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DISPATCH NO. WELA-5426

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TO : Chief, FDW

DATE: 1 March 1951

FROM : [] *RSB*

SUBJECT: GENERAL
SPECIFIC: Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY

Reference: WELW-2704

Source: [] *TAB 2567*

1. Following is source's report on subject:

2. DURCANSKY arrived in the U.K. by air from Zurich on 14 September 1950. to stay two or three weeks with Igor BAZOVSKY, the vice-president and organizer of the British Branch of the Slovak Liberation Committee, and to contact the Scottish League for European Freedom. The latter is a right-wing anti-Communist organization which interests itself in Central European emigre problems in this country. Its activities are directed by John FORSTEWART from Edinburgh. Upon arrival, DURCANSKY stated that he was attached to a passive resistance movement in connection with Communist-dominated countries. He also said he was later to attend conferences sponsored by the Moral Re-Armament Group (Dr. BUCHMAN's Oxford Group) in Switzerland, France and Italy. DURCANSKY was travelling on an Argentinian document of identity No. 6246 issued at Buenos Aires on 27 June 1950, and was described as "Director of chemical factory". He was born at Rajec, Czechoslovakia, on 18 December 1905. He was at one time Slovak Foreign Minister in the Tiso Government, and at the end of 1945 together with a small group of Slovaks, fled before the arrival of the Russian Army from Slovakia. These emigres met in Rome, where they formed the Slovak Action Committee, and later DURCANSKY, with a number of others, went to South America and settled in Buenos Aires. It is reported that after a meeting in New York in 1949, the scope of the Slovak Action Committee was widened to include representatives of four Slovak political parties and was re-named the Slovak Liberation Committee with DURCANSKY as its chairman. The headquarters of this group is at Buenos Aires but branches are reported to have been established in the U.S.A., France, Spain and Germany, Italy and England. Its aim is to achieve Slovak independence and it is as strongly opposed to any form of Czechoslovak Government as it is to Communism. Its propaganda is conducted through a monthly journal called "Slovenska Republika" printed in Slovakian language in Buenos Aires.

Publications

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3. The British section of the Slovak Liberation Committee came into being in June 1949 and its principal organizer is Igor BAZOVSKY. Most of its members are S.V.W.'s who have arrived in England during two and a half years. This group is anti-Communist, pro-German and anti-Semitic; it can be described as pro-Hungary but has very few supporters and is not regarded with favor by a number of Slovak separatists in this country.

4. Dr. DURCANSKY left the U.S. by air for Montreal on 14 December 1950 and has not returned here since. It is believed that he was in touch in London with Peter PRIDAVCK, Secretary General of the rival Slovak separatist organization, the Slovak National Council Abroad, with a view to bringing about a reconciliation between the two rival groups.

5. The Slovak National Council Abroad was formed in 1949 with headquarters in Rome. It is a political organization of Slovak separatists whose leader and chairman is Karel SIDOR, former Deputy Prime Minister of Slovakia, who has lived in the Vatican City for many years. At the time of the Slovak Independent State under Hitler, SIDOR was its Ambassador to the Vatican. It aims at a right-wing Federation or United States of Central Europe with Slovakia as an independent and sovereign member under Polish domination, as the only solution to the problem of Central South East Europe to be created after the next war. It is, of course, strongly anti-Communist.

6. Source comment that if SIDOR is now in Canada; it seems quite probable that DURCANSKY will meet him to pursue the talks he is reported to have had with the former's representative in London during his visit last year.

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