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18 August 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
VIA: Deputy Director for Plans  
SUBJECT: Proposed Book by Mr. James McCargar on  
the Hungarian Revolution in 1956

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for the office of the DDCI, the DDP and other CIA offices who may be approached on this matter. Such recommendation is contained in paragraph 6.

2. Attached hereto is an exchange of correspondence between ☐ Mr. James McCargar, ex-CIA staffer, now free lance author residing in Europe, and Mr. Frank Wisner. The substance of the correspondence deals with Mr. McCargar's contract with Holt, Rinehart & Winston, American publishers, and Secker & Warburg, British publishers, for the writing of what is described as an authoritative study of the Hungarian Revolution timed to appear for next year's 10th anniversary of that event. Mr. McCargar has corresponded with ☐ who in turn has corresponded with Mr. Wisner, concerning the possibility of having CIA make certain non-public material available to him which will assist in the writing of this book. In this connection, Mr. McCargar is apparently specifically interested in three subjects: (1) What was really going on within Russia that led to the decision to re-intervene in Hungary; (2) What were the simultaneous considerations and policy positions within the Satellites (including Yugoslavia); (3) What were the main considerations within the Western European countries, especially France and the United Kingdom, and not excluding the consideration of the Suez question.

3. Mr. McCargar is coming to Washington within the next 10 days and may be expected to call on various CIA officers to discuss his plans.

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4. You will recall that under the nom de plume of Christopher Felix, Mr. McCargar authored a book entitled "A Short Course in the Secret War" published by E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc. in 1963.

5. In formulating our recommendation on the advisability of assisting Mr. McCargar in this project, we have been guided by the following: (1) Mr. McCargar does not appear to have the qualifications necessary to write an authoritative study on the Hungarian Revolution. There are several American historians and authors who would be more suitable for such an enterprise, Mr. William Griffith of CENIS, M.I.T., for instance; (2) A number of responsible books on the Hungarian Revolution are on the market, the most authoritative of which is generally considered to be Ferenc A. Vali's "Rift and Revolt in Hungary" published by the Harvard University Press in 1961, prefaced by Mr. Robert R. Bowie; (3) While there may be advantages in again bringing before the U.S. public some of the Soviet motives and actions during the Hungarian Revolution, the 1965 U.S. position vis a vis Hungary, generally considered today the most liberal of the Warsaw Pact regimes, would not be improved by the book Mr. McCargar proposes to write.

6. It is, therefore, our recommendation that the DDCI, the DDP and other offices of CIA inform Mr. McCargar that (a) no official CIA material can be made available to him, and (b) that CIA has no comment on any other aspect of the proposed book.

[ ]  
Acting Chief  
Eastern Europe Division

Attachment: Correspondence

CONCUR:

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Deputy Director for Plans  
23 AUG 1965

The recommendation contained  
in paragraph 6 is approved:

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Deputy Director of Central  
Intelligence

Date 24 AUG 1965

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