

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 302B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

11 May 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Operational Meetings with AECASSOWARY/15

1. Two brief operational meetings were held with AECASSOWARY/15 on 3 and 6 May to discuss a REDSKIN lead supplied by AECASSOWARY/2. The person in question is Ostap STELMACH (no Headquarters traces), an American citizen of Ukrainian origin now residing in Baltimore. STELMACH was said to be planning a tourist trip to the Ukraine in July. STELMACH was also believed to intend taking his daughter with him to see his home village. STELMACH was said to be a graduate of the University of Maryland and an engineer by profession.

2. Since STELMACH is an acquaintance of AECASSOWARY/15, it was decided that the latter would contact him on a casual basis to obtain more information on his projected trip.

3. AECASSOWARY/15 met STELMACH in Washington on 5 May and obtained the following information: STELMACH has been planning a trip to the Ukraine to visit his mother, who is ill and still living in the home village of Zarvanitsa, located between Lvov and Ternopol. He has been dealing with the Cosmos Travel Agency, which has informed him that while it could arrange a tourist trip for him to the Ukraine it could not make arrangements for him to visit his home village. This he would have to do through the Soviet Embassy. AECASSOWARY/15 apparently caught STELMACH just as he was about to visit the Soviet Embassy to request the necessary permission. AECASSOWARY/15 inquired about the trip in an unofficial way but stated that AECASSOWARY/1 would of course be interested in talking to STELMACH further to help him make plans and would definitely be interested in his impressions after he returned. STELMACH said that he recognized AECASSOWARY/15's interest and was prepared to cooperate. AECASSOWARY/15 nevertheless made no commitments, merely offering advice and asking questions.

4. AECASSOWARY/15 suggested that STELMACH should not approach the Soviet Embassy until he (AECASSOWARY/15) could obtain further information on the best way for STELMACH to gain his objective. AECASSOWARY/15 reasoned to STELMACH that if the latter were to go to the Embassy and be turned down, he might have to wait indefinitely before being allowed to visit his mother at home. Perhaps he would never receive permission. Or perhaps the Soviets would only offer to bring his mother to Lvov, if that were medically possible. On the other hand, if STELMACH arranged for a tourist trip to the Ukraine, then, having arrived in Lvov, he could either request permission there or simply take a train or bus to his village without requesting permission. AECASSOWARY/15

SECRET

SECRET

-2-

pointed out that as a native speaker and being familiar with the area, STELMACH possessed definite advantages in such a plan. STELMACH stated that this was a chancey thing and that since the trip would cost a considerable amount of money he was hesitant about going at all unless he was sure he could get to his home village. STELMACH added that he was planning to take his daughter as much because he wanted her to see the Ukraine as because he felt that he would be safer with her, a native American. (He could perhaps be talked out of taking his daughter.) AECASSOWARY/15 promised to do some research on the question and to recontact STELMACH within a week or so.

5. It was also ascertained from STELMACH that he is employed by the Domino Sugar Company. In addition to visiting his home village, STELMACH plans to ask permission to travel to Odessa, Kiev, Lvov, Verezhan, Berezhmyy, Dnepropetrovsk and Ternopol. (Since Dnepropetrovsk is a closed city, there is little chance of his being allowed there.)

6. On the basis of informal discussions with SR/10 and SR/6 it was decided that AECASSOWARY/15 could not make a definite recommendation to STELMACH, since there is ^{little chance this year or next to have} ~~no~~ such a recommendation. However, he will be told that if he processes his application through the Soviet Embassy, a positive reply will take from three to six months. Since STELMACH himself would bear most, if not all of the expense of his trip, no pressure should be brought to bear on him. The decision must be his alone.

7. A complete written report on AECASSOWARY/15's contact with STELMACH is expected from AECASSOWARY/15.

- []

SECRET