

BAND KENNEDY

DISPATCH		CLASSIFICATION S E C R E T	DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NO. OSBA-11299
TO INFO	Chief, SR Acting Chief, WE		HEADQUARTERS FILE NO. 74-6-76/2,3
FROM	[]		DATE 16 March 1962
SUBJECT	[]		IS "OJ" - CHECK "Y" ONE
	[]		MARKED FOR INDEXING
	[]		NO INDEXING REQUIRED
ACTION REQUIRED	For Your Information		INDEXING CAN BE ADDED BY QUALIFIED HQ. DESK ONLY
<p>Attached herewith the undersigned's memorandum on his encounter with P. IKEN, a Russians-born Swedish citizen, Secretary of the "Truhskolarna Styrelse" (Administration of Trade Schools) in Stockholm, whose background and insistence on meeting [] and discuss with him "Russian emigration in SWEDEN" appear to us of interest and on whom we would like to obtain all information possibly available to Headquarters.. Following the meeting with Subject on 5 March [] has made another effort to identify the original family name of IKEN, but so far without success. Does Headquarters have any historical information about the identities of those Russian emigres in Sweden, who were involved in an attempt on the life of a Soviet diplomat or diplomats in the twenties? We would also be interested to hear if Subject has been in any way connected with or reported previously by AMERICAN or AMERICAN sources in Sweden.</p> <p>[]</p>			
<p>ATTACHMENT: Memorandum</p> <p>DISTRIBUTION S-SR w/att S-WE w/att 1/att</p>			
<p>DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SOURCE: METHOD 6 EXEMPTION 302 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT DATE 2007</p>			
<p>Subj in att.</p>			
FORM 10-57 33 140	USE PREVIOUS EDITION. REPLACES FORMS 51-28, 51-28A AND 51-29 WHICH ARE OBSOLETE	CLASSIFICATION S E C R E T	PAGE NO. 1.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD / ACCORDING FILE/

SUBJECT : P. IRDEN

1. Subject was encountered at the meeting of the Soviet Study Group at the Slavic Institute on 2 March. After the session he made an obvious effort to get acquainted with the undersigned. His curiosity was apparently aroused by Dr. KALNINS' brief remark before the session that "an American professor" was present, whose true name Dr. K. also mentioned.

3. Subject called up the undersigned on 3 March, stated that he had obtained his telephone number from Dr. KALNINS and that he would like to meet the undersigned and talk with him about the "Russian emigration" in the United States. The undersigned told Subject right away that he had no real contacts among the emigre groups in the States, knew comparatively little about them, and hence could provide Subject with little useful information. Nevertheless, Subject showed such a pronounced desire to speak with the undersigned that the undersigned agreed to meet Subject in the evening of 5 March. The conversation was conducted in Russian.

4. Following Subject's call, the undersigned called up Dr. KALNINS and asked him whether Subject was a student and if so what his interests could be. Dr. K. confirmed that Subject had asked him for the undersigned's telephone number and provided the following additional information: Subject is of Russian origin and the son of Russian emigres, who came to Sweden around 1924. After an attempt on the life of a Soviet diplomat in Sweden in that period, Subject's parents changed their original name to the name of IRDEN. Dr. K. could not recollect the original name of the family but stated that it was purely Russian name. Subject himself has been known to Dr. K. approximately for three years. He is a member of the Swedish Social-Democratic party and Dr. K. met him apparently through his party connections. Subject showed then a strong interest in Russian emigre matters and Dr. K. advised him to get in touch with the Russian Social-Democratic group around the "Sotsialisticheskiy Vestnik", the publication of the Russian SDs published in New York. Apparently, Subject wrote to them asking for names of some other Russian socialist in Sweden and was again given Dr. K.'s name. Since that time he has been maintaining a casual contact with Dr. K. and the Slavic Institute. According to Dr. K., he has a strong interest in Russian affairs, reads much about them, but is not actively engaged in any research or studies. Dr. K. mentioned that he is an employee or a secretary of the "Administration of the Professional/Trade Schools" in Stockholm, has a fairly good position, and has a good character and reputation. Dr. K. did not think that Subject was interested in any jobs, grants or support and probably just wanted to talk with the undersigned, since he does not have many friends among the few Russian emigres in Sweden, who are mostly of an older age and more conservative in their political views.

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5. Subject was met in the evening of 5 March and invited to a cafe, where the conversation lasted for slightly more than two hours. A variety of general topics was discussed and the following info was elicited from Subject who, however, displayed a somewhat surprising mixture of self-consciousness, reserve and outright evasion, considering his own insistence to meet the undersigned:

a/ Subject was born in Sweden and is about 36 years old. He has never been nor does he intend to go to the USSR /he himself did not mention anything about his family background which might be the actual reason for his reluctance to visit the USSR/. He considers himself a Swede, but does not identify himself completely with the Swedish way of life. His parents are still alive. They and his grand-father taught him Russian. He mentioned also that his grand-father was a "kadet"/member of the Constitutional-Democrats prior to the Russian revolution/ and that he knew the undersigned's father's background./ This he must have learned either from Dr.K. or from his parents/.

b/ Subject did not mention specifically his job, saying merely that he was an employee of the Stockholm municipality. But he stated that he liked his job and did not plan for any special further studies. It seems that he has an incomplete law education. He explained that his interests in Soviet and Russian affairs was that of an "amateur". He displayed, however, a very solid knowledge of all Russian emigre organizations, including NTS, ZOPE etc. He seemed to be very interested in finding out what organized activities there are among the Russian emigres in the United States. /The undersigned told him that he did not think of himself as a Russian emigre any longer, had practically no interest or connections with Russian emigres, and in general pretended a considerable ignorance since it was not quite clear what Subject was actually after/.

c/ Subject stated that he was a socialist but often disagreed with the Swedish Social-Democrats, especially in their attitude towards the Soviets. He objected especially that many Swedish Social-Democrats often consider the USSR and the USA as two more or less equal forces, without making a real distinction between their political ideologies and tactics. He stated that he was often reading the "Problems of Communism" and asked specifically if the undersigned ever wrote for this publication.

d/ Subject displayed some criticism towards the more conservative Russian emigre circles, expressed the opinion that he did not believe that any revolutionary actions from outside could change the Soviet regime, quoting specifically the NTS ballooning actions. He seemed to be extremely well-informed on all such activities, surprisingly well, as a matter of fact, considering that his only acknowledged sources are the Russian publications. The conversation did not permit to establish Subject's precise degree of anti-Communist attitudes and feelings.

e/ Subject implied that he has had a goodly share of personal troubles in the last years and later yielded the information that he had been married, had two children, and that his wife had left him several years ago. He is apparently very troubled by this and seems to suffer considerably. He also hinted at being in a fairly precarious economic position because of his family matters.

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However, he drives an own car, a Volkswagen. He mentioned that he could not invite the undersigned to his apartment because he had only a small and uncomfortable room.

6. Subject did not display too much curiosity for the undersigned's background. He seemed to know already some of it. The undersigned, somewhat baffled by Subject's lack of clear purpose for the meeting, gave him sufficient facts, saying that he was an American researcher, had completed his study which was aiming at an analysis of the sociological and social re-settlement methods of refugees in Sweden, and was now studying Swedish academic institutions, Swedish literature, culture etc. The undersigned's interest in Soviet affairs was soft-pedalled. Subject was told that the undersigned was primarily in Soviet theatre and stage and considerably less in political questions, but the undersigned left no doubts that he was opposed to the Soviet regime and of course more or less aware of what was going on in the USSR, as any educated person of Russian background would be.

7. Even after this first and rather lengthy encounter the undersigned has not obtained a clear picture why Subject was so interested in meeting the undersigned. Had it been the usual encounter between two people of the same national background, casual, purposeless, and merely based on natural curiosity, the matter would be very simple. But Subject's behavior was neither relaxed nor casual, and the undersigned's could not help feeling that during the conversation Subject displayed a far more than normal caution. He did not seem at ease. Perhaps, he has some psychological troubles arising from his unhappy family experiences, but he seems to be balanced enough in his external behavior. Since he did not want anything in the line of jobs, financial support, recommendation or specific information on studies in the United States, his insistence on meeting the undersigned did not quite jibe with the request for information on Russian emigre organizations. Without being able to say why, the undersigned had the feeling that Subject had some more specific purpose in mind but that he never developed it during the conversation.

8. In view of Subject's rather vague attitude, the undersigned did not make any effort to encourage him to meet again. He was told that he would be welcome to call again, but the undersigned did not invite him or specify when he should call.

9. Has no traces on Subject; Dr. KALNINS cannot recollect what his original name is and hence it is somewhat difficult to establish his background. Subject does not seem to present an immediate operational interest but he is a Russian speaker, obviously knows a lot about the Russian emigration and perhaps has some contacts of interest. The undersigned would like to find out more about him before deciding whether a casual social contact is of value.

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