In this connection, it is worth noting that when [] recently sought, at [] direction, to provoke a comment on VIPERE by FUEREDI on the basis

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of overt press reports concerning his return to Hungary, FURIEDI simply failed to react, saying nothing. This point, if accepted at face value, could indicate either that FURIEDI does not trust [] as much as he does "Peter" or that [], too, is playing games with the [B]; and either did not ask the question or did so and was told by FURIEDI to report no reaction.

5. The [B] are in contact with VIPERE's disillusioned mistress. She has agreed to cooperate with the [B] in an effort to make VIPERE think that his [] case officer (actually [] has been asking about him and is interested in eventually hearing from him again. Just what this little exercise will bring is very much open to question but, according to [] the mistress has already sent a letter telling VIPERE of "Monsieur Vincent"'s [] "friendly inquiry".
6. Although the point is no doubt perfectly apparent to Headquarters, this case stands as a good example of [B] bungling. The [B] had been successfully penetrated at the top level by an agent over whom they ultimately, with substantial SMITH and [] help, succeeded in establishing the possibility of control, only to dissipate that control by sloppy work by the case officer and general operational impotence at higher levels.

Distribution:

WE - 3
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