

Courier

MGM-4-3869

Chief, BOB

9 September 1950

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

Operational/ CAUTION

Nelson CHIPCHIN

Ref: MGK-A-21924

1. The undersigned has known subject since 1940, served with in Camp Ritchie, Md. and collaborated with him in Berlin from 1945-1948.

2. Subject is a graduate of NYU and an excellent linguist. His knowledge of both English and Russian leaves little to be desired. His knowledge of German, although not academically perfect, is good enough for any type of work he might undertake in our line of business.

3. Subject has had a great deal of intelligence training and experience and distinguished himself on the O/B team of the 79th Inf. Div. He entered Berlin with the very first American troops and for a year served as a lieutenant with the G-2 Div. of Hq. Berlin District. He civilianized in 1946 and became the adjutant and chief interpreter of the American Element of the Allied Kommandatura. He maintained a superior record at the Kommandatura and on many occasions won the praise of General Howley and other high ranking American officials in Berlin. It was during the time that Subject was assigned to the Kommandatura (1946-1948) that he cooperated closely with the undersigned and provided the latter with many extremely useful leads on Soviet personalities. With Subject's help the S-2, BMP, had a complete intelligence coverage of the Allied Kommandatura.

4. Subject is very cultured and well-read. He has a very pleasant personality and has always been liked by his co-workers. In the opinion of the undersigned Subject is professionally more than qualified, extremely loyal and completely trustworthy and dependable. The undersigned has also found him to be security conscious and very discreet. It is strongly felt, however, that Subject will not be suitable as a "come-on" figure to induce Soviet defectors. First of all Subject is entirely too well known by the Soviets in Berlin. While having lunch at the Allied Kommandatura one day in 1948 the undersigned overheard the following conversation between the Soviet Chief of Staff and a visiting high ranking

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Soviet officer: "You see this man eating at the next table, well his name is CHIPCHIN and although he represents himself as the chief American interpreter here he is number one spy of American intelligence here at the Kommandatura". Subject left USSR either in 1928 or 1929 and has had a Soviet high school education. This fact is no doubt recorded in the files of SMA. Furthermore the fact that subject speaks Russian probably much better than most present-day Soviet officers, and the fact that he is very familiar with the Soviet way of life, has for a long time aroused suspicion among leading Soviet personalities in Berlin. It is strongly felt that subject is more suitable to perform other type of work. The fact that Subject left Russia so recently has made him feel reticent when working in close proximity to the Soviets. This reticence alone will no doubt prevent Subject from doing his very best. Subject has told the undersigned in the past that he does not care to live in such close proximity to the Soviets and for that reason alone did not desire to return to Berlin. It is therefore felt that Subject would not be willing to accept a covert assignment as a career agent in Berlin since he feels that he is entirely too well known there.

5. In view of the above it is recommended that Subject not be considered for an assignment as envisaged in MGK-W-5802, but that he be seriously considered for a position in the US Zone of Germany or Austria. Subject has an analytic mind, is of high intelligence, and has a flare for research and writing. There is no doubt in this case officer's mind that subject would make a top notch case officer for various REDBIRD projects. His absolute fluency in Russian and his thorough knowledge of the Soviet way of life, as well as his intelligence background would make him an asset for any project aimed at the USSR. Subject has an excellent position with the Voice of America and has only recently attained permanent civil service standing and it is therefore questionable whether he would be willing to accept anything short of a staff appointment.

6. The following people still in Berlin have known Subject well and might throw additional light on his character, ability, trustworthiness and discretion:

- a. Lt. Col. Harry PRETTY (being redeployed but ~~xxxx~~ believed to be still in Berlin)
- b. Leonid GRAN (commuting between Berlin and Frankfurt)
- c. Leon STECK
- d. Abe KRAMER
- e. Charles DIX
- f. Mike JOSSELSON
- g. George GABELIA

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