

SECRET

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS

(430th CIC Detachment)

LAND SALZBURG SECTION

APO 541

U. S. ARMY

CIC SALZBURG
Ref. No. S-1344

ACTION	ES
INFO	
INFO	SPS
INFO	
FILE	

FKR:vtr
Hallein Sub-Section
4 March 1948

SUBJECT: Vatican Agent in Germany

Roman Catholic

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

The following information was submitted to the undersigned Agent by a confidential Russian informant of anti-Bolshevist and anti-Monarchist orientation and is claimed to be based on a lengthy conversation between Informant and Subject.

Subject is CITIZEN Pater Marcel van, Jesuit priest; age 39, Belgian subject, residing at Glorenstrasse 12, Salzburg. He is claimed to be a representative of the "Russian Section" of the Vatican, speaks the Russian language expertly, has a thorough knowledge of Russian affairs and occupies himself with furnishing assistance to anti-Soviet Russian DPs, particularly prominent political and Russian Orthodox personalities.

FILE FOR CE/CSS
CHRONOLOGICALLY

During a conversation with Source, Subject expressed the following views:

"After the revolution of 1917-1918 and as a result of thirty years of Soviet rule Russia has lost most of its spiritual guidance. The remaining Orthodox clergy consists either of very old men or of youths who grew up under the Soviet influence and who are often graduates of "Komsomoltsi" (Communist Youth). The church of Russia also stands under the influence of the NKVD who uses it to serve the ends of the Soviet state. As a consequence the Russian masses have lost their moral caliber and a spiritual vacuum has come into existence.

"The only organization prepared to save Christianity in Russia, following the possible and imminent collapse of the Soviet regime, is the Roman Catholic Church. Only the Vatican is able to fill the resulting vacuum with thousands of priests of modern education and flawless political and moral character, who will learn Russian customs and language in a short time and who will constitute a strong force for spiritual education, law and order. Based on historical experience, the Vatican considers that a harmonious collaboration between the Roman Catholic Church and a monarchist government will constitute the most satisfactory solution to the problem of a Godless Russia.

Q. MAR 1948

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

FOR COORDINATION WITH US Army

SECRET

"The inclusion of Russia, with one-sixth of the world's population, into the Roman Catholic realm will be a potent factor in the unification of all Christianity."

According to Source's interpretation of Subject's remarks, the Vatican aims at Catholic penetration of Russia at the establishment of a monarchist or Czarist regime and at the unification of all Christian religions under the Papal authority. Source believes that the Orthodox Church as one of the legendary "seven whales" upon which Mother Russia rests, is far too well established and too well adapted to the Russian mentality to therefore accept another faith.

Files of this office contain the following additional information concerning CUSTEM (OUTTEM) Marcel van Pater:

Born 28 April 1909 in Anwerp, Belgium; at the present, is a bona-fide representative of the Vatican, commissioned mainly with the gathering of highly classified intelligence and investigation missions.

F. K. Richter
F. K. RICHTER
Special Agent

Source: "Tornado"

Evaluation: C-3

DISTRIBUTION:

- 3 - Director of Intelligence, (IB) USFA
- 1 - A.C. of S., G-2, ZCA
- 1 - CIC, City of Vienna
- 1 - CIC, Upper Austria
- 1 - Hqs., 430th CIC Det., USFA
- 1 - File

SECRET