

S E C R E T

MEMORANDUM

22 September 1960

TO: []
 FROM: []
 SUBJ: AECASSOWARY-29

1. In studying our meager file on this case and following the current developments, a number of questionable points come to light. They fall into two categories: (1) gaps and questions in his biographic data and (2) some more far-reaching questions about his actual usefulness to KUBARK.

2. There are numerous holes and implications in AECASSOWARY-29's story as it appears in our files. Perhaps these points are satisfactorily explained in Headquarters records; they could very well be innocent omissions or misleadings, and we would appreciate receiving clarification if this is the case. However, if they have never been explained, we would like to see something done about it, not only as a matter of policy, to have our records complete, but because these points might possibly be indications that his story is phony. It could be a partially - or totally - fabricated legend to cover BIS, GIS, RIS, and/or other intelligence connections, or it could be an attempt to get prestige and recognition as an anti-Soviet operator, somewhat along the lines of the fake concentration camp story he told in Munich to get recognition and sympathy some thirteen years ago. Incidentally, he also used this story (which he later admitted himself to be false) to obtain legal German documentation, on the basis of which he moved into the camp for Ukrainian political refugees at Munich. As far as we know, his operational record is not such as to indicate that he is a particularly valuable operator for KUBARK or for anti-Communist activities in general, nor is it such as automatically to allay the doubts raised by his story. Maybe he has all kinds of potential and is perfectly bona fide. If so, we should have his full story and a concrete plan for his use. On the other hand, if there is good reason to question his ability and bona fides, we should reconsider the advisability of continuing to spend time on him at all. We would like to see him reassessed in terms of specific KUBARK needs; to have his status fully clarified; and then to decide whether he can really be of any use to KUBARK and if so whether FOB is the place for him.

3. Following are some of the main questions raised by his story:
- a. Was the question of his possible identity as an NKVD agent ever resolved? See FRAN 0746, 5 February 1960.
 - b. What was his cover for "full-time underground work" upon graduation from high school in the German-occupied Ukraine? Presumably student, since he says he maintained student registration; but, wouldn't he have had to show up at school? And would the Germans have exempted him from military or labor service just to let him continue his higher education?

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- c. He was arrested by the German SD as an OUN member in 1943. Is it likely that they would have released him after six to eight weeks incarceration for such a flimsy (under the circumstances) excuse as "no evidence"?
- d. What was the reason for his second arrest by the Germans?
- e. Under what status did they evacuate him from the Ukraine? Was it as punishment or what? Since this was his second arrest, would he not have been treated more severely? He was apparently just turned loose in Vienna; wasn't that unusual?
- f. How did he manage to leave his overt job as ambulance driver in Vienna to travel to Leipzig? Did the Germans allow such free circulation by people in his category?
- g. In Leipzig he registered as a student "for the benefit of the German authorities." Again: how did he avoid military or labor draft?
- h. He moved from Vienna to Leipzig on OUN business, with Ukrainian Committee documents as cover. Since the OUN was outlawed by the Germans in the Ukraine and presumably in the Reich as well, how would Ukrainian emigre documents be acceptable cover for such a move?
- i. The question of possible BIS connection was never resolved. Per []-1347, 20 January 1960, a JAGUAR/SMOTH security check showed no derogatory information on him, and AECASSOWARY-29 himself stated when asked (by some unidentified KUBARKER) that he had not been approached by SMOTH and had no connection with them. [] remarked in []-1347 that they assumed "no BIS activity subject or that JAGUAR and SMOTH have decided not disclose such record." The latter is a distinct possibility if we believe his own statement that in 1953 he was an instructor in political indoctrination working in joint OUN/B - SMOTH operations sending agents into the Ukraine.
- j. In 1945 he is supposed to have been a go-between in OUN-CIC negotiations in re uncovering Soviet agents in the American Zone of Germany, but this was "for a short time only." We next hear of him in 1947 shuttling between Ansbach and Munich on OUN reorganization work. What was he doing in between?
- k. KUBARK has not had much actual first-hand experience with AECASSOWARY-29. Our files do not indicate that he has ever been LCFLUTTERED, although he was interviewed by case officers, put through a training program, and given a psychological assessment (February 1960); see Attachment to EGOW-1655, July 1960.

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