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X-2 BRANCH SECRET

LS-1267

July 27, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. G. Darwin Marron

SUBJECT: Edgar H. Yolland

The attached Memorandum contains information relating to the above subject which was requested by Mr. Doherty on July 21, 1944.

Horace W. Peters
X-2 BRANCH

Attachment (4 pages)

SOURCE: Varakis by hand
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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25 July, 1944

MEMORANDUM

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Re: HOLLAND, Edgar H.

Personal History:

Subject was born in Budapest on April 11, 1902. Another source, however, reports that he was born c. 1910. He considers himself to be an English citizen, although when he was 21 he was in the States and unable to return to England; so he became a naturalized American citizen.

He is reported to be ambitious, bright and well-informed. He is a translator by profession.

His address, as of September, 1943, is said to be: Posta Kutusu 2225, Beyoglu-Istanbul, Turkey.

Family History:

Father: Englishman, but a naturalized Hungarian, Professor of English at a Hungarian University (perhaps Budapest).

Mother: Hungarian.

Education:

Subject was first educated in Hungary, forming friendships with Balkan nationals who were in the Budapest Universities. Before he came of age, he came to the U. S., and studied at American Universities. At one time, he was attached to the Political Science Department of the University of California.

Experience:

In 1930, Subject was a correspondent in Warsaw.

Subject was in Budapest in 1940-41, and brought down material bearing on the German campaign in Poland, which was evidently given to some of "our" friends.

Subject was employed by Robert College, Istanbul, but was dismissed for incompetence.

Subject worked for OWI under PARKER, as a political commentator. He was a friend of LEHMANN of OWI. He was dismissed from OWI when

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PARKER was replaced by the new director (George BRITT ?), in August, 1943, and was hired by EO EO (1). This is contradictory to a report that states that after leaving OWI, Subject found miscellaneous jobs as a translator, as he is facile in several languages.

Subject is in the habit of preparing little memoranda on conditions in Hungary, written on single-spaced, thin yellow paper, which he delivers, impartially, to various American agencies and foreign embassies. None of this information is important. They contained references to the "Mystic Realm of St. Stephen", and gave the impression that Subject was "cracked". He was subsequently denied admission to the OWI offices and the U. S. Consulate.

In the fall of 1943, MLECZYNSKI (2) told the new director (BRITT ?) that Subject had given to the Japanese the plan of the OWI organization. However, Subject was not dismissed from the OWI because of working for the enemy, but for a ridiculous escapade connected with a Swedish beauty contest.

Additional Activities:

1. Subject addressed application to the editors of the Washington Post for a job as news analyst or correspondent for that paper. He considers himself an expert on Hungary, and says he is doing translation work on European papers, translating into English.

2. Subject wrote to a Mr. CARDONE that he had information on Hungarian Bankers and Manufacturers which might be useful to American business interests. He said he was watching the agricultural investment program, whose outcome will be important to the implement manufacturers who wish to export to Hungary. He states he has connections with the Tobacco Monopoly (sic). He also has made a study of the prospective evaluation of Hungarian bonds on the American money market, on the basis of material collected during his lectures on Hungary from 1926 to 1928.

3. It was reported that Subject is in touch with the enemy, who may be considering employing him for propaganda work in Germany. Berlin has cautioned Turkey that Subject may be an Allied spy or a double agent. Some of the Allies believe Subject is loyal to our cause, but others say that Subject feels no allegiance to the U.S. Abwehr defectors state that Subject is in the pay of the Germans, and was paid \$200.00 per month by STRITZER (3). During STRITZER's absence, it is understood that Subject was handled by VERMEHREN (4).

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Subject is reported to be an American journalist, pro-German and anti-Russian, and working for EO NO through George STREITER. He was first used by STREITER in his attempt to get information from the Poles. Subject visited STREITER to give him information on the opinions of Americans in the Consulate and the Istanbul Colony, and to tell him what sort of German propaganda would suit the American public. He also gave information on Anglo-American quarrels in the M.E., and asked for German books and press material in return.

4. Subject unsuccessfully attempted to become a representative of the MOOVR Committee in Turkey.

5. Subject used to say he could procure visas for Hungary, where his family was. He gave military information to the Germans, when he stated that high British I.S. officers asked the OWI for maps of Sofia, Budapest, Vienna and Belgrade, apparently for bombing purposes. Subject has been in touch with "our" organization in Istanbul, to which he has supplied economic and political information.

6. Subject knew DUPLITZER (5) of the S.D., but it is not known whether he gave DUPLITZER information.

7. Subject has recently been given a German passport and is trying to leave Turkey to go to Hungary, in order to broadcast German propaganda as an American. German authorities are having difficulties getting an exit visa for him. DUPLITZER went to TEVFIK Bey, sub-director of the local Turkish police, and insisted on an exit visa on the grounds that the Allies had been able to obtain these for Germans. TEVFIK Bey said he could not help him, since he was acting "on orders".

Subject's passport was furnished by the Germans, issued April 3, 1944, in Istanbul, and is valid for one round trip to Germany, up to June 3, 1944. It describes Subject as a translator by profession. A visa affixed to the document by the German authorities on April 4, 1944, makes it good for Croatia also. The document also bears a Bulgarian visa, permitting a three days' stay in Sofia "for the purpose of obtaining a visa for Croatia", dated Istanbul, April 18th. (In response to a request by State Department, the Foreign Ministry has given the police instructions not to allow Subject to leave Turkey.

8. Subject has written to General DONOVAN, offering his services. It is reported that we are trying to have him expelled from Turkey.

Additional Information:

1. Subject had acquaintances in the American Colony, Istanbul,

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among the Hungarians, and with other enemy nationals.

2. It is recommended that Subject forfeit his U.S. citizenship, and be denied readmission to the States.

(1) KO NO -- The Abwehr in Turkey.

(2) ~~MELICHNORCH~~ -- Abwehr official, who came over to the Allies.

(3) ~~STREITER~~, George -- a German journalist, working for KO NO and the Gestapo, especially against the U.S.A., in which connection he 'handles' YOLLAND, who gave him information about American public opinion. In August, 1943, STREITER asked KO NO to pay YOLLAND 200 T.L. When YOLLAND left OWI, he was hired by KO NO, working under STREITER, and was given instructions by the KO NO driver, HOENKE. YOLLAND's information was also passed to WINDELS, head of the Embassy Information Department, and it is believed that the Embassy took over paying him. *(Edg. in, provide direct agent)*

(4) ~~VERMEYER~~ -- Abwehr official who came over to the Allies last Spring.

(5) ~~DITLITZER~~, Emil -- Deputy Chief of the S.D. in Istanbul, and reported to be head of the Raffen SS. *known as agent YOLLAND, provide German agent*

(above official, Istanbul Turkey), deputy stated to be change of position since agent Edg. YOLLAND during above - of George STREITER

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