

20 Feb 1952

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2006

PNN:

This is a fascinating report, tying
Tilda BANYAS in with SCHEIDLER, GRIMMS,
HOETTL, FOELDES-PAPP and an alleged
HIS agent named SERENYI who now is
supposedly Arrow Cross. Do you know
Jozsef SOLTRA?

The case was started by Dom when a
French l/o left a page of notes on his
desk mentioning these personalities and
misspelling most of them. John MEYER
is very interested.

csf

CASE WAS DISCUSSED WITH J.M + D.D.G.
INVESTIGATION WILL BE CONTINUED BY LIC

P.N.N.
ed
FOR COORDINATION WITH JORDAN

1 copy to 35 ~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~
AGENT REPORT INFORMATION

RECORDS FILE

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

BANYAS, Tilda
Alleged HIS Personality in Salzburg

2. DATE SUBMITTED

10 February 1951

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NO.

CIC Salzburg
Ref. No. S-11495 TDK/mc

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATION:

To determine whether or not SUBJECT is in contact with one Lieutenant SABO (or SZABO) of the AVH through one Mrs. (fnu) IRIS; to determine the identity of one Karl SEIFERT or SCHIFFER, also a "Herbert" and a "Heinz", all of whom are alleged associates of Mrs. IRIS, and to determine the identity of one (fnu) SERENYI, an alleged courier between SUBJECT and SABO (SZABO).

REFERENCES:

Disposition Form, G2, USFA, dated 2 October 1951, (Ref. No. CI/1452/51), Subject: "BANYAS Tilda", transmitted via Comment 2, Headquarters 430th CIC Detachment, dated 8 October 1951, (Opns. Case No. 2538), which makes reference to an attached informal report dated April 1951, wherein is contained information to the effect that SUBJECT had worked with (fnu) URBAN for the Americans and had allegedly said that she discontinued giving information to URBAN for personal reasons. When questioned, she finally admitted to be working for a Lieutenant (fnu) SABO of the Ministry of Interior in Budapest, an employee of the AVH. This lieutenant frequently travels to Salzburg, where he meets SUBJECT at the home of a certain Mrs. (fnu) IRIS, who maintains a dressmaking establishment and who is the wife of Karl SEIFERT or SCHIFFER, a German in the employ of URBAN. Sometimes, one (fnu) SERENYI is used as a courier between SUBJECT and SABO. Another courier is a certain "Herbert" who patronizes the Salon owned by Mrs. IRIS. Other associates of IRIS are a certain "Heinz" and a "M. URBAN." In Innsbruck, SUBJECT maintains contact with Dr. (fnu) RADANY, who also collaborates with URBAN. The Disposition Form states that URBAN, mentioned above, is undoubtedly identical with Josef Adolf URBAN, born 5 January 1897, a former Abwehr personality, neo-Nazi and peddler of false information and that SUBJECT is known to have been his mistress. Also, according to the Disposition Form (fnu) SERENYI, mentioned above, could be identical with Istvan SERENYI, Salzburg, Kuehberggasse 22.

DDP

FOR COORDINATION WITH

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

THOMAS D. KELLY, S/A CIC
430th CIC Sub-Dep "A" (S)

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

Thomas D. Kelly

~~SECRET~~
AGENT REPORT INFORMATION

SA FORM 100 (FORM 3-41)

~~SECRET~~

Alfred
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RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION:

1. SUBJECT is not known to Informants 3702, 3726-T, 3764 and 3777-T, or their sub-Sources, all of whom concern themselves with Hungarian personalities in the Salzburg area. (B-2)
2. On 23 November 1951, the files of IRO, Lehener Kaserne, Salzburg, contained no information concerning SUBJECT. (B-2)
3. It was established through various sources on 10 October 1951 that the "Wiener Modelle" also known as the "Iris" Shop, Salzburg, Franz Josefskai 9, a women's apparel shop, is owned and operated by one "Iris" SCHEIDLER, the wife of Arthur SCHEIDLER, a former Abwehr personality, who operates an auto parts import firm at the same address. (A-1)
4. According to information made available by the Salzburg police on 5 November 1951, SUBJECT is not registered as residing in Salzburg. Also, Josef Adolf URBAN, born 8 January 1907 is not registered in Salzburg. Iris SCHEIDLER nee JOCKE, born 14 November 1911, in Vienna, who operates a dressmaking establishment at Franz Josefskai 9, resides at Salzburg, Eichstrasse 42. Arthur SCHEIDLER, Iris' husband, also resides at Eichstrasse 42. A complete list of all occupants residing at Salzburg, Kuschberggasse 22 failed to disclose that one Istvan SERENYI is residing at that address. The above list did not disclose one Akosz SZABO (Agent's Note. See Par. 7 and File Check) to be residing at Kuschberggasse 22. The files do disclose one Jozsef SOLTRA, a Journalist, born 1 January 1911 (Agent's Note: Probably Jozsef SOLTRA) as residing at Kuschberggasse 22 (Agent's Note - See Par. 7 and File Check). Police information further disclosed that one Istvan SERENYI born 13 December 1917, Trencsenitz, Romania, who arrived in Salzburg during 1949, has resided at DP Camp Parsch since 27 November 1950. SERENYI is listed as an electrical technician. (Agent's Note: Arthur and Iris SCHEIDLER mentioned above are believed to be identical with Karl SEIFERT or SCHIFFER and Mrs. (fnu) IRIS mentioned in reference Disposition Form.) (B-3)

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5. A telephone and letter intercept of the address and telephone of Iris SCHEIDLER was conducted for a period of sixty days during November and December 1951 and January 1952. This phase of the investigation failed to disclose any information that SCHEIDLER is connected with SUBJECT, Lieutenant SZABO (SABO), URBAN, SERENYI, or RADANY. Also, there was nothing established between SCHEIDLER and a "Heinz" or a "Herbert". The intercepts did confirm other information, previously obtained, that Arthur and Iris SCHEIDLER are engaged in the sale of women's apparel and the import of toys and auto parts into Austria.

6. The following information concerning Arthur and Iris SCHEIDLER, owners of the "Wiener Modelle", Salzburg, Franz Josefskal 9, was obtained from Informant 3791-T (Evaluation: "B"), who has known the family since 1945: (Information: 3)

Iris SCHEIDLER, divorced PRAXMARER nee JOCKL, married her present husband, Arthur SCHEIDLER during World War II, while he was an adjutant to General KALTENBRUNNER, Chief of the German SD for Austria. Her former husband, (fnu) PRAXMARER, was a well-known physician in Vienna and a member of the NSDAP. Arthur SCHEIDLER was taken prisoner at the end of World War II and held at Nuernburg, Germany until some time in 1948. He was a witness at the Nazis War Crimes trials. While Iris SCHEIDLER lived at Alt Auessee, she became acquainted with and gave information concerning Nazi Party members to several CIC personalities. Iris moved to Salzburg, Haunspergstrasse 54 and operated a concession at the OH Hotel. The indigenous manager of this US Officer's billete was one "Heinz" GRIMMS, a brother of Wilhelm "Willie" GRIMMS, a Communist journalist in Salzburg. "Willie" GRIMMS was known to have been an intelligence gatherer for the Communist Party and according to what Iris SCHEIDLER told Informant, he also furnished information to one Mr. (fnu) MELLON, 430th CIC. The go-between in the GRIMMS-MELLON complex was Iris SCHEIDLER. Informant does not know how Iris became acquainted with "Willie" GRIMMS except perhaps through his brother, "Heinz" GRIMMS, with whom she worked at the OH and with whom she was on very intimate terms. "Heinz" GRIMMS lost his job at the OH in 1948 or 1949, when he was sentenced

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by an Austrian Court to serve two years in prison for
blackmarket activities and forgery. After his release
(date unknown), Informant learned during a casual con-
versation with Iris that "Heinz" GRIMMS was employed by
IRO, Salzburg and that he is again involved in some
type of illegal activities. Informant does not believe
that Iris is in open relations with "Heinz" GRIMMS, be-
cause of the fear that her husband might become aware of
her activities while he was a War Crimes prisoner.
Whenever the subject of the GRIMMS brothers comes up,
Iris is usually more than anxious to change the con-
versation. Another personality with whom the SCHEIDLERS
are in close contact is "Herbert" (LNU) and his wife,
"Hilda". "Herbert" is a former SS member, who was a
subordinate of SCHEIDLER during World War II. He is an
Austrian citizen and about 38 years old. Hilda, about
35 years old, worked with Iris at the OH Hotel and later
worked for Iris when she opened the "Wiener Modelle"
on Franz Jossfakai during 1950. "Herbert" and "Hilda"
are not currently residing in Salzburg. He is employed
as a salesman for a tool and motor parts firm (name and
location unknown). Another personality with whom the
SCHEIDLERS were acquainted is Wilhelm "Willie" HOETTL,
a resident of Land Upper Austria who has been involved
in intelligence activities for the Americans. Until
1949 or perhaps 1950 the HOETTLs and the SCHEIDLERS
were close friends but according to Iris SCHEIDLER,
the two families have been on the "outs" for about two
years. According to Informant, the SCHEIDLERS, in
addition to managing the Wiener Modelle, are engaged
in importing toys and motor parts into Austria. Informant
could not elaborate on this import business. (Agent's
Note: Informant was questioned concerning other per-
sonalities mentioned in reference report and was not
able to give information concerning any connection
between Iris SCHEIDLER and SUBJECT, URBAN, SERENYI,
Lieutenant SZABO (SABO), RADANY or NEMETH.)

7. The following information concerning Istvan
SERENYI, born 13 December 1917, was submitted on 11
February 1952 by Informant 3702 (Evaluation: "B") who
received the information from various refugees in the
Salzburg area: (Information: 3)

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X { SERENYI, a journalist, came to Austria during 1949, prior to which time he had been imprisoned in Hungary for his journalistic activities during World War II. He was released and trained by KATPOL (Katona Politikai Osztaly - Military Political Department) and sent to Western Austria on a mission. SERENYI, with Karoly KARVALY, also a KATPOL Agent, turned themselves in to the Western authorities upon their arrival in Austria. It is not the general opinion among Hungarian DPs that SERENYI has had further contact with the HIS. On the contrary, SERENYI has joined an extreme right-wing organization consisting of former members of the Hungarian Nyilaskereszt (Arrow Cross Party), which is operating in Austria under the leadership of one former Hungarian General, Arpad HENNEY. SERENYI assumes a very active role in this organization and distributes the group's monthly bulletin, "Hidvertek", and other propaganda pamphlets. He is also employed by the US Army publication, Stars and Stripes, and operates the paper's delivery routes in Salzburg. SERENYI resides at Salzburg, Kuefberggasse 22, with one Joseph SOLTRA, an intelligence operative for an unknown intelligence group. Also residing at the same address and who is in close contact with SERENYI and SOLTRA is one Sandor HAHOTI, who uses the Munich published newspaper, Hungaria, as a cover for his intelligence activities and one Akos SZABO, an intelligence operative employed with one of the US intelligence organizations. (Agent's Note: Sandor HAHOTI has been under observation by Informant 3702 for a considerable period of time. Recent unconfirmed reports have mentioned HAHOTI as a person who is in nightly contact with Karoly FOELDES-PAPP, assistant chief of the Magyar Iroda (Hungarian Office) in Salzburg. Informant does not know SOLTRA but is aware of Akos SZABO's activities.)

8. According to the files at DP Camp Parsch and DP Camp Glaserbach, near Salzburg, Istvan SERENYI, mentioned above is not registered at either camp. (C-3)

FILE CHECK:

Other than reference Disposition Form the files of this Sub-Detachment contain no information concerning SUBJECT.

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AGENT REPORT, CIC, Sub-Detachment "A", dated 26 November 1951, (Ref. No. S-11924). Subject: "SZABO Akosz, Hungarian Refugee Residing in Salzburg", mentions Salzburg, Kuehberggasse 22 (stated in reference Disposition Form as the address of one Istvan SERENYI) as the address of one Akosz SZABO, a Hungarian refugee in the Salzburg area, who is engaged in a Hungarian resistance movement outside Hungary.

The files of this Sub-Detachment contain the names of numerous personalities "SZABO", none of which can be identified as Lieutenant (fnu) SZABO mentioned in reference Disposition Form.

The files of this Sub-Detachment contain information to the effect that one Istvan SERENYI, born 13 December 1917 at Trencsenteplic, Rumania was rejected for employment with USFA on 29 August 1949; no reason given. According to his statement upon application for employment he was a sport reporter and journalist since 1941. He left Hungary during 1948 and was interrogated by CIC, Linz, who sent him back to Hungary on a mission during July, 1948. He was arrested by the Hungarian Authorities during February 1949 and a short while later was sent to the "West" with instructions. (Agent's Note: SERENYI does not elaborate on the above "instructions" but rather states that he reported his activities to CIC upon his arrival in Salzburg.) According to the files SERENYI resided at DP Camp Glasenbach, near Salzburg.

AGENT REPORT, CIC, Sub-Detachment "A", dated 27 July 1949, (Ref. No. S-4929), Subject: "BAY Jozsef, Engineer, Radar Expert", mentions Istvan SERENYI, born 13 December 1917 in Trencin, CSR, as the sub-Source of information concerning a personality in Hungary desirous of escaping to the West.

An undated letter from an unknown person to CIC, Salzburg discloses that the wife of a former high ranking SD leader who worked with General KALTENBRUNNER is residing in Austria and owns 100,000 dollars in banknotes. The anonymous author asks CIC for a reward of 10 per cent to be deposited in Switzerland for his disclosure of the name, which he would accomplish if an agreement is reached. (Agent's Note: The letter does not disclose

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the name; however, a pencil note at the bottom of the letter, placed there by an unidentified CIC personality states that the woman mentioned above is Frau (fmu) SCHEIDLER, wife of (fmu) SCHEIDLER, KALTENERUNNER's Adjutant. The letter indicates that it may have been written shortly after World War II.)

Karoly KARVALY, born 28 March 1923 in Voerocsto, Hungary, probably identical to personality mentioned above, is mentioned as a possible HIS Agent in Austria. (Agent's Note: KARVALY immigrated to South America during the fall of 1951.)

Josef SOLTRA, born 1 January 1911, Vianye, Hungary, probably identical to personality mentioned above, was screened by MIS during the period 24 to 28 October 1949 as a Hungarian refugee. He was arrested by the British for lack of documents at Furstenfeld with one Victor MOLDOVAN, during August 1950, while both were engaged in one specific rat-line operation from Rumania via Hungary to Austria for CIC.

Sandor HAHOTI, born 12 April 1920 at Kapcsvar, Hungary, probably identical to personality mentioned above, is mentioned in numerous reports as a Hungarian personality who claimed, upon his arrival in Austria during 1949, that he had at his disposal a subversive organization composed of seven thousand men placed at strategic locations in Hungary which could be used as an intelligence network. He attempted, without results, to sell his plans to various US intelligence agencies. The files also contain information that HAHOTI has debriefed refugees stating that he was employed with the periodical, Hungaria, published in Munich.

General Arpad HENNY is mentioned in the files of this Sub-Detachment as the leader of the Hungarian Nyilas in Austria.

AGENT REPORT, CIC, Sub-Detachment "C", dated 13 January 1950, (Ref. No. V-9710), Subject: "Possible False Information to be Sold to Allied Intelligence Agencies", mentions one Josef URBAN as a member of a group of persons planning to draft a number of lengthy reports, containing false information to be submitted as "smoke" to Allied Intelligence Agencies.

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AGENT REPORT, CIC, Land Salzburg Detachment, dated 25 July 1945, (Ref. Case No. S-H-3), Subject: "Arthur REICHERT Kriminal Obersekretar, Kripo and Allgemeine SS Sturmcharfuhrer", mentions one Arthur SCHEIDLER as an SS Obersturmfuhrer and an Adjutant to General KALTENBRUNNER.

AGENT REPORT, CIC, Upper Austria Section, dated 17 April 1947, (Ref. Case No. BI/3433), Subject: "SCHEIDLER Iris", contains the results of an interrogation of Iris SCHEIDLER nee JOCKL, born 14 November 1911 in Vienna, concerning an allegation to the effect that she utilized the funds of the Reichsausschereitsamt for her personal use and that several million Marks, foreign currency and gold, stored in Mrs. SCHEIDLER's apartment have now disappeared. The interrogation failed to show SCHEIDLER involved in the above allegation. Also, in the report it is brought out that Iris SCHEIDLER is an acquaintance of Willie HOETTL, probably identical to Wilhelm HOETTL, mentioned above.

Numerous other reports this Sub-Detachment mention Arthur SCHEIDLER, husband of Iris SCHEIDLER, as an SD leader, who was the Adjutant of General KALTENBRUNNER, head of the SD in Austria and the Balkans.

The files of this Sub-Detachment mention one Wolfgang GRIMMS, born 10 June 1914 in Vienna, a brother of Wilhelm GRIMMS, who is a KPOe member and an editor of the Salzburg Tagblatt, Communist sponsored newspaper. The files mention Wolfgang as a former employee of 538th Ordnance Tank Maintenance Unit, and the Oesterreichischer Hof, who served a jail sentence for blackmarketing of sugar. Wolfgang GRIMMS is believed to be identical with "Heinz" GRIMMS mentioned above.

The files of this Sub-Detachment contain voluminous information identifying Wilhelm GRIMMS, mentioned above, as a KPOe member, a Salzburger Tagblatt editor, an opportunist informant of CIC, who has been of considerable concern to this Sub-Detachment.

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Dr. Wilhelm HOETTL is mentioned in numerous reports this Sub-Detachment as a personality residing in Land Upper Austria, who is involved in extensive intelligence activities for almost anyone who is willing to purchase his findings.

Monthly Situation Report, 1 August to 31 August 1950, from CIC, Sub-Detachment "B" to AC of S, G2, USFA, dated 31 August 1950, mentions one Josef URBAN, a former Obersturmbannfuhrer, as one of the best workers of Dr. Adolf SLAVIK, a leading figure in the Austrian National League.

AGENT REPORT, CIC, Sub-Detachment "C", dated 3 October 1949, (Ref. SOI-V-8116), Subject: "Organization for False Information", mentions one Joszi URBAN as the Chief source of false information for a group of individuals engaged in supplying false information concerning KPOs and the Soviets to whomsoever will buy the information. URBAN is employed with a US intelligence Agency in EUCCOM according to the report.

Josef URBAN, born 7 October 1901, a German National, last known address, Vienna, was dropped as an Informant by US Intelligence Agencies in the US Zone of Germany and Austria on 1 April 1950 for ineptitude.

Disposition Form, G2 Opns, dated 20 September 1950, Subject: "Milos SWOBODA", mentions one Josef Adolf URBAN (many aliases - none given) as an Intelligence personality in contact with one Milos SWOBODA, who has furnished information to numerous intelligence Agencies and who has been in contact with Wilhelm HOETTL.

Karoly FOELDES-PAPP is mentioned in the files of this Sub-Detachment as the assistant Chief of the Magyar Iroda (Hungarian Office) in Salzburg and who, prior to obtaining the above position, wrote two compromising letters to Hungary and who had certain papers brought from Hungary through Italian Diplomatic Channels. He was a protestant church leader in Hungary prior to his coming to Austria during 1951.

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Scout

Thomas D. Kelly
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AGENT'S NOTES:

Up to this time, the Undersigned has not been able to locate SUBJECT without questioning the SCHEIDLERS or other personalities who may be involved. Informant 3791-T has been instructed to keep in contact with Iris SCHEIDLER to identify, if possible, other personalities mentioned in reference Disposition Form and to obtain any other information which may "shed" light on the alleged HIS activities. Also an attempt to definitely locate Istvan SERENYI and establish the extent of his activities for future questioning is in progress. It has not as yet been fully established whether or not Istvan SERENYI, mentioned above, is identical with (fnu) SERENYI referred to in reference Disposition Form. The investigation of the activities alleged in reference report is continuing, and it is hoped all persons can be identified without directly questioning anyone concerned until the proper time.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It would appear from the report attached to reference Disposition Form and from investigation so far concluded, that the Source of the information was not too well informed or he could have better identified Mrs. Iris, the wife of "Karl SEIFERT or SCHIFFER". Also, the above report is dated April 1951 and it is possible that the Source may have developed or learned further information, therefore, it is recommended that either the Source be recontacted to furnish more information or that he be made available to the Agent charged with conducting the investigation.

Also, reference Disposition Form states that URBAN, mentioned in attached report, is undoubtedly identical with Josef Adolf URBAN, born 8 January 1897, former Abwehr personality, neo-Nazi and peddler of false information. SUBJECT is known to have been his mistress. From the above statements, it would appear that the office of origin of reference Disposition Form is in possession

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Lead

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of information concerning SUBJECT and URBAN that is not in the files of this Sub-Detachment. Therefore, it is recommended that information which may be known concerning SUBJECT and URBAN be forwarded to assist in further investigation.

APPROVED:

JAMES E. MILLER
Major, MPC
Commanding

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THOMAS D. KELLY, S/A CIC,
430th CIC Sub-Det "A" (Salz)

Thomas D. Kelly

sent

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