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To 15 July 1943

ITS-920
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15 July 1943
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PSR-745
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TO : RC London
FROM : SC Amson

SUBJECT: Answer to Brief for Interrogation of KAUBER - VIATT
Re Details of TURKUL's departure from Rome in 1943.

REF : ITS 721, R-6216

1. According to KAUBER, in May or June 1943, IRA first mentioned the possibility that his chief (at that time he did not give the name of the chief) might have to be removed from Rome to prevent his falling into the hands of the advancing Allies. No more was said about the subject until 26 July 1943, when it was first learned that MUCCOLINI's downfall might jeopardize TURKUL's position, since he had been a personal acquaintance of Il Duce. On that day KLEYENTUEPER, who was with KAUBER, suggested that they fly to Rome in his private plane to transport TURKUL from Italian soil. The trip was made the next day; KLEYENTUEPER was accompanied by TIRMANI, KAUBER, and IRA. Upon arrival in Rome, KLEYENTUEPER went to KESPERING's headquarters to obtain approval for TURKUL's departure. The approval obtained, KAUBER and IRA proceeded to TURKUL's home. TURKUL was willing to leave, provided that he could take his family and MUCHANOV with him. However, at the last moment KESPERING's headquarters reversed its previous decision and forbade the removal of so well-known a political figure as TURKUL in those critical times. The following day, 27 July, KLEYENTUEPER, TIRMANI, KAUBER, and IRA flew to Sofia, where IRA returned to his office and whence the other three proceeded to Budapest. There KLEYENTUEPER called CANARIS' office for approval of the plan to remove TURKUL. The approval was passed on to Von WAHL-KEISERLING, who informed the waiting trio in Budapest. Thereupon, this time with ROMANOV but without KLEYENTUEPER and IRA, KAUBER and TIRMANI flew to Rome on 28 July 1943. TURKUL, incensed over the reversal of two days earlier, refused at first to go, but after consultation with KAUBER and ROMANOV, consented to leave if a pass could be obtained in his own name from the German Embassy. This was done with the cooperation of Legationrat BOCK of this Embassy, and TURKUL, his wife, his daughter, MUCHANOV, KAUBER, TIRMANI, and ROMANOV took off, supposedly for Budapest.

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2. While on the wing, KAUBER was handed a wireless message over HANNEN's name directing the plane to land in Vienna. The explanation for this was later discovered by FAUDER. A decree had been issued by HITLER forbidding the Abwehr to employ non-Aryans. Von WILHELM KUPFF, fearing that he might have to dispense with KAUBER's services under the terms of this decree, desired to establish contact with TURKUL and arrange for the continued service of IRA with the Abwehr. Accordingly, he requested HANNEN to direct the plane to land in Vienna rather than in Budapest.

3. The statement quoted in the brief - "Col KLEYEN TUMBER and Subject flew to Rome in KLEYEN TUENYR's private plane to bring TURKUL to Vienna" - is true. However the brief does not take cognizance of the fact that there were two trips and that KLEYEN TUMBER was not on the second.

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