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27 May 1952

To: SR/WC
From: SR/W 2
Subject: Contact with CASSOWARY 2 on 23 May 1952 at Hotel Commodore,
New York City

Introduction:

It was decided that an operational contact would be made with CASSOWARY 2 for the purpose of soliciting his opinion and analysis on the validity of a W/T contact with one of the ZPUHVR couriers. In addition, it was felt that in accordance with an agreement made with him in 1951 he should be shown all contact messages made with his homeland.

Present at the conference were CASSOWARY 2, CASSOWARY 15, and Messrs. [] (known as [] and [] (known by his true name). The conversation was conducted in Ukrainian and in English.

1. As soon as CASSOWARY 2 and 15 came to the hotel room, the undersigned told CASSOWARY 2 that we had come to see him in order to get his analysis of the recent traffic and then proceeded to decipher all the messages which had come from the field. CASSOWARY 2 listened very carefully, asking a question now and then.

2. His first suggestion was to try to determine whether or not CARTHAGE 5's message 16 followed message 13 of last year or whether he had sent out two messages which were not received by the base. This could be done by examining the code book to see whether the first message this spring could be deciphered from the top page. If not, then it stood to reason that he had used some pages out of the book but we had not received his messages.

3. Incorrect Authenticators: Although CASSOWARY 2 did not know the CASSOWARY-CAWNPORE authenticator system being used currently, he was almost certain that if anything, the incorrect authenticator in this case could be considered as a sign of absence of control. In his past experience the authenticators always made sense; if, therefore, the authenticator were a nonsense syllable he felt that a controlling Soviet officer would not permit this to slip through. It would not be logical for CARTHAGE 5 to be using the incorrect authenticator to show that he is being controlled because if that were so, then his first message would not have been correct, nor the later ones. Since he does not know the method through which

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SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET

KAPOK ✓

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the indicators are derived, he was at a loss to explain fully and logically the error in the two messages; he was not, however, perturbed about it and did not in any sense consider it as a sign of Soviet control.

4. CASSOWARY 2 knows CARTHAGE 5 very well and maintains that the latter is not the type who could be turned. His personality is such that if he were under control, by this time he would have either committed suicide and, by the same inference, if he were unable to do away with himself, he would have let us know that he is under control. On the basis of the messages, CASSOWARY 2 says there is no evidence that CARTHAGE 5 is controlled.

5. Raionni Providnik: Last fall CARTHAGE 5 was staying with a man who since has been captured by the Soviets, and who knew the whereabouts of CARTHAGE 5's radio set. That is the set which CARTHAGE 5 has not used because of this very fact. CASSOWARY 2 maintains the following:

a. Since the Raionni Providnik has been compromised, therefore it is logical that CARTHAGE 5 would not use the set. If he were controlled, what would be the reason for the Soviet controlling officer to mention this fact? What would he gain by it? The mention of the Providnik's capture might serve as authenticating CARTHAGE 5 but what would be accomplished by mentioning that the set is compromised? According to underground SOP, CASSOWARY 2 says that the underground will determine whether the area where the compromised set is buried is under surveillance. If it is not, a few individuals will be delegated to get the set. This they will accomplish by checking to see whether the area is mined. If it is not mined, then that set will be retrieved.

b. Even if CARTHAGE 5 had been on completely friendly terms with the Providnik, he would not have divulged any part of the operation. In other words, he would have made no mention that he was a parachutist, where he had landed, where he came from, or who was with him. Some of this, however, the Raionni Providnik would probably have deduced, judging by CARTHAGE 5's dress, appearance, etc. CASSOWARY 2 is positive that the rest of the team is not compromised through CARTHAGE 5's "friendliness" with the Providnik. He is so certain of this because of his intimate knowledge of CARTHAGE 5's personality, as well as because of the SOP in the underground. The compartmentation of the underground is such that divulging this type of information would be punishable by death. The only thing that the Soviets could have learned if the Providnik had been broken would be the location of the radio and the fact that there was an operator in the area; he would have no other information to give. They then could deduce that the operator had come from the west.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET

KAPOK

SECURITY INFORMATION

~~SECRET~~KAPOK

and possibly from the American side, but they would have no way of knowing if there had been others or where they are presently.

6. Dead Drop: CASSOWARY 2 was rather perturbed by the fact that the dead drop, as yet, had not been serviced. Logically, it would seem that POLTAVA would want to get in touch with CARTHAGE 5 as soon as possible. Why hasn't he done so? There are a few explanations:

a. He has been killed in the winter oblavas.

b. The possibility of ~~POLTAVA~~^{*}'s capture alive was largely discounted by both CASSOWARY 2 and 15. In support of this, of course, is also the fact that the dead drop has not been serviced.

c. There is a possibility that POLTAVA had sent out a courier to service the drop but that the courier was killed on the way and POLTAVA has not heard of this or has not been able, as yet, to send someone else.

d. In any event it can be expected that the drop will be serviced within a very short period of time unless POLTAVA had actually been killed or his courier captured, thus compromising the dead drop.

7. CARTHAGE 5's Bodyguard: CASSOWARY 2 believes that the eight POLTAVA men are individuals given to CARTHAGE 5 as his bodyguard. The security of the underground is such that none of them know CARTHAGE 5's mission (except by deduction) and that they are nominally under his command, their mission being to protect him. Their influence on CARTHAGE 5's thinking would be limited and probably the only one of the group influencing the messages would be the leader. If there is no communication from POLTAVA very soon, CASSOWARY 2 expects that CARTHAGE 5 will order the leader of his bodyguard to send couriers looking for POLTAVA. Since they are POLTAVA's men they would be the only ones in possession of proper authenticators to search for him.

8. Assessment of Situation: CASSOWARY 2 feels that the operation is secure and he strikes the undersigned as an individual who bases his opinions on logic rather than on faith. The context of the messages, the timing of the broadcast, and the logic of the flow of events convinces him that CARTHAGE 5 is clean but he does admit that there is a 5% chance of control.

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- 3 -

SECURITY INFORMATION

KAPOK ✓

SECURITY INFORMATION

~~TOP SECRET~~

KAPOK

9. Recommendations:

- a. CASSOWARY 2 feels that CARTHAGE 5 is endangering his life by the frequency and length of his transmission. In actuality, he is not in a position to give us any valuable information. Whatever information he does have would be strictly of local character. For this reason, CASSOWARY 2 feels that CARTHAGE 5 should refrain from long messages until further contact is established with Headquarters.
- b. When there is a contact with Headquarters, CASSOWARY 2 will pose certain questions which will establish the bona fides of such individuals as POLTAVA or ~~KOVAL~~.
- c. No attempt at materiel or agent resupply drops should be made until such time that Headquarters has been contacted so that the responsibility for the security of the area be taken over by Headquarters. (Comment: This concept has been discussed fully in a memo by the undersigned of 13 May 1952).

10. ZChOUN Team:

- a. CASSOWARY 2 is under the impression that the three Ukrainian teams dropped by the British last year (one into Poland and two into Western Ukraine) were carried by the same plane. One of the teams in Western Ukraine was captured (our information was that they were liquidated but CASSOWARY 2 has heard that they were not liquidated until 2 days after their capture). Since we know that these teams were dropped from two planes and since the Polish team was captured and also apparently one of the Ukrainian teams, that would mean that regardless of which plane the second Ukrainian team came in, it would still be compromised or, at least the Soviets would be aware of its existence.
- b. Besides this, CASSOWARY 2 had contact with a Provid member of the ZChOUN who expressed doubt of the cleanliness of the ZCh team. The above, in addition to the fact that the team is begging for resupply, makes CASSOWARY 2 believe that that team is compromised. Both CASSOWARY 2 and 15 agree that anyone who has lived out the winter should have no problems in living out the summer off the land and the forest.

11. CASSOWARY 2 says he read the Ukrainian section of the British Intelligence Bulletin in which it was pointed out that the border between the Carpathian oblast and the rest of the Western Ukraine was heavily guarded with watch towers, etc. This should be investigated.

~~TOP SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

KAPOK

SECURITY INFORMATION

~~TOP SECRET~~

KAPOK

12. Some time in about the middle of April (1952), one of the workers of the Ukrainian State Security, ~~DEMIDENKO~~, was awarded The Order of LENIN for "services rendered" by General ~~KOVPAK~~ of the Ukrainian Security Service. This, CASSOWARY 2 maintains is for one of three reasons: Either for the capture and liquidation of the ZChOUN team last summer; for capture and turning of ZCh team which is now on the air, or for the liquidation of leaders of the Ukrainian underground during the summer and winter oblavas. It is a possibility, therefore, that the underground Headquarters has ceased to exist.

13. General Impression of CASSOWARY 2: He is a short man, aged beyond his years, emaciated, soft spoken, calm, cool and objective. CASSOWARY 2 is about 5 feet 7 inches tall, of slight build, weighing about 110 pounds, and appears to be 45-50 although his actual age is 42. He has a maimed right thumb which appears to have been improperly set as a result of a break. In addition, his health appears to be deteriorating, as evidenced by his careful dieting of excluding alcohol and fried foods. As a reason for his dieting, he mentioned that he was suffering from head and eye pains. Another explanation for the diet could be that he may have ulcers. It was observed during the entire conversation with him that his hands shook and he periodically lost control of his left eyelid which slowly closed, indicating that his nervous system was not sound. During the course of four hours he smoked approximately 16-18 Chesterfield cigarettes. His English is considered fair. He obviously understands more than he is able to express. He is not a person who talks for the love of talking and what he says is concise and logical. He is not a person who is given to emotion but one who functions in a detached sort of a way, analyzing each problem from all directions. The general impression is that he is, in the full meaning of the word, "an operator". Occasionally he hesitates in his speech as though collecting his ideas and when he says anything his words are chosen and calculated so that he is not lost in verbiage, as is the case with many emigres. Although he knows he is completely in our power, there is still a dignity about him since he carries himself as a representative of an underground government. Although he is frustrated politically, he did not let this show through except by a few humorous, yet cutting remarks, such as "when I am thrown out of the U.S....." etc. On the whole, the Case Officers are of the opinion that CASSOWARY 2 is highly intelligent, logical in his approach to problems, and highly experienced in clandestine operations. It is recommended by the Case Officers that during the present ops season CASSOWARY 2 be consulted once or twice a month for his experienced operational "know-how".

209 [~~TOP SECRET~~]

SECURITY INFORMATION

KAPOK