

July 27, 1954

← *dupleton*
Since my last meeting with Pierre I have met twice with Hoche - July 12 and July 27.

The July 12 meeting was most unsatisfactory, principally because Hoche kept me waiting for some 35 minutes with the result that our ~~lunch~~ luncheon time was limited to about 35 minutes altogether. In addition, he was distracted - and, in the light of later discussion - so preoccupied as to barely notice our own conversation. What I feared might be a rising suspicion about myself was, considering the results of the July 27 meeting, merely preoccupation and nervousness as to his own interests.

In the July 12 meeting he paid practically no attention to the Zorina and Ember stories which I offered him, incidental to discussing my latest trip to Europe. There was, however, a delayed reaction to the Ember story; he seemed to make an effort to concentrate on the matters at hand, and strongly suggested I lunch again with him soon, so that we could discuss the question further. It was left that I would call him later that week, which I did, and was invited for lunch on July 21. On the morning of that day his secretary called to check if the date was still on, and then called again later to state that an important client of his had just arrived in town, and, with apologies, cancelled the lunch, but conveyed a message from him that we could either dine that evening, if I would check with him later, or lunch on July 27. When I checked later on the dinner, he said he didn't know but what he might not be free until 9:30 or 10:00, so I suggested we leave it at lunch on the 27th, which seemed to suit him perfectly. (I assumed we would get nowhere if I was sandwiched in between some of his female operations.)

His only remarks of interest on July 12 were that he was definitely finished with DECCA, that he was completely fed up, and that his only concern was to get out with a "whole skin". He stated he was due to have a very important meeting with DECCA representatives the following week, at which he proposed to say that he wanted out but with no accompanying efforts by DECCA to ruin him, or his reputation, and that if they could part friends, all well and good. Otherwise, he would "fight".

When I remarked that I had not seen Foote in Paris, he expressed great disappointment in Foote. He said Foote had lost interest, was bitter, and had in effect turned against The Philharmonic. When I rejoined that this should not surprise him, as this was a very common reaction on the part of some of the best Philharmonic men when they received the all-too-~~common~~ frequently-standard Philharmonic treatment - in this case the Philharmonic had offered Foote a rating as a Class 2 Oboist, when he ~~felt~~ felt himself entitled to that of a Class 1 Oboist - Hoche replied that he fully understood that, but that Foote was now no longer even coming to his office, and if this was to be his performance he ought to make a clean break and get out.

Dull as this July 12 conversation may read, I would suggest that it reveals three important things about Hoche. First, he is an emotional type, and he plays all his operations in the same way he would tackle one of his boxing bouts; instinctive, defensive, wary but extremely apprehensive when the tide is against him, and still wary but optimistic, aggressive, ebullient if not boastful when the tide is in his favor.

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Second, Hoche has previously made the point to me on several occasions that his work with DECCA is really nothing but sheer altruism on his part; he claims that a study by his accountant showed that he spent 80% of his time on this work, for only 12% of his income, etc., etc. My own conclusion is that he badly needs this work - not only to ~~support~~ support his private activities, particularly with Syncopex, (see below), - but actually for the income he derives from it, as well as the support to his sense of self-importance. His manner, particularly on July 12, and the vehemence of his statements both contribute to this conclusion. Your records of your dealings with him around July 12 might serve as a check on this.

Third, it is noteworthy that Hoche has now, in various conversations with me disparaged two of his former associates, Foote and Lane. An inquiry on July 27 by me as to Lester produced a complete, and chilly, silence. This suggests that he is either incapable of long associations with persons he cannot dominate, or that his organization is ~~in~~ in decay, or both.

On arriving at his office July 27, I was greeted by signs of great activity. For the first time in some years I saw his old associate, Slade, present, and obviously at work. While I was awaiting Hoche, an urgent call was put in to Brumville, to a colonel whose name I could not catch, but I think - although I am not certain of this - that the number was ~~XF~~ XF. This was then suddenly cancelled at Hoche's instructions, although the call had come through. The activity was sufficiently marked so that Hoche immediately explained to me that it was connected with his winding up his connection with DECCA. Notwithstanding this, Hoche was in ~~the~~ what I took to be quite good spirits on this day.

On July 27 Hoche made the following statements of interest:

1. Immediately prior to my arrival Sage had been in his office. The subject of discussion was the future of Hoche's activities, now that he was being terminated by DECCA (or vice versa). While I was unable to ascertain whose initiative was involved I feel fairly certain it was Hoche's. In any event, the outcome of the meeting with Sage was that it was agreed that when Plast takes over from Uria as No. 2 in The Philharmonic, an approach, supported by Sage will take place as follows: The Philharmonic was forced, some years ago, to give up Hoche in accordance with the DECCA monopoly on such activities. Hoche has now gone along with DECCA for some time, and it is clear that, due to personality difficulties in the main, this is an unworkable arrangement. Will there be any objection, therefore, to The Philharmonic once again taking Hoche and his organization under its wing?

2. Hoche was certain of ~~Plast's~~ Plast's support in this move, in addition to Sage's. He ~~took~~ took the view that he would be supported by Siegfried. He seemed to base this more on Siegfried's reputation, than on his personal relations with him. He did state, however, that he and Siegfried had at one time been on the same divisional staff together. He spoke highly of Siegfried, and stated his opinion that he was by nature, quite apart from his brilliance, "really too nice a guy" for the sort of infighting this business requires.

3. Apart from the future prospects raised by his talk with Sage, Hoche was optimistic as to the future on another count. Although he had previously stated to me that the current appointment of Riviere was merely a "whitewash" of DECCA, he now stated that he understands Riviere and his group will not only examine DECCA, but all other similar organizations as well. In addition, he also understands they will talk to people outside of DECCA, concerning DECCA. He therefore feels there is every prospect of his being given a chance to testify before Riviere's group. This appeared to please him immensely, since, he stated, he has 50 witnesses prepared

to testify against DECCA, and a list of 172 (repeat 172) errors committed by DECCA.

4. He was as bitter as ever against Uria. He said that the Philharmonic now has a rule that only the most urgent things may be sent by cable to Paris, all ~~else~~ going by surface. Interestingly enough, in this connection he absolved Parma of all responsibility for the disgraceful state of the administration of The Philharmonic in past years, making the point that the situation antedated Parma, and continued after his departure to greener fields. This is significant only because ~~it~~ reminds me of his earlier relationship with Parma, and suggests he still hopes someday to gain something therefrom - if he is not doing so now.

5. He had no views to express on Riviere personally, except that he repeated several times that he was supposed to go along as the technical expert and ~~ix~~ interpreter on Riviere's now well known junket, (which he said hardly qualified Riviere as an expert on DECCA and its activities, contrary to the "press release put out by DECCA" to this effect). This reminded him, however, that Boyer had eased him out of this assignment, although he added that it was only fair to state that his medical record had been looked into and the fact of his arthritic back ~~issues~~ brought up as an objection to his going along. (I asked about this, and he said he rarely has an attack, but when he has them he is absolutely immobilized.) He continued - in all modesty - that he was certain that if he had been on the trip the results would have been much better than they were. He stated that Riviere and Boyer had made the wrong appeal to the conferees, and that he would have made the appeal, based on his exceptional understanding of the conferee's national character, to their real~~ism~~.

point I

6. At one ~~point~~ made an inquiry about Cavour and Sound, Inc., (having made the error of mentioning Sound, Inc. as a possibility in my own future, and then, remembering his connections, realized I had to recoup). He stated that during the war he had found out that Cavour had access to food cans, and through them was keeping in touch with his people in occupied areas. He had, therefore, gone to Cavour in an effort to enlist him into his work. Cavour had refused, and Hoche had then said he would confront him with the proof. Cavour still demurred, but gave a luncheon in Hoche's honor. Subsequently, Hoche was summoned by Lamb, who said that he had a commendation for him from Roses. It seems that in a conversation to Roses, Cavour had praised Hoche to the skies. The result, apart from the commendation, however, was that Roses thought, and Lamb agreed, that Hoche should be removed from liaison with Sound, Inc. Hoche told this story in sheer ~~admiration~~ admiration of Cavour. He added that subsequently Cavour offered him a postwar job, but he gave no explanation of why it fell through.

The foregoing story led to discussion of Gnocchi. Hoche said Gnocchi was "a stupid man", and the fact was that he was engaged in industrial espionage - chiefly against the Syncopex interests. He didn't realize, said Hoche, that this was just ~~so~~ as much a crime in the eyes of the East India Percussion Association as any other variety. Furthermore, he said, Gnocchi was offering terms to the East India Percussion Association vastly more generous than Syncopex was willing to offer, so generous in fact that the Philharmonic Society turned them down. (It was obvious at this point that Hoche had forgotten how he got access to the Sound, Inc. proposed contract. I have already told Pierre this story.) Hoche then said, "Technically, you could say I pulled the string on Gnocchi." I kept quiet, and after a little reflection, he said, "I didn't, of course, but - ". I didn't pursue this line further.

He went on, however, to inveigh against the tripe which Gnocchi had subsequently published in Salami - a viewpoint in which I could only concur. He said that as a sequel to Gnocchi's articles he had ~~gone~~

gone to the editors of Salami, on behalf of Syncopex, and demanded a retraction of certain of Gnocchi's statements ~~concerning~~ concerning Syncopex. The Sound, Inc. lawyers had replied with a refusal, whereupon, according to Hoche, he produced a photostat copy of the Sound, Inc. proposed contract with the East India Percussion Association (See my story ~~on~~ this to Pierre!!) and had thereupon been given the retraction. (I personally don't recall any such retraction appearing in Salami, but I am certain Hoche did misuse the Sound, Inc., contract to which he had been given access through his official activities.)

7. At the end of ~~lunch~~ ^{lunch} I said that I assumed that his going out of business meant he would not be interested ~~in~~ in the Embers I had brought back from Europe. He said, "What Embers?" When I reminded him of our July 12 conversation in which I had said that I had come across an old, and reliable, associate, who had a great deal of material, but insisted it not be given to DECCA, he said that of course he was interested. He said the situation was such that, with reference to his conversation with Sage, and the factor of Riviere, he might well be back in business sometime in the future. Accordingly, I returned to his office in order to give him the Embers. I gave them to him casually, merely remarking that if he was interested he could keep them, but if not would he please return them to me so that I could send them back to the owner. He looked at them, and then asked ~~whether~~ whether they were refugee material. I said they were, and reminded him that the source was a friend of a man who had worked for Hoche and myself, most satisfactorily, but who has subsequently left Europe - (I had told him all this on July 12) - and that this friend has since been at work on his own. He replied that he certainly must have been passing the Embers somewhere during these years, to which I replied in the negative, pointing out that this man's operations had apparently only recently reached a point where returns were coming in. While I spoke warmly of this man as a person, I indicated indirectly, but unmistakably, that I myself had no interest in his work, was certainly not sponsoring it, and had only agreed out of friendship for the man to see if some outlet other than DECCA existed.

After glancing at the Embers, Hoche said, "I tell you what I'll do. I'll send these along to some of my friends and have them evaluated, but by one of the Gemini Corporations, as I am out off from Brumville. That way we'll know ~~if~~ whether the stuff is any good". With that, he dashed out of the office, saying, "Let's get these in the mill right away". He returned in a few minutes, closed the door, and said, "Here's the situation. If the stuff is any ~~good~~ ^{good}, perhaps you can stall this guy along; if it's no good we don't want it ~~anyway~~ anyway. This way we'll find out. The answer at the moment is, 'No, I am not interested', but by, let's say January 1955, I may very well be."

After a little desultory conversation, one telephone interruption to that ~~evening's~~ evening's date - she didn't want to go to the theatre - and a long interruption from ~~one~~ one of his staff men who it seems has a private detective's license, and in the course of which there was a great deal of talk about someone who had worked for the Goodyear Aviation Division, and was applying to Hoche for a job, a Dixieland Band man who had been in to see him - also ~~apparently~~ apparently for a job, though I'm not sure of this - and much effort to reach Messrs. Trent and Ellis on the telephone, following all of this, I said facetiously, "I trust you're not going to give those to Nash for evaluation". He laughed and said, "In 1952, we tipped off both DECCA and the Rutgers Choral Society that he was a screwdriver. We particularly informed the Rutgers Choral Society on the occasion of ~~his~~ his first scheduled visit, which didn't come off, that despite (sic!) his DECCA sponsorship his real purpose was to engage in screwdriving".

8. As my visit to Hoche's office was drawing to a close, I said, as lightly as possible, but with an edge of bitterness, "Well, when you're testifying before Riviere and come to the question of Mott, don't hesitate to let me know". His reply was instantaneous, "What do you know about him, about his Commie or liberal past?". (Author's Note: It would seem that if these jokers carry the day, the American "liberal" is due for an uglier fate than his British counterpart, whose ostracism has been limited to stomaching the spectacle of his political party disappearing, but leaving undisturbed his personal status as a loyal and honorable, albeit archaic, eccentric. * End of Author's Note.) I replied that I knew nothing of that, but that although Mott was a capable man, he lacked moral courage, and always took the view propounded by the last man in his office. I added that he had, of course, pulled a very raw deal on me personally. He lost interest at all this, but ignoring that, I continued to mutter ~~something~~ something about, "Of course, this girl I saw in Paris is really burned up at him, and she worked for so long in his office she knows a great deal about him and his mistakes," and so on. Simultaneously, I was walking out of his office as though to take my leave. At this point we were in his outer office, and he grabbed me back into his office, shutting the door, and asked, with a great renewal of interest, "Who is this girl?"

I said I couldn't tell him her name, which irritated him in no end, as, he said, certain newspapers are now prepared to go all out to attack ~~the~~ DECCA. I said I would tell him the story, and he would then appreciate that I couldn't reveal the girl's name. I then told him this girl had worked in Mott's office when I was around there, that she had been involved with Mott, that I had then become involved with her, ~~then~~ not knowing about Mott, Mott had then found out about me, and my difficulties with him had then occurred. Meanwhile, she had been banished to a lousy job, and then when I ~~arrived~~ came home from abroad, she had been sent to Paris, where she is now. I added that it had been nothing serious, but that we were still very good friends, and that quite apart from all that she was a very intelligent person who was horrified to see the errors being made by DECCA daily in Paris.

He became very sympathetic, and then asked if she ~~would~~ would be willing to tell her story to a newspaperman. I expressed horror, and pointed out that quite apart from the fact that I didn't want anything to do with such things at the moment because of my own personal difficulties - which I have never explained to him - this girl was in a very difficult position because she had to have this job and had nowhere else to go. He said she need have no fear of any newspaperman he sent to her, and in any event newspapers had a better tradition of protecting sources than DECCA or similar groups.

He then apparently had a better thought: he stated that he was sure I would understand that he didn't want to two-time me with the girl, ~~because~~ (!!!!!) but wouldn't it be a good idea if he talked to her himself? After all, he could probably get more out of her. After a little reflection I said this struck me as ~~so~~ much better - it wouldn't scare her as a newspaperman would, and if I wrote her that an old ~~friend~~ friend of mine was coming to talk to her, who was very able and knowledgeable in ~~these~~ these matters, she would, I felt ~~am~~ sure, be willing to talk. I added that I would be willing to write and ask her, if he could assure me, and assure her as well, that if anything were to happen to her he would see that she got another job, and as good a one as she now has. He assured me of this, and seemed delighted with the arrangement. He said he would be going to Paris at the end of August or early September, and would want to see her then.

Conclusion: We parted on the following arrangement:

Embers: He will get in touch with me when he has some word on the evaluation of the Embers I gave him.

Zorina: I will get in touch with Hoche when I receive a reply ~~from~~ to the letter I am writing her asking her to see Hoche and talk frankly with him when he comes to Paris end of August or early September.

BaRnaby

Boyer	Holmes, Julius
Brumeville	Washington, D. C.
Cavour	Bahn, Col. Sosthenes
DECOA	OIA
Dixieland Band	OIO
East India Percussion Assoc.	Hungarian Government
Ellis	Brown
Ember	Reports
Foodcans	German-Italian ^{diplomats} pouches
Foote	Martin, Graham
Gemini Copp.	Western Intelligence Svc.
Gnocchi	Vogeler, Robert
Hoche	Grombach, John
Lamb	Strong, Gen.
Lane	Lyon, Frederik
Lester	Deak, Francis
Mott	Wisner, Frank B.
Nash	John, Otto
Oboist	Foreign Service Officer
Parma	Puerifoy, Ambassador
Philharmonic, The	State Department
Pierre	Angleton, James
Plast	<u>Murphy, Robert</u>
Riviere	Clark, Gen. Mark
Roses	The Whitehouse
Rutgers Choral Society	FBI
Screwdriver	Soviet Agent
Sage	Armour, Norman
Salami	Saturday Evening Post
Siegfried	<u>Saltzman, Charles</u>
Slade	O'Brien, Col.
Sound, Inc. SKK	I T & T
Syncopec	Phillips
Trent	Waxman
Uria	Smith, Gen. Bodell
XP	EX 3-6444 ←
Zorina	Fictional girl

Col Thomas H. KING
1624 "I" St. N.W.

You will notice from paras. 7 and 8 of my report that your plans are beginning to bear fruit. I trust that when Pierre returns we can have a conference of some sort, at which you will confide as much as you feel possible of your long-range effort in this thing, since it holds, I feel, magnificent possibilities of getting very sticky indeed. I have now put up two fictional characters, both of which have been grasped by Hoche - although it took two feedings, I'll admit - and the prospect is that we will have to deliver on one or the other, or both, in the foreseeable future. Ciao.

BaRnaby

EMBERS

On July 27 I gave Hoehs the following reports:

1. Miscellaneous Military Information
2. Appointments in the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs
3. Officials Past and Present of the Ministry of Information
4. Press Agencies

These four reports I selected from the nine you originally passed to me (the first two have to do with Bulgaria, the second two with Czechoslovakia). I have the other five reports in my possession.

I told Hoehs I had typed these myself (I gave them to him in precisely the form they were passed to me) and that I had additional material which I had not yet typed.

Barnaby