

26 March 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

SUBJECT: French Query Re CIA Use of Tashnaks

On 25 March 1952, M. Philippe Thyraud de VOSJOLI, (French) SDECE representative in Washington, handed the attached memorandum entitled, "Armenian Ways to Enter in U.R.S.S." to Mr. WISNER, DD/P.

Mr. WISNER gave this memorandum and the attached NEA memo, dated 21 March 1952 (Subject: "French Query re CIA Use of Tashnaks") to the writer on 25 March 1952 with the request that a reply to de VOSJOLI be prepared for DD/P's signature in conjunction with NEA Division.

It is requested that [] who is approved by DD/P as CIA channel to de VOSJOLI, take the requested action soonest.

Attachments - 2 (as stated) ~~Original copy only.~~

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3020
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

From

MEMO PRESENTED BY DE VOSJOLI TO WISNER ON 25 MARCH 1952

ARMENIAN WAYS TO ENTER IN U.R.S.S.

A convention of the Tashnak Armenian party took place in Cairo in November 1951 which purpose was to renew the central comite of the party. General Dro has been maintained in his office with far reaching prerogatives.

General Dro is determined to organize on solid bases the Armenian immigration and particularly to institute Intelligence and Counter-Intelligence Services, a sabotage crew and a propaganda agency. This was decided in Cairo and he was given full powers to carry out this plan. The purpose of this organization is to bring to the Western Nations a contribution which would be repaid by the help the latters would bring to the liberation of Armenia.

"But," said the General, "there are three nations. How would it be possible to work with them, how would it be possible to cooperate with one of them without losing the others' sympathy?"

Two ways of acting are possible:

1. Work in connection with a small comite representing the three Western Nations or at least two of them;
2. Work with only one Western country but in agreement with both the others.

The suggestions made by General Dro seem acceptable.

We would be pleased to know what the CIA thinks of this matter.

() Note: In receiving this memo from () he said that de Vosjoli stated that Dro made this proposal just after the November Central Committee meeting.)

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21 March 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

SUBJECT : French Query re CIA Use of Tashnaks

1. M. De Vosjoli informed OSC French desk on 17 March 1952 that his service knows of present OSC/OPG collaboration with the Armenian Tashnaks. He stated that General Dro, the Tashnak leader, has proposed to the French that the Tashnaks collaborate with the combined British, French, and American intelligence services. He now desires to discuss the matter with the DCI with a view to agreeing on some means of collaboration.

2. Through [redacted], this organization has dealt with the Tashnaks for over four years, during which time we hoped to develop stay-behind operations and cross-border operations into the USSR. The results so far have been negligible. At a recent meeting with General Dro in Washington, however, representatives of the NE Division reviewed with him our collaboration with the Tashnaks to date and pointed out that we were dissatisfied with the results so far attained. We agreed that we would immediately start working together on a program for the training of their personnel and joint running of operations of mutual interest. As a result of this meeting we now feel we have a chance of making something of our relationship with this organization.

3. During this meeting General Dro brought up the question of collaboration with the French. The NE representatives made it clear to General Dro that we would not care to include them in any sort of tripartite program and that he must take steps tactfully to break off relations with them. It is somewhat disappointing to us, therefore, to learn that Dro has told the French of his connection with us. (Note: We, of course, consider the possibility that the French do not know positively of Dro's connection with us and are simply fishing.)

4. It is recommended, therefore, that you ask the DCI to take the following stand when he is approached by De Vosjoli: CIA has

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maintained some contact with the Tashmaks for the past four years, during which time we have seen no positive results. We hold no hope for success in our future relations with the Tashmaks and feel that nothing could be gained from a Franco-American approach to them now. (CINA)

HENRY ROOSEVELT
Chief
Division of Near East
and Africa

[] :llr

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