

EE

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DISPATCH NO. EGFA 21167

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CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, EE

DATE 7 April 1958

FROM : Chief, Frankfurt Operations Base

INFO: COS

SUBJECT: General—Operational/CALL/CATARSI

Specific—Attempt to Recruit CABATON-1 as a Safehouse Keeper

Summary: In order to satisfy a requirement for a high-level safehouse keeper in a BEDOX project, it was felt that CABATON-1's relatively long tenure of service and experience in clandestine operations would enable him to admirably carry out the rather sensitive role required for fulfillment of this assignment. CABATON-1 has been married approximately a year and he and his wife have only recently overcome the initial obstacles of setting up housekeeping on a permanent basis here in Germany, for in spite of a much discussed high level of the German economy at present the difficulties that young people in certain income brackets have in overcoming some of the basic obstacles to getting themselves situated as a family on the economy are still formidable. Subject's attitude regarding giving us operational assistance in certain support tasks remains cooperative; however, it does appear clear that he is unwilling to cooperate to the extent that would require him disrupting his current living arrangement which he and his wife have worked hard to achieve and which has given their marriage its first element of independence and security.

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1. On the night of March 26 at 9 o'clock case officer met Subject by prearrangement at his home. Case officer's general approach to Subject and his wife was that he wished to consider them for an important and sensitive assignment which would represent very little inconvenience to them personally. He explained that the task was of sufficient importance that it would constitute a positive contribution to their own country's security. Case officer further explained that his organization required somebody to occupy an apartment in Frankfurt which would serve as a listening post to an adjacent dwelling. No further details of the operation were given than this. He pointed out that as far as the world were concerned, Subject

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and his wife would be the ostensible renters of the apartment, and they would have complete privacy which would be interrupted only by a close colleague of the case officer who would come by appointment. Further, that Subject and wife would be paid 200 DM a month in addition to receiving rent and utilities free. The apartment would be guaranteed as their dwelling for a period of at least a year and we hoped for an indefinite period after that.

2. Inasmuch as the case officer had given a resume of his proposition to CABATON-1 at an earlier meeting that day, the purpose of this conversation was to attempt to "sell" the proposition to his wife. CABATON-1 had responded with enthusiasm and had said that he felt he and case officer had a reasonable chance of success because his work often kept him long hours away from home and his wife had felt tinges of loneliness in living in a rural country village.

3. It became quite obvious, as soon as the case officer had offered his proposition, that his and CABATON-1's hopes for an immediate favorable reception with Subject's wife were in vain. She is deeply attached to their present house, her first since the war, and although it left much to be desired as a dwelling when they moved into it, they have invested money and a great deal of their own personal energy in its improvement and it is now quite charming. The very fact that it is in the country with a magnificent view of the valley beneath it, plus the fact that after four years they have an option to buy it further enhances its value. In short, the idea of having to part with this dwelling is something that Subject's wife is quite unwilling to consider. We discussed as an alternative the possibility of their holding the house while they fulfill our proposed assignment. We even managed to dream up a cover story that we felt would lend plausibility to such action. However, Subject's wife, realizing that the proposed apartment was well beyond their actual income, protested that she would not be very happy about assuming a false standard of living for an extended period of time from which eventual retreat might be somewhat trying. Further, she argued that even if she and her husband could rationalize to the world that they were able to afford a second dwelling in the country as well as moving into a city dwelling, which was quite a step up for them on the economic ladder, the explanation for reversing this procedure at sometime in the future would be infinitely more difficult and embarrassing.

4. Realizing that if she were to be brought around at all it might require some "scull pounding" from her husband in privacy, case

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officer suggested that he and Subject meet the following Monday, March 31, to determine their final decision. This meeting took place at a prearranged intersection at five o'clock of that day. Subject appeared chagrined and said that although he thought he could force his wife to do this, she had not been persuaded. He said he would never be happy unless he could lend 100% of his enthusiasm to work of this type and with his wife's negative attitude he would be unwilling to undertake the task. We parted with profuse apologies from Subject.

5. Inasmuch as this project is being turned over to [redacted] and [redacted] (as already met Subject, he was instructed that he would be contacted in the future by his new case officer in his role as an accommodation address. [redacted] report on the turnover will be forwarded to Headquarters in the near future.

APPROVED [redacted]

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