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26 July 1950

## MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Meeting with Cleveland O. Hahn<sup>1</sup>

TO : Chief, DTRAPID

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

1. Introduction

In accordance with the instructions regarding this meeting, in contacting Cleveland O. Hahn<sup>1</sup> our purpose was to arrange for another conference later this year between Hahn and the headquarters representative and to collect any information available regarding Hahn's group.

The meeting took place at the scheduled time and the extensive discussions which followed were conducted in a secure place selected by Hahn himself and acceptable to us. Hahn supplied us with a wide range of information on the matters of interest to us and a brief summary of this discussion is submitted in this report.

2. General Information Regarding SGPSALM<sup>2</sup>

a. The JBCLLOUD<sup>3</sup> emigration throughout the world at the present time is divided into two rather hostile camps. The minor group, which is known as Parliamentarians, are the followers of the JBCLLOUD regime during the period between 1918 and 1934. The other group, much larger numerically, could be called Nationalists. They are the followers of the JBCLLOUD government and its policy during the period from 1934 to 1940, which constituted the National regime

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without the Parliament under the leadership of the President, (IDENTITY ONE)<sup>\*</sup>, who was arrested in 1941 and deported to FJSTEAL<sup>4</sup>. After the end of the War, the JBCLLOUD<sup>3</sup> communities of emigrees in SGCIDER<sup>5</sup>, KMFLARE<sup>6</sup> elected representative JBCLLOUD committees who, in turn, elected the JBCLLOUD Central Committee. The majority of JBCLLOUD emigrants belongs to the group which could be called Nationalists group. The antagonism between the two factions of JBCLLOUD emigration is rather acute because each of these factions wishes to represent and speak in the name of the entire JBCLLOUD people and its Government. The Parliamentarians demand that the JBCLLOUD affairs be represented by the Deputy President, (IDENTITY TWO)<sup>\*</sup>, who, according to the JBCLLOUD constitution of 1922, is a legal representative of the JBCLLOUD government in exile, but the Nationalists demand that the JBCLLOUD interests be represented by the JBCLLOUD envoy to HTOXIDE<sup>7</sup>, (IDENTITY THREE), who was given the authority for representation of the national interest by the last JBCLLOUD president (IDENTITY ONE)<sup>\*</sup>.

b. SGPSALM<sup>2</sup> was started about eight years ago by a group of JBCLLOUD officers and students, who tried to make an appeal to the free nations of the world and, at the same time, were carrying out the movement in their own land. Their fight was unsuccessful and those who escaped deportation emigrated to the western world and several groups among them continued their fight for the liberation of the country and the support of the movement within. The HBHOIST<sup>3</sup> countries' emigrees tried several times to consolidate their efforts in their fight against the oppression of the TPSTALL<sup>7</sup> and in January 1950, in BGQUIET<sup>10</sup>, a conference of the JBCLLOUD, PBCHUTE<sup>11</sup> and FJKHAKI<sup>12</sup> groups abroad was held in which they have tried to work out certain principles of coordination for their future work. The JBCLLOUD group was not able to develop any great activity because of lack of material means but they have studied the possibilities of using HBCHEST<sup>13</sup> as a base for the operations against their home land.

c. Until the present time the JBCLLOUD emigree circles in HBCHEST had no support for their activities from any Western power and the limited actions which were undertaken by them were financed exclusively by the contributions from their national circles. It is recognized that HBCHEST offers the best practical possibilities for any political activities directed towards JBCLLOUD. The geographical proximity permits a number of active undertakings, such as radio communication with the capital of JBCLLOUD, where the movement is strongly entrenched and is in possession of powerful transmitters. The sea routes to JBCLLOUD are also most accessible from the HBCHEST bases. Moreover, it would be possible to utilize for communication with the native land the route over (IDENTITY FOUR) because the HBCHEST and (IDENTITY FOUR) nationals have a free access in their travels to both countries and the land route from (IDENTITY FOUR) offers, according to their knowledge, great possibilities. ✓

3. Background Information of the Group Represented by Hahn

a. The present strength of the group which Hahn is representing consists of 20 members who are very closely united by their former participation in the JBCLLOUD partisan and underground movement.

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\* See cable to HQ dated 1/1/50 for IDENTITIES 1-8.

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All the members of the group are gainfully employed in HBCHEST and have sufficient means to maintain a fairly decent standard of living. This group has three recognized leaders, of which Hahn is one. The group is maintaining regular contacts with their national representatives in HTOXIDE<sup>1</sup> and HTCURIO<sup>4</sup>. They also maintain contacts with the JBCLLOUD Committees in SGCIDER and in other parts of the world. They draw their material support from these national sources. Their political work in HBCHEST at times is difficult because the HBCHEST police are very sensitive to anything that might provoke misunderstanding or incidents with the FJSTEAL government. Moreover, the TPSTALL espionage system in HBCHEST is developed to a very high pitch of efficiency and relies for its information on a wide-spread and efficient net of informers. Due to all these factors, the activities of the group have to be carried out with extreme caution and it is because of this reason that Hahn's group limits its numbers to a strict maximum of 20, while they have a potential reserve of several scores of well trusted men on whom they can rely if the need should arise. This group has been carrying on certain operations in support of the movement in JBCLLOUD for the past four years. Until 1948 the access to JBCLLOUD was comparatively easy but for the past two years the security measures of the border patrol have been greatly increased and their possibility of contact through couriers and delegates was reduced to a minimum. In April of this year the group sent out their delegate and his return is expected before September. ✓

b. Up to the present time the group has had no support from any sources except their own nationals, but in the past month the representatives of the group in HTOXIDE were in contact with JACKPOT<sup>13</sup> and certain theoretical discussions and plans were made for the support of the activities carried out by this group. Up to now no practical results or definite commitments on either side were made. Hahn stated that the SGPSALM in HBCHEST is carried out by several groups and that these groups are coordinating their activities on the policy level but in technical matters they carry on their work independently. As an example of such coordination, Hahn stated that another JBCLLOUD group which is supported by contributions from one wealthy individual is planning within the next two months to fly a very fast plane over JBCLLOUD and to parachute a member of its group in a pre-arranged place. The delegate who will be sent there will carry with him a supply of cheap wrist watches which will be sold and the funds thus realized will be used for the support of the movement. He will also carry with him assorted medical supplies which are desperately needed by the partisans. Hahn's group is not taking any part in this operation except that they will transmit through him certain information to their own people. ✓

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4. Overall Plans and Strategy of the Group

The activities of SGPSALM in general, and Hahn's group in particular, are determined by the following political considerations:

a. They realize that the movement within their own country would be incapable of overthrowing the forces of the TPSTALL regime and, therefore, their policy is directed toward keeping these forces alive and intact insofar as it is possible for eventual use at the time when the opportune moment will come.

b. The groups are composed, for the most part, of those people who are scheduled for deportation and who, in their desperation, have chosen to hide themselves in the woods. Their number, which was variously estimated and could not be closely checked, was reported as large as 18,000 to 20,000, but Hahn, on the basis of his information, attempts to estimate this number between 7,000 and 10,000 at the most. He points out that the conditions of the individuals are extremely poor; that they suffer from various diseases contracted because of precarious living conditions, inadequate food and clothing supplies and almost complete lack of medical assistance. The movement in JBCLLOUD, according to his estimates, does not and could not represent any real danger to the TPSTALL authorities and this fact is reflected most clearly in the government official policy which feels itself quite secure on the territory of JBCLLOUD and in view of this has very considerably relaxed the internal security measures and controls. ✓

c. Because of the above considerations, Hahn feels that the activities of his group should be directed toward preserving the movement within JBCLLOUD, giving moral support as well as physical and above all, instilling a faith and a hope that they are not alone, that others are working with them, and that the hour of liberation is slowly but surely approaching.

5. Contemplated Action

The immediate practical action contemplated by Hahn's group, therefore, could be aligned along the following four consecutive steps:

a. Establishing regular continuous contact with the movement in JBCLLOUD.

b. On the basis of this contact, providing the necessary supplies and funds in order to preserve the valuable members of the movement.

c. Establishment of wide-spread contacts in FJSTEAL proper by means available to the movement leaders in JBCLLOUD.

d. Feeding through those established channels subversive propaganda into FJSTEAL in general in order to enhance the revolutionary spirit within FJSTEAL and thus create the favorable atmosphere

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for the time when an opportunity will come to do away with the present regime.

Hahn is basing this overall plan of action on the general condition prevailing in FJSTEAL and in JBCLLOUD in particular. He stated that since the latter part of 1948 the TPSTALL authorities have paid special attention to a city, (IDENTITY FIVE), where the TPSTALL forces are building an enormous air base. The air strip at this base is estimated to be 1 kilometer wide and approximately 2 kilometers long. It is equipped with most modern underground hangers, gasoline storages and the best available in equipment. This is being done because the JBCLLOUD air bases are primed for possible operations against the HBCHEST-FJINLET<sup>16</sup> area. These increased activities of the TPSTALL Army in JBCLLOUD resulted in the great influx of FJSTEAL nationalities.

The morale of the occupation forces in JBCLLOUD appears to be extremely low. The black marketing and corruption among the TPSTALL officials is widespread and rampant. Army officers and officials could be easily bought. Bribes and black market deals are an open daily occurrence. The price of one gram of gold is 100 (IDENTITY SIX). The price of a plain silver wedding ring is 150, and an ordinary cheap wrist watch is priced between 1000 and 1500. In view of these factors, Hahn thinks that if sufficient (IDENTITY SIX) funds were available, the representatives of SGPSALM would be able to achieve a considerable degree of success. P/W

Hahn believes that subversive anti-BGGYPSY<sup>17</sup> propaganda could be spread successfully. He thinks that groups would be able to organize and operate a clandestine printing plant and that they could distribute propaganda literature by using mail as well as railroad shipments and truck deliveries of the merchandise collected for shipment to various cooperatives and consumer stores. He claimed that these stores, although government owned and operated, use a great deal of freedom in their action and operate through various independent agents engaged in providing these stores with food supplies which they collect and deliver at their own initiative. In Hahn's program of action, the first and most urgent question is to acquire a radio transmitter which would be sufficiently powerful to carry their communications to the capital of JBCLLOUD. In the past Hahn has operated such equipment but because it was not powerful enough to transmit under any weather conditions, the contact with the receiving station in the capital of JBCLLOUD was lost and his immediate concern is to reestablish this communication on a regular basis at pre-arranged intervals, two or three times a month. ✓

If and when this operation could be established on a firm basis, Hahn contemplates acquiring a very fast speed boat which would enable his group to escape the patrol border guards and land his party at a pre-arranged time and place. He stated that they have studied this

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problem at length and that if and when this operation would be possible the boat would be registered under a HBCHEST license in the name of one of the HBCHEST sympathizers and although the operation as such involved great dangers, he believes in its success because the people they have at their disposal for this sort of action are experienced navigators, extremely familiar with the navigation in the particular areas which would be selected for this purpose.

6. Estimated Requirements.

Hahn stated that for development of the program he has outlined above, they are seeking at the present time financial support and that the amount of money they are trying to raise is as follows:

a. Purchase of radio transmitter - 2,000 (IDENTITY SEVEN).

b. Monthly operational expenses - 1,600 (IDENTITY SEVEN).

These expenses will involve operation of coded radio communication two or three times a month from a moveable carrier in order to avoid detection. The carrier in this case would be a rented automobile. Regarding the operation of the speed boat, the expenses involved would be considerably larger because the acquisition of such a boat in PBNIECE<sup>9</sup> or SGCIDER would, alone, cost at least 40,000 (IDENTITY SEVEN). 97722.00

7. Evaluation

Hahn is a lean, medium height individual with earnest and reserved manners, about 30 years old. He is very deliberate and cautious in his statements and remarks. He appeared to be very security conscious and after initial meeting at the pre-arranged place, he immediately suggested conducting further conversations at a secure place in a remote park where no possibility of overhearing the discussions or following the participants was feasible. His demeanour and bearing during the entire interview, which lasted several hours, was of self-assurance, tempered by sober realization of the handicaps and difficulties inherent in the problems. Hahn stated that he would be extremely interested in following up the established contact but that he regards these discussions as exploratory approaches to the problem, in no way binding on his freedom of action. By this in particular he means the contacts established by his group with the representative of JACKPOT in HTOXIDE.

8. Expected Follow-up

Hahn has agreed to a subsequent meeting at a pre-arranged place and time and he stated that he might be coming to SGCIDER in the beginning of July. In such a case, he will be residing for a week or so in or around (IDENTITY EIGHT) and he will notify us as to the ways

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and means of contacting him. At any rate, Hahn wishes to have the subsequent meeting in the beginning of July and he will notify us to that effect. He stated that his expenses involved in coming to the present meeting amounted to 100 (IDENTITY SEVEN) and that he would expect these expenses to be reimbursed to him at a later date. Hahn also stated that he does not consider as particularly secure the continuous use of the addresses which were used heretofore. The procedure and address for contacting him suggested by Hahn is (IDENTITY EIGHT).

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Identities for 725-CHGWU:

1. Alfreds Launags
- 1a. Alexander S. Alexander
2. Latvian Resistance Movement
3. Latvia
4. Soviet Union
5. Germany
6. Austria
7. HTOXIDE not identified.
8. Baltic
9. Soviet
10. Switzerland
11. Lithuania
12. Estonia
13. Sweden
14. United States
15. British--M.I.S.
16. Norway
17. Communist
18. Denmark

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