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8 July 1952

Chief, SR
Chief, EE
Chief of Mission, Frankfurt

REDSOX/LCHOMELY

① Immigration of Mario K. Giordano

Reference: MGQ-W-14436

1. The following papers requested by Headquarters for the initiation of Giordano's immigration processing under Section 8 Public Law 110 are hereby forwarded:

- a. Case Officer's Evaluation
- b. Field Assessment

2. ERQ Part II was forwarded as attachment to MGM-A-09735. The biographical statement and medical report are being forwarded under separate cover.

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Case Officer Evaluation

Giordano is a mature man with the reserve and self-sufficiency usually ascribed to the Nordic type. Two factors which appear to have dominated his life from an early age are his devotion to his country and to his family. All his major decisions have been made in accord with or rationalised to coincide with one of these factors, and personal ambition and avidity have played a surprisingly small part. Because he comes from a patriarchal, closely-knit family and because he married successfully, separations and vicissitudes have increased rather than decreased his family attachments. He is able to feel very close to his wife and sons although he has again been separated for many months. As long as he is doing what he feels best for his country, he appears to be more concerned about the security of his wife and children than his proximity to them.

All of the Giordano family, consisting of Giordano and his five sisters, were impressed in childhood with the virtues of honesty, hard work and devotion to duty. All succeeded in raising themselves above their father's lower-middle class status and educational level while retaining pride in their parents. Unable to afford a university education, Giordano obtained admission to military school as an officer candidate. His education at the expense of the Estonian government and his commission as a career officer increased his feeling of patriotic dedication. He still considers himself bound to fight the Estonian cause by the oath he took on receiving his commission. During World War II, Giordano's activities throughout the period in which Estonia was alternately threatened by Russia and Germany must have required considerable rationalisation and self-explanation. In order to clarify Giordano's attitude during this period and in order to shed some light on his attitude towards working for Estonia with a foreign power, various incidents in his war-time career are enlarged on below although they have been reported previously in other memoranda.

Giordano handled his first encounter with the Soviets with the lack of tact and forethought characteristic of him when his basic ideas are challenged. On June 24, 1940, while serving in the 2nd Section of the Estonian General Staff in a position of liaison with foreign military attaches, Giordano was summoned by the Soviets and requested to submit reports on all military attaches in Estonia. Giordano, rather than sparring for time and planning an escape, categorically refused to spy, stating that the Soviets could shoot him at once if they wished. One of the Soviet officials told Giordano to reconsider his answer, and suggested that in due time Giordano would realize the consequences of refusing. One week later Giordano's commander in chief was asked to transfer him from the 2nd Section. Giordano reported his conversation with the Soviets to his immediate superior, Colonel SAARESEN, and with the latter's approval arranged an escape to Germany with the assistance of CELLARIUS, then naval attaché, and CELLARIUS' aide KORNER.

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Giordano made no personal or official agreements with the Germans concerning future cooperation with Germany. However on arrival in Berlin, he reported to the Estonian MA, Colonel JAKOBSEN, and on JAKOBSEN's advice offered his services to CANARIS in working against the USSR and for Estonia. CANARIS suggested a position in I.G. Farben. However, Giordano would not accept German citizenship, a prerequisite for work in I.G. Farben. After Giordano had refused repeatedly to become a German citizen, an arrangement was made whereby Giordano was given a German citizen's travel document in his true name. The only two Germans in I.G. Farben who knew that Giordano was not a German citizen were the director and the intelligence liaison. During this period Giordano's work was anti-Soviet but not directly connected with Estonia. He was however active in Estonian interests as without the knowledge of his German superiors he contacted Estonians around Berlin to urge them to remain Estonians and not become Germans. He also disseminated a confidential pamphlet in Estonian camps for the same purpose with the aide of Colonel SAARSEN.

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Giordano's transfer to KO Finland in June 1941 was offered him by CANARIS in accordance with Giordano's desire to work directly for Estonian liberation. Giordano again refused German citizenship, which was this time offered him personally by CANARIS, and became attached to the Finnish General Staff as an Estonian Captain. The Germans appeared to assume that Giordano would accept citizenship as they paid him as a German officer during his first month in Finland. They later were forced to recognise his independent status and the protection accorded him by his position vis a vis the Finnish General Staff. While in Finland he became extremely critical of the German policy towards Estonians, whom the Germans had begun to treat as a subject nation rather than as a friendly independent power fighting a common enemy. Although he worked with the Germans and tried to do his best, and although he has retained great respect for his German war-time chiefs, Peter Georg NEUMANN, GELLARUS and CANARIS, he gradually became more outspoken in his opposition to German policy. The following quotations from his letters to his wife during this period illustrate his attitude while in Finland:

"... I am trying to work so as not to be ashamed of receiving my income, but I have no desire to work and can hardly do it. I do not like to do meaningless and empty work. Unfortunately one must be satisfied with little now, until it is known in certain circles that the Estonian is a good coworker and can give his best when one lets him work independently with his people ..."

During this period Giordano reaffirmed that he would never undertake anything against his sense of honor and would remain true to his nationality. His greatest comfort appears to have been a sort of fatalism, a resigned belief that during a period of upheaval there can be no real justice, and a hope for the future. He tried to use his influence by submitting reports to the Germans

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concerning German policy in Estonia and the advantages the Germans would accrue by following a more liberal policy. His first report, written on 7/5/43 and addressed to CELLARIUS, pointed out that it would be better for the Germans to have 1,000,000 friendly people fighting with them than 1,000,000 suppressed passive people seeing only their own ruin before them. As CELLARIUS refused to forward this report, Giordano wrote a second covering the position of Estonians in regard to the British and the Balt Deutsche, German mistakes in matters of politics, agriculture and military tactics in Estonia, and recommendations for a future German policy in Estonia. Giordano's third report, written on 15/2/44 and addressed to the Chief, Abteilung "Ausland" of the Finnish General Staff, began with a statement by Giordano that as an Estonian officer and a Finnish officer he considered it his duty to report on the situation in Estonia. Giordano requested that the Finns forward his report to the Oberkommando of the German Wehrmacht and to the Führer himself, and sent copies directly to CELLARIUS and the German general liaising with the Finnish General Staff.

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Giordano's third report concluded that the situation in Estonia had become so critical that Estonians could no longer work with Germans. As a result of this report both he and his German chief in Estonia, Lieutenant Colonel HOPF were summoned to the Headquarters of the Heeresgruppe Nord in Estonia. Accused of slandering the German Army, Giordano selected some of the most derogatory passages in his report and stated that all were based on fact. Unable or not sufficiently interested to disprove his statements, the Heeresgruppe Nord released Giordano and permitted him to continue working with Colonel HOPF. The only concrete result Giordano was able to achieve was to persuade the Germans not to blow up a waterworks near Tallinn during their retreat in 1944.

In his own work Giordano claims to have been able to obtain commitments from the Germans for his Estonian coworkers and also to instruct his last two teams, sent in fall 1944 and spring 1945 respectively, to remain in Estonia after the German collapse and await contact with the Allies. Giordano was then convinced that immediately after conquering the Germans, the Allies would turn on their second enemy, the U.S.S.R. He was so convinced of this that in the spring of 1945 he sent two of his w/t operators and his wife across the Elbe to contact the advancing Americans and persuade the Allies to establish w/t contact with the Estonians inside Estonia. This attempt failed as before contacting the Americans, Giordano's wife and companions were arrested by the Germans and had to destroy their papers.

Giordano continued to look for an opportunity to interest the Allies in work against the Soviets throughout his post war stay in Germany. His first contact was with the British who although not interested in trying to revive contact with Giordano's w/t operators inside Estonia, apparently wished to keep him on hand for possible future operations. Giordano broke this contact him-

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self after a half year of inactivity by writing the British an extremely strong letter (of which Giordano retained a copy.) The letter expressed Giordano's continued willingness to assist the British Empire in any way towards regaining Estonian independence, and his hope that the British politicians would end the delay in acting for the liberation of Estonia and against Communism before it was too late for the welfare of the British Empire. Aside from efforts to get in touch with the AIS through Colonel SHIPP and others, Giordano was not connected with any other intelligence service except the British for whom he collected information on Estonia from debriefings of PWs from spring 1950 to the end of summer 1950. He would consider it dishonest to give us any vital information on the British without British knowledge, and conversely would not work with the British without our knowledge. He has, however, stated his willingness to work with any democratic intelligence service for the liberation of Estonia, and would undoubtedly make every effort, given an opportunity, to transfer to the most active service, even though he believes that America as a nation offers the greatest if not the only hope to Communist-dominated countries.

As the account above indicates, although Giordano has respect for authority and discipline, he is stubborn and outspoken in pursuing a course he feels is right regardless of the authorities involved. Because of his strong sense of honor, he would pursue a course contrary to his higher authorities only with their full knowledge unless he considered that course outside the limits of his commitments. For this reason it is particularly important that commitments between Giordano and EXCLAIM be stated firmly and specifically and that adherence on both sides be strictly enforced.

Giordano has a well-above average intelligence and considerable initiative in fields with which he is familiar. Outside his specialties he has little initiative and would require considerable direction to be productive. He is systematic and sensible except for occasional highly imaginative and equally impracticable ideas. He is hard-working, conscientious and energetic. Since his association with us he has on his own initiative studied radio techniques, prepared lectures for training, and compiled information on Estonia from overt sources in an elaborate card file. This work has occupied him ten to twelve hours per day seven days per week. One example of his predilection for hard work is his full-time enrollment at the University of Tartu from 1943-1944 because he did not have enough to do in the army to keep busy. His present comparative inactivity would probably have led to his quitting long ago if it were not for his patience and his fatalistic belief that more time is spent waiting than acting.

Giordano is rather shy and does not seem to feel the need of social contacts. Possibly because he has lived alone a great deal he has developed almost old-maidish habits. He is extremely neat

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and orderly, and has a passion for keeping records. For example, all of his correspondence since 1946 is filed in separate folders with carbon copies of his own writings. His daily activities follow a completely predictable pattern, even including his manner of greeting and taking leave. He is extremely temperate in his habits, smoking little and drinking only on social occasions. He says that he drank heavily while working with the military attaches in Tallinn between 1934 and 1938, but claims that although he had a tremendous capacity he derived little enjoyment from alcohol and drank only as a social duty. During his spare time he takes walks or reads current articles on politics and foreign affairs in English and German magazines.

In accordance with Estonian military traditions, Giordano has remained aloof from internal politics. He is suspicious of REI's association with the Soviets in 1940, although he recognizes that the ENR is the most active anti-Communist group in Sweden today. He also recognizes the lack of leadership in EKO. His own inclination is, outside of the military group in Sweden in favor of the Estonian diplomats. He hopes that Karel PUST may be able to form a nucleus for the unification of the Estonian emigration in the U.S. In international politics his main motive has been consistent opposition to Communism. In his capacity as liaison to foreign military attaches in Estonia he worked particularly closely with the Poles, Germans and Finns, feeling then as now the closest affinity with the Finns. Although he is opposed to the policy of the German politicians, Giordano has respect for the German military intelligence because the officers with whom he dealt fulfilled their commitments. He is somewhat prejudiced against the British because of their lack of activity following World War II and their lack of assistance to Estonian intelligence officers who had furnished them information prior to the war. He is, however, willing to work with the British and has done so.

Security in Sweden

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Field Assessment

Giordano has had 23 years of experience in intelligence work, the major portion of which has been spent in working against the USSR. He has had experience in information compilation and analysis, intelligence liaison, intelligence and CE interrogations, w/t training and management, recruitment and assessment of Estonian, Latvian and Russian agents and instruction for the dispatch into the USSR of Estonian, Latvian and Russian agents. During World War II he participated in the dispatch into Soviet-occupied territory of 19 agent teams totalling about 70 agents in addition to assessing and recruiting hundreds of agents. He is considered by other Estonians as the best Estonian intelligence officer in technical matters of recruitment, assessment, training and dispatch.

Giordano is a captain in the Estonian army with experience in the signal corps and on the General Staff. He has area knowledge of Finland, Estonia and Latvia, and speaks Estonian, Russian, German, English and some French and Finnish. He is dedicated to the defeat of Communism and the liberation of Estonia at the price of any necessary personal sacrifice, and believes that cooperation with the United States offers the best if not the only possible means to accomplish this end. He is capable of recruiting and training agents of non-Estonian nationality and would be willing to do so in order to be working towards the defeat of Communism. He is highly recommended as a senior consultant-instructor and is considered the best qualified of the entire Estonian emigration for this position.

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