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 SUBJECT: KOISSER, Maria, Czech Intelligence Service Courier
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SUMMARY OR SID REPORT:
KOISSER, Maria, Austrian, born 2 Feb 13, was arrested by CIC on 27 Jan 49 in BRAUNAU, Land Upper Austria, while she was in the midst of making contact with a known agent of the CIS (Czech Intelligence Service). She readily admitted working as a courier for the CIS, stating that her control officer was a man named POKORNY in PRAGUE. KOISSER related that she had once worked as a laborer for the Czech Legation in VIENNA. There she met HORACEK, Alois, member of the Military Section, with whom she began living in common law marriage. On 17 Aug 48, HORACEK was recalled to PRAGUE to take a job at the National Defense Ministry. KOISSER followed him. On 25 Aug 48, she was approached by HORACEK's "chief", who recruited her as a courier for the CIS, and who turned her over to the control of POKORNY. KOISSER was dispatched to VIENNA to contact MICHEL, Wilhelm, aka MISA, of the Military Section, Czech Legation. From MICHEL she received messages and parcels which she delivered to a CIS agent in the U.S. Zone of Austria, named NIZNANSKY, Ladislaus. In turn, NIZNANSKY gave her material which she took to MICHEL. Evidently, MICHEL sent these intelligence reports to PRAGUE via diplomatic mail. KOISSER was on her fifth mission when arrested by CIC, which agency

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attempted to use her in an effort to gain information. However, MOISS R has not been heard from since Jan 49.

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1. KOISSER, Maria, was arrested by CIC on 27 Jan 49 in BRAUNAU, Land Upper Austria, while she was establishing contact with NIZNANSKY, Ladislaus Milan, alias KAIER, Victor, a self-confessed Czech espionage agent. NIZNANSKY gave KOISSER a letter while she gave him a tube of tooth paste and a jar of skin cream. Examination by CIC of the tooth paste tube and skin cream jar revealed them to contain \$75 (US), 400 Austrian schilling, and two letters written on tissue paper.

a. The letter given KOISSER by NIZNANSKY read as follows:

"Your information concerning 'Narodna Strana' (National Party) is not quite correct. 'Narodna Strana' is said to be renewed in the emigration. A foreign board of the party was for this purpose founded in London. This party will work politically within the SAV.

"I do not know further details yet, because everything is kept secret as long as the party does not perform its activities.

"Dr. BAAR, as I have told you already, was a chairman of the Czech Social Committee in Innsbruck. He has been removed from this function by intervention of the Slovaks of the old emigration, which are living in the French Zone. As I know he often travels to Salzburg, where he visits the new emigrants and informs them about the activities of the new Czech emigration.

"I have reported on SIDOR in connection with the founding of the 'Strana Krestjanskej Socialnej Demokracie' (Party of the Christian Social Democrats) in my last letter.

"The Green International does not work in Europe at present, but it is probable that they will move to Paris in the near future.

"I would like to inform you on the matter in connection with the sabotage action, but I encounter insurmountable obstacles regarding my movements. I cannot obtain information through my connections with the emigration here, it would be necessary to find out on the spot. But this is impossible, the reasons I have given in my application for a passport. I was pretty sure to get one, and I do not know what I shall do now. In this connection I thought of a cooperation with CIC, as mentioned in my last letter. I guess if the terrorists have really been trained with the aid of CIC, I could find out through this source. Presently I do not see another way.

"I have not heard the transmitter, since last time which I have already reported. The transmitter is allegedly working daily at 2030 hours on the reported wave lengths, but it is not possible to receive it here. It is not in the American Zone." "With best wishes."

b. The two letters found in the tooth paste and skin cream containers read as follows:

(1) "Dear Comrade:

"7 November 1948"

"Your last letter has safely arrived. I regret to have to tell you that I am not satisfied with you. Last time you worked better for me. You must improve and work more. I have to make the following remarks concerning your last message:

"1) Engr BENDA: purpose of his journey, for whom does he act as a courier or contact-man? These data I want very promptly.

"2) Please send news on emigration; what quotas and dates?

"3) On what is Prof LZODL negotiating with Dr. RABIANSKY?

"4) Please send the address of TREML; why did he move, for whom is he working, address of his office?

"5) Send another copy of 'Nasa Zem'.

"6) Investigate where the transmitter 'Free and Democratic Slovakia' is located, the precise site, where the broadcasting is done, whether the broadcasting is direct or by reproduction, and the identity of the broadcasters. List names of all emigrants who enter the building housing the transmitter, and note the time of their entry. Learn under whose protection the transmitter operates.

"7) I must praise you for your last film, but if you are a 'photographer of the court', why do you not send photos of all persons, or at least negatives? I am interested in everything, you know that pretty well, and up to now you have not sent anything of that kind. In the future send everything you make for the travel documents.

"8) I cannot advise the cooperation with CIC, not even a fictitious one, because this cooperation could take you into trouble from which you could hardly escape. I could not help you, either. With your plan you only make the situation more complicated, and you deviate from your proper task. Stick to the emigration and work exactly. You have already a good position, if you receive so valuable documents. Therefore, refuse to cooperate with CIC. You would come into unnecessary troubles.

"9) Send me the addresses of your brothers, please, with whom you are corresponding. I have to know them because I want to guard them on account of your absence from the CSR.

"10) This time I send you fewer dollars for your last work, But I hope that you will work better so that I can send you much more the next time. You have to try to do your best, then you will receive all you need from me.

"11) Tell me what progress you have made in your efforts to get employment.

"12) Do investigate deeper. Write reports immediately after you receive information. Sometimes it appears as if you have written everything a few hours before the meetings.

"13) Do not become cross because of this letter. If you put your hand upon your heart you will have to admit that I am right. Perhaps I do you wrong; you can easily convince me. We shall see in your next report.

"14) I wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

"15) Please, write me about all mentioned items.

"16) In case something important should happen on your side, do not wait for a contact but write by mail to the address you know. I would receive it sooner and that is most important." With best wishes yours' \$35, schilling 100 - next time acknowledge receipt!"

(2) Dear Comrade:

"25 January 1949"

"I have received your letter in which you ask for the contact person. The contact person could not come and for the second time

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your letter arrived too late, because the date of the meeting was already past. The fault was on both sides. In future it will be good to agree on a second meeting in case the first meeting should be impossible. In view of the fact that much time has been lost for correspondence I send the contact person right away, she will visit you at lunch. Work on industriously and stick to the instructions in the letter dated before Christmas, which you receive now."

"With kindest regards"

"PS. Tell me who lent you the money. I am interested in that."
"Inclosure: \$40, schilling 200."

2. Upon being confronted with the above quoted correspondence, KOISSER admitted that she was associated with the CIS (Czech Intelligence Service). She then furnished the following information:

a. An Austrian citizen born 2 Feb 13, KOISSER's residence was at VIENNA XII, Breitenfurterstrasse 23/II. She is divorced from KOISSER, Eduard, born 1906 in VIENNA, Austrian, who resided at XII, Vivenotgasse 27, and who was employed as a carpenter with the Austrian Federal Railroads. Her mother is VACEK, Carolina, nee SAMAL, born 1885 in CERNICKA, CSR, Austrian citizen, who resided at KAMENICE an der LINDE, CSR. Kossier's son, Eduard, born 2 Oct 40 in VIENNA, lived with his grandmother in the CSR. From 28 Aug 46 until Sep 47 she was employed by the Czech Legation in VIENNA in the capacity of a cleaning woman and cook. In Sep 47, KOISSER entered into an illicit love affair with HORACEK, Alois, born 10 Dec 96, who was a member of the Military Section of the Czech Legation. His rank was allegedly cadet officer. KOISSER and HORACEK lived in common law marriage until 17 Aug 48 when HORACEK was recalled to PRAGUE due to his alleged implication in the successful flight of several personnel of the Czech Legation in VIENNA to the West at the time of the Communist putsch in early 1948.

b. Due to difficulties concerning her Austrian visa, KOISSER was unable to accompany HORACEK to PRAGUE. However, she managed to follow him there in a few days. Upon meeting HORACEK in PRAGUE, KOISSER learned that he had been assigned to the offices of the Ministry of National Defense, Headquarters, PRAGUE 19, Dr. Eduard Benes Square. HORACEK's home address was PRAGUE 18, Brevnaska IIII, where he lived with his divorced wife.

c. While dining with HORACEK on or about 25 Aug 48 at the "Armadni Dun" Restaurant in PRAGUE, KOISSER was approached by HORACEK's "chief" who requested to speak with her in private. She accompanied the chief to another table and there was interrogated about her family background, political attitude, and present status. The chief then asked her to act as a messenger between PRAGUE and Austria. He assured KOISSER that espionage was not involved, that the job would not be dangerous; she would merely deliver and pick up letters and parcels in Austria. After being told that she had a few days in which to make a decision, KOISSER was dismissed by the chief.

3. On or about 30 Aug 48, KOISSER again met with the chief, Upon the chief's promise of financial assistance and help in securing an apartment in PRAGUE, KOISSER agreed to carry out a mission.

a. She was shown a photograph of a man (NIZNANSKY, Ladislaus Milan) whom she was to contact on 19 Sep 48 at the Cafe "Winkler" in SALZBURG. KOISSER was to carry a railroad time table in her right hand and when she was reasonably sure of the man's identification, she was to whisper "Voici". If the man answered "Voila", KOISSER was to continue with the statement "I have news for you from PRAGUE". Prior to the actual contact in SALZBURG, KOISSER was instructed to meet one MICHEL, Wilhelm, aka MISA, employee of the Military Section at the Czech Legation in VIENNA, at the "Skala" Theater in VIENNA on the evening of 17 Sep 48. MICHEL would give her a parcel for delivery to the contact man at the

"Winkler" Cafe in SALZBURG.

b. Carrying out her orders faithfully, KOISSER managed to make both contacts without difficulty. She received a letter from NIZNANSKY at the Cafe "Winkler" in SALZBURG and submitted it to MICHEL the following day, 20 Sep 48. KOISSER then returned to her mother's home in KAMENICE a.d. LYNDE, Taborska 153, CSR. From there she submitted a detailed report of the journey to the chief, using the cover name TISCHA and the cover mailing address "Milada LEDVINOVA, PRAGUE 16, Palackeho 15".

c. A few days later KOISSER was ordered to PRAGUE where the Chief turned her over to the control of one POKORNY, who was also an official of the National Defense Ministry. Over the alleged objections of KOISSER and of HORACEK, she was required to carry out subsequent contact missions with NIZNANSKY during Oct, Nov, Dec 48 and Jan 49. The following procedure was used:

- (1) First, the date and place of rendezvous with NIZNANSKY was given KOISSER in PRAGUE.
- (2) She would go to VIENNA and contact MICHEL who would give her material for delivery to NIZNANSKY.
- (3) Next, KOISSER would meet NIZNANSKY and turn over to him whatever she had received in VIENNA. In turn, NIZNANSKY would give her letters for delivery to MICHEL.
- (4) She would then return to VIENNA and turn over to MICHEL the material from NIZNANSKY. KOISSER and MICHEL would agree upon their next meeting place.
- (5) KOISSER would return to the CSR and mail a detailed report on her trip to the "Milada LEDVINOVA" cover-address.
- (6) Later, she would be called to PRAGUE where POKORNY would issue further orders.

d. In Dec 48, KOISSER went to VIENNA and met MICHEL. Inasmuch as MICHEL had no material for transmittal to NIZNANSKY, KOISSER immediately returned to the CSR. Instead of submitting the usual written report, she went directly to the "Milada LEDVINOVA" address which turned out to be a dress shop, attended by an unknown woman. KOISSER asked this woman to contact POKORNY for her. The woman first pleaded ignorance as to what KOISSER desired but finally placed a telephone call. POKORNY arrived within the hour. He drove KOISSER to the country outside PRAGUE and there reprimanded her for having made a direct approach to "LEDVINOVA".

e. POKORNY told KOISSER to prepare for another trip to Austria in Jan 49. She assertedly made violent protestation, pointing out that she was three months pregnant and could not stand the nervous tension to which she was exposed. POKORNY responded that she must continue working; otherwise "her man", HORACEK, would run into serious repercussions inasmuch as HORACEK's negative attitude to KOISSER's intelligence activities was well known to officials of the National Defense Ministry. For this reason, should KOISSER refuse to cooperate, HORACEK would be dismissed, disgraced, and punished. Seeing no alternative, KOISSER decided to perform the January mission. (Note: The attitude as expressed by HORACEK towards KOISSER may well have been feigned).

4. At this point of her interrogation by CIC, KOISSER alleged that, prior to her present trip to Austria, she was asked by HORACEK to ascertain whether there existed a possibility of employment for him in VIENNA as he was weighing the decision of fleeing to Austria. HORACEK, according to KOISSER, had been under continuous pressure and mistrust in PRAGUE following his recall from VIENNA. KOISSER believed that if HORACEK had some assurance that he could earn a living in Austria, he would gladly flee the CSR. KOISSER would accompany him.

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5. The results of KOISSER's detailed questioning led CIC to the belief that she had no contacts with intelligence personnel either in Austria or in the CSR other than those mentioned above. Further, she seemed unaware of the scope of Czech Intelligence activity in Austria. Her statements checked with facts already known. Therefore, CIC decided to attempt to use her. NIZNANSKY previously had been doubled.

a. A letter was prepared "from NIZNANSKY" for submittal to MICHEL in VIENNA, which stated that KOISSER had been extremely nervous in her behavior while making contact and was considered to be unreliable for the transmission of important information on hand. A new contact person was requested who had sufficient self-confidence to carry out the mission properly. The letter continued that information of secondary importance would be sent to the CSR by mail until such a time as when a new contact person was sent to NIZNANSKY by the CIS.

b. KOISSER was instructed by CIC to complete her present mission in a normal manner and to submit her report to PRAGUE, in which report she was to state that nothing unusual had occurred. KOISSER was warned that if she spoke of her experience with CIC to her superiors, CIC would then have to acquaint the CIS officials in PRAGUE as to the extent of the information she had submitted to the Americans. At this point KOISSER all but fainted.

c. Finally, she was told to familiarize HORACEK with the situation and to assure him that he would be welcome in Austria under the condition that he bring with him information of value. Should KOISSER be sent on future CIS liaison missions, she was to report to CIC. If HORACEK wished to transmit a message through KOISSER to CIC, she was not to carry anything in writing but only in memory.

6. After submitting detailed information regarding the structure and personalities of the Czech Legation in VIENNA, KOISSER departed for VIENNA where she was to meet with MICHEL. She has not been heard from since. The possibility exists that HORACEK was and is an official of the CIS and that he was actually aiding the CIS while ostensibly siding with KOISSER in her desire to separate herself from CIS associations. A short time later NIZNANSKY received a letter from his CIS superiors stating that a new contact person, per his request, was being sought.

APPROVED:

John E. Sanson
Major General
LYMAN D. BOWWELL
Colonel, GS
AC of S, G2

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