

SECRET

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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

DETAILS

12. Igor TER-OVANESYAN:

a. This outstanding Soviet athlete of Armenian extraction had made good friends with an American athlete, Al CANTELLO, who in turn was a good friend of Dave SINE, one of the athletes who had been recruited by [] In conversations with CANTELLO, TER-OVANESYAN had indicated that he was disaffected with the Soviet regime on ideological and nationalistic grounds. He had also said that he could never be number one athlete in the Soviet Union because he had the wrong name, i.e., he was not Russian but "Ukrainian". (Although TER-OVANESYAN was born in Kiev and grew up in the Ukraine, he speaks no Ukrainian.) When Subject voiced his disaffection, CANTELLO suggested that Subject defect to the West and apparently Subject seemed to be interested in such a prospect. This information CANTELLO confided to SINE who informed [] Thereupon we recruited CANTELLO and arranged for CANTELLO to introduce Subject to me as "an individual who could offer specific guidance regarding defections".

b. Since there were insufficient data to judge that Subject was bona fide, I arranged that my meeting with him be surveilled in the initial stages. The whole operation was so planned that if surveillants were discovered, I would have only a street-walking meeting with Subject and after leaving him, a get-away was arranged in such a manner that whoever would be surveilling me would not be able to trace me to wherever I was going. Involved in the surveillance were six individuals and three autos (one of which, of course, broke down in the process--it never fails). Although no surveillance was noted and I was so signaled, I did not take Subject in the vehicle I had ready for such an eventuality because there was no real point in doing this.

c. In view of the fact that Subject had expressed some glimmerings of Ukrainian nationalism, I had told CANTELLO to give Subject my name as [] a typically Ukrainian surname. According to CANTELLO, Subject was pleased that a Ukrainian would be talking with him. However, in the initial few minutes that I spent with Subject and CANTELLO, we spoke in English and Subject stated that he had no command of the Ukrainian language so the entire meeting after the departure of CANTELLO was conducted in Russian. At no time during the meeting did Subject in any way indicate any nationalistic feeling.

27 Oct 1960