

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA: AIR POUCH / 638 DISPATCH NO. 1592
SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief of Station
FROM : Chief, Foreign Branch P

DATE: 13 September 1949

SUBJECT: GENERAL- Rome Activity of Carlo MEY - Carl FERCHNERGER-
SPECIFIC- Establishment of the International Anti-Bolshevik Organization (NAKSZ)

REF : PIR-3763, MGFA-1875, PIRA-1702

1. We believe that you have sufficient knowledge of Subject's general background, especially from MGFA-1875, dated 18 February 1949, a copy of which was forwarded to your station.

2. What is not generally known about Károly (Karl, Carlo) MEY is as follows:

a) MEY was one of the leading members of the extreme right in Hungarian politics and a protégé of Bela IMREDY, Hungarian Arrow-Cross leader who was executed in Budapest in 1945 as a war criminal. Under IMREDY's sponsorship, Subject founded the "Keleti Front" ("ajtarsi Szovetseg" (Union of Fighters Against the Soviet Union).

b) He volunteered in 1942 for service with the German Waffen-SS, and in this same period organized all rightist factions in Hungary for a pro-Nazi front, with IMREDY. He designed and sponsored strongly anti-Allied posters in 1944 in Hungary.

c) With the rank of SS-Colonel (Standartenfuhrer), MEY organized his notorious "Kampfgruppe MEY" (Task Force MEY) which was a collection of Hungarian and German SS units whose job was the liquidation of Jews, defeatists, saboteurs, and others inside Hungary. This was a police, not a military unit. Despite MEY's Declaration (Attachment A, PIR-3763) in which he states that he "never committed terroristic acts against civilian populations, sacking or racial persecution", just such a record of executions, killings and pillage was revealed in an Allied military court trial in Salzburg in 1946, where MEY with six of his SS Kampfgruppe cohorts were on trial, specifically on charges of

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having killed, among others, four to six American airmen who had parachuted from a disabled craft inside Hungary. The evidence was strong enough to result in the sentencing of three of NEY's colleagues to death and these men were duly executed by American MPs in Salzburg. The circumstances under which NEY was released from American custody months after his life-sentence was imposed, are exceedingly puzzling in view of the fact that a crucial Hungarian witness arrived in Salzburg three days after the trial of NEY and company had been completed, with enough damaging eyewitness testimony of NEY's role in the execution of the fliers to have sent him to the gallows with his comrades. This testimony was never taken by the court. A persistent but unconfirmed report circulating in 1947 among American military intelligence circles in Austria indicated that NEY was quietly released upon high-level intervention from the United States, and that Vatican contacts had much to do with his release. He was reported in discreet contact with CIC in Austria in 1947-48 which wanted to set him up as a chief cut-out on a net into Hungary. (This is for your information only)

3. Traces on Julius SLOCGIVARY indicate that he was a former member of the Hungarian Fascist Arrow-Cross Party, born in 1895 in Sopron, Hungary. He arrived in Rome on 21 August 1947 as a reported Hungarian intelligence agent and as a former secretary of the Hungarian Council of Ministers (probably in the brief Arrow-Cross government of Ferenc SZALASSY in 1944-45). He was reported living at the Hungarian Academy in Rome and was allegedly being provided with funds for a network by CROK, Hungarian Charge D'Affaires in Rome.

4. Traces on Hartman LAUTERBACHER are negative.

5. Traces on Abdul Hadi HEJDOUB indicate that one Cherif Ben Hadj Mohamed HEJDOUBI, probably identical with HEJDOUB, was one of five Arab agents in 1944 of the German consul Hans Herbert Paul SHYDEL in Tetuan,

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North Africa. SHYDEL inherited his Arab agents from COERITZ, previous GIS personality in the area.

6. Bishop Ludwig (Archbishop Alois) HUDAL is a well-known pro-Nazi personality at the Vatican who has reportedly yearned for years to become primate of Austria. He is believed to have aided greatly in bringing about the concordate between Nazi Germany and the Vatican. In 1937, HUDAL wrote a book glorifying Hitler's ideas of a Greater Germany and of markedly pro-Nazi content. He was against the separation of Austria and Germany as recently as 1944, despite his presence as one of the personalities on the Free Austria Movement in Rome that year.

7. There are no Washington traces on Father IRANJ.

8. Maria SIDA, the former Iron Guard leader, and chief of an abortive German-sponsored Rumanian puppet government in Vienna, Austria, from November 1944 to March 1945, has been floating around western Europe, especially Austria, Bavaria, France, and Italy, for the past four years. He has loyal ex-Iron Guard elements in many areas, especially Salzburg, Munich, and Paris. He has never been caught or de-briefed by any Allied Agency as far as is known here.

9. In view of Italian intelligence interest in this group of former top Fascist personalities, represented by Lt. Col. NANI, the present activities of all the above personalities and their colleagues is considered here of continuing interest. The attempt of this group to cloak its activities under the guise of "antip Bolshevik organization" should not be taken at face value in view of the fact that every one of the above non-clerical

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personnel was on American priority-arrest target lists from 1945-1946.

10. It would be especially interesting to learn whether these personalities either individually or as a group are in Vatican favor or service, or whether they are being dealt with by Bishop HUDAL on a personal basis.

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