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DISPATCH NO. RAVW-1663

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TO Chief of Mission, Vienna

DATE AUG 3 1953

FROM Chief, EE

Info: Chief of Base, Salzburg

SUBJECT { GENERAL Operational/HIWAY
SPECIFIC Ferenc KOZMA Operation - []

Re: DIR 13133

DESENSITIZED
per DOI 70-17

1. It has occurred to us that neither Vienna nor Salzburg may have notes on the operation mentioned in paragraph 4 of the reference.

2. The principal figure in this operation is Ferenc KOZMA. Chief of the MHBK in Belgium, who has acted as contact man between the [B] and the ZAKO group for some time. So far as we can determine, the relationship between the MHBK and the [B] has been a rather informal one involving, perhaps, an exchange of MHBK intelligence reports for Belgian documentation and other local support. Evidently, KOZMA was approached and recruited by the AVH in Brussels sometime during 1949 and was promptly doubled by the [B]. The AVH has been primarily interested in information on the MHBK and on Hungarian refugee matters in general. Andras ZAKO is aware of the case and cooperates with the [B] to the extent of providing KOZMA with letters and other incidental information which is passed to the AVH. KUBARK has not passed deception material to the [] for this operation and, in fact, we have advised the [B] to allow KOZMA to report fully and freely to the AVH on the MHBK, as we consider this to be an overt organization which is undoubtedly penetrated at a number of other points. One rather unusual element was introduced when KOWACS asked KOZMA recently to establish coverage of Polish refugees in Belgium. We are not able to explain why the AVH is interested in refugees of other nationalities and will appreciate [] comments on this, and whether this was done during his service with the AVH. (Note Vien-0448 and Pari-8926 for other indications of AVH interest in things Polish.)

EE/PI
(Relating officer)

WE/2
(Coordinating officer)

EE/H
(Authenticating officer)

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3. Through surveillance, the [B] have been able to identify Zoltan KOVACS and other AVH case officers who preceded him in the KOZMA operation, including Josef TELEKI who, as you know, was transferred from Brussels to Paris. The [B] have also learned that Imre BORSANYI, Charge d'Affaires of the Legation in Brussels, works closely with KOVACS. In fact, he is usually lurking just around the corner during KOVACS' meetings with KOZMA, and KOVACS often leaves KOZMA for several minutes to consult with BORSANYI.

4. Until rather recently, the [B] collaborated with JAVELIN on the KOZMA double case and passed JAVELIN reports on all of his meetings with the AVH case officer. Late last year, the relationship between the [B] and the JAVELIN case officers in Brussels deteriorated to the point where JAVELIN was cut out and [] brought in. Liaison between the two services continues, however, and we cannot be sure how much JAVELIN knows of this or other joint ZUBARY-[B] operations.

5. We are forwarding, as an attachment under separate cover, a report on KOZMA's meeting with KOVACS on 25 May 1953. The contrast between the instructions KOVACS gave KOZMA on that occasion and those given [] may be significant, as KOVACS quite patently went to great lengths to conceal the seriousness of the compromise and to avoid alarming KOZMA. Combined with [] comment in EAVA-3139 to the effect that the AVH may not be aware he knew of this operation, it appears quite likely that the AVH will resume contact with KOZMA. This corrects the assumption made in paragraph 3 of DIR 13133. We are still of the opinion, nevertheless, that an approach to KOVACS is desirable, all other factors being equal. If the approach is successful, the debriefing of KOVACS should be far more valuable than the continuation of KOZMA as a double. If it fails, our approach to KOVACS should not necessarily compromise KOZMA, if the AVH assumes, as seems likely, that [] did not know the particulars of cases KOVACS was handling.

6. We will be happy to provide Vienna and Salzburg with further details on this case, if you feel they would be of assistance.

Attachments (2)
OBBA-522 Att. A

28 July 1953

Distribution

3 - Vienna w/att (1)
1 - Salzburg w/att (1)
1 []

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