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VIA: ROME AIR POUCH #2292
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DISPATCH NO. WIRM-568

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION
CLASSIFICATION

(301-14628)

TO :
FROM : Chief, WE
SUBJECT: GENERAL

DATE: JUN 9 1952
MICROFILMED
MAY 16 1963
Doc. Micro. Ser.

SPECIFIC: Michael OLLIAN, ~~OLYANS~~, ~~OLYANSKY~~, ~~ORLEANS~~, ~~BOLIAN~~, ~~HOLLIAN~~, ~~OLEAN~~,
~~OLEANDER~~, ~~OLEANS~~, ~~OLEYAN~~, ~~OLIANOF~~, ~~OLIANOSKY~~, ~~OLLANS~~,
~~OLLANSKI~~, ~~OLIASKI~~, ~~OLLAR~~, ~~OLJANS~~, ~~OLLIAN~~, ~~HOLLANSKI~~,
~~HOLLANSKY~~, Michale, Michel, Moghe, Michalls, et cetera

REFERENCE: PIRA-7494 KAPOK 1371

1. In compliance with [redacted] request in paragraph 14 of reference, which only recently was brought to the writer's attention, the following information is contained in Headquarters files concerning Subject, which information originated in [redacted] and Washington.

44-10513

2. A [redacted] of 18 January 1946, advised that Michel OLLIAN, in 1939 or 1940, joined his wife in Switzerland, where he had frequently gone before the war. Subject was suspected of complicity in the smuggling of currency, gold and "shares" into and out of France. He was in close contact with an ex-French Consul in Geneva, who reportedly was involved in the same traffic. In 1942, Subject was frequently contacted in Switzerland by one MOGE (later identified as Paul MOGE), an official of the Sous-prefecture, Haute Savoie, who used his official car to secure frontier immunity. Subject was thought to be connected with other shady enterprises, mainly commercial, and was very friendly with Gustav WENTZEL, of the firm of the same name, at that time on our (sic) Statutory List. Subject's lawyer was Paul LACHEVAL, 9 Place Fusterie, Geneva. His wife, Elizabeth, who went to Switzerland shortly after the outbreak of the war, was still living with him in 1942, although at one time she had contemplated divorce.

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3. The preceding report advised that in March 1945, Subject, described as a very wealthy Latvian Jew, was reported to have had a hand in practically all German smuggling of money to South America. He was also reported to have had extensive Spanish contacts.

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4. The above report added that the information apparently obtained from G-2 files as of 1 December 1951.

F-2123

5. A Paris DYGUMSY report of 2 June 1946, disclosed that OLIANOF, alias OLIAN, a specialist in illegal foreign exchange transactions and the "unfreezing" of frozen assets located in the United States, was preparing to return to France with the help of Maître LEMARD, (attorney) from Paris, who is noted as Antoine DE MOULIE's homme de confiance. At the time of the report, LEMARD was reportedly assisting certain collaborators to return to France. It was not known whether Subject's entry into France would be clandestine or legal but once there, OLIAN had stated that he would be safe in view of the large sum of money which he had promised to provide. There is no elaboration regarding the persons to whom the money had been promised.

FR-002-704

6. An additional Paris DYGUMSY report, dated 4 January 1946, advised the following:

"OLIAN is considered by the French as a person of doubtful patriotic as well as moral sentiments. In 1941 he was known to be employed by the Germans for the purchase of real estate and tools in the unoccupied zone. On 27 April 1946 he was refused an entry visa into France by the French ambassador at Bern because of his pro-German activity during the occupation. In addition OLIAN is listed as having been expelled from France on 28 April 1928 for undesirability. Another expulsion decree was issued on 21 February 1935, this also for undesirability."

WFA-4990

7. A Paris report of 14 June 1980, disclosed that OLEYAN was suspected of being connected with a group of Salt and White Russians during the war (including the notorious BERIDZE), who worked for the German SD in Paris by bringing into Switzerland, and selling there, international shares, currencies, and gold, which had been confiscated by the Germans from Jews living in France. In this way, Subject amassed an enormous fortune and was able to forestall Allied and Swiss investigations against him for many years, through his extremely able and influential lawyer, Prof. HUG, in Zurich. The latter reportedly kept OLEYAN in a sanatorium, claiming that he was too ill to appear in court. HUG finally procured a visa for Subject which permitted him to leave Switzerland for Italy.

WFA-4990

8. Reference in the preceding report, in describing the firm AROMFINA, it is stated that AROMFINA was forced to find a wealthy contact after the death of Ing. Herbert SCHRAAL, the main financier of the firm, whose other partner, Dr. Hans BAUER, was bankrupt as a result of private speculations. At the time of the death of SCHRAAL, the firm had commitments on Thiele fuses in Austria, which amounted

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to options of hundreds of thousands of dollars and, needing capital to finance the deal, AKOMFIMA contacted the OLEYAN group.

WFF-5273
8-2

9. On 13 July 1950, a Paris Report advised that the syndicate formed by Internationale Kreditanstalt, Vaduz, a front for Hans GASDA, Michele OLEYAN, and AKOMFIMA, for the sale of Thiele fuses and other armament items, had been enlarged by the addition of Andre RUEF, a French industrialist with large interests in Paris and Rio de Janeiro. OLEYAN, who had promised to take charge of future sales of Thiele fuses for the syndicate, continued his efforts to negotiate sales to Italy, but, at the time of the report, nothing had developed concerning his negotiations.

10. An additional Paris report, dated 23 January 1951, disclosed that shooting tests would take place in Rome on 29 January 1951, the results of which, if satisfactory, would lead to a contract for about one half a million (sic) which would be concluded with the Italian Government. OLEYAN, who had taken part in the negotiations in Rome, was violently attacked in the Italian press for his war activities and was ordered expelled. The French Government asked the Italian Government to extradite him to France, as there still were war criminal charges pending against him.

11. Concerning Subject's relationship with [] in Switzerland and Italy, the following traces should be referred to in the [] diaries in Rome: Nos. 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, 18, 20 and 22. The document dates are as follows:

18 October 1948	31 March 1950
10 November 1949	8 May 1950
14 November 1949	9 May 1950
29 November 1949	21 June 1950
1 December 1949	22 July 1950
14 December 1949	23 July 1950
4 January 1950	3 August 1950
19 January 1950	

X-6320

12. A Switzerland report, dated 28 March 1946, advised that 45 million (sic) of stolen money, which the Nazi leaders drained from the German people, was deposited in a Western Switzerland bank. The money was listed in the name of Michel OLEYAN.

XL-11313

13. On 12 June 1945, an XL Bern report advised that on the basis of a lead obtained from the British Legation, it was learned that, in the fall of 1942, a payment of approximately 250,000 Swiss francs was made by OLIAN to the Wehrli Bank. The examiner reported that the payment was effected on 26 August 1942, by the Credit Suisse, through Fides Freuhand, Basel, by order of Emil ROGER, and that Wehrli Bank credited it to the Angerer account. ROGER is described as a confidant and associate of OLIAN. The transaction was noted as the first which offered conclusive proof of financial assistance given by the notorious OLIAN to the enemy.

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14. A Bern report of 3 August 1946, which noted that some of the information concerning OLIAN was taken from a document found in the German Embassy in Paris by "a highly reliable source", advised that Michel OLIAN was working for the High Command of the German Army in some association with VON KAISER, Chief of the Finance Division, but was compelled to liquidate his undertakings in Switzerland after he was placed on the English and American black lists. OLIAN's wife, the report stated, is the sister of a certain Nicolaus FRIEDENSTEIN, who was to be deported by the Nazis from France to the East because of his presumed Jewish origin. A Dr. SCHNEPPER, M.D. of Geneva, appeared to be close to OLIAN since he interceded for Subject with the Germans in the matter of FRIEDENSTEIN's deportation.

15. On 3 October 1946, a BX Switzerland report disclosed that OLIAN was allegedly being sought by the Swiss. At the time of the report, three million Swiss francs were already reported to have been extracted from him.

16. The following is contained in a BX Switzerland report, dated 29 September 1946:

"OLIAN. Reported to have provided millions of pesetas for Oberstleutnant KAISER who has been arrested by the Germans and charged with stealing money. OLIAN gave his son-in-law TRAUHE in Zurich 8,000,000 francs."

17. A Headquarters P document, dated 18 September 1946, concerning Communist activities in Switzerland, advised that Jacques TIMMY, owner of the Oasis Bar in Geneva, is frequently in the company of OLIAN, a financier and trafficker. Regarding TIMMY, it is noted that his real name is FRIEDMAN and that he is a naturalized Swiss of Russian origin and that he is a diamond merchant. TIMMY was believed to be one of the principal agents of the Russian Intelligence Service in Switzerland, and was in the possession of a clandestine transmitter installed in his home. Further on in the report, it is stated that "we are absolutely certain that TIMMY is one of the most important Communist agents in Switzerland...and is in contact with various Swiss and French agents, such as Colonel WATSON, Chief of the Swiss Intelligence Service before the demobilization (Mr. MILLON, Minister of Air, and THOMAS, when TIMMY goes to France. He sometimes travels to France, Belgium, Holland and Great Britain."

18. The following report was forwarded to Saint, Paris, from Bern, on 26 November 1946:

"We have recently been advised by our Swiss contacts that the Swiss are attempting to expell Michel OLIAN, and that they are interested in any information which may

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be available which would aid them in justifying his expulsion.

"Our information indicates that OLLAN, who was born in Riga 27.7.1907, travels on a Hansen passport, and is either a Lithuanian or a Lett, was in Paris before the war and possibly during the war. OLLAN follows the usual pattern of war profiteer and has been described as everything from a smuggler to a safe haven "big operator". His fortune in Switzerland has been estimated at more than 4,000,000 Swiss francs. OLLAN has often been in contact with the Germans and has profited greatly by these contacts. We regard him as a most undesirable person, one who should be apprehended and interrogated. We believe that such an interrogation would be of interest to us.

"May we ask that you check your records and those of the police in Paris for additional information on OLLAN? We will be grateful if this information can be forwarded as soon as possible. We will, in turn, forward the information to the Swiss, who are attempting to arrange the expulsion."

19. A Safchaven, Bern report, dated 27 December 1946, disclosed that Michael OLLAN had been made the subject of an intensive inquiry. His responses to the interrogation were such, however, as to confuse the SCO (presumably the Safchaven Commanding Officer). It is noted that one Mr. OTT solicited assistance in the case, and that the writer of the report suggested that it might be more expedient if an exchange of information were made from the respective dossiers. Without the approval of higher authority, however, Mr. OTT was not prepared to make his information available.

20. On 19 October 1948, the following Bern report was received:

"On 28 October (Comment: discrepancy in dates noted) in Milan, Michael OLLAN stated that his one and a half million dollar holdings in the United States would be released through STREICHENBERG, a Swiss who owns a trust corporation in Basel, and BARTH, the Director General of Providencia in Basel. Together these two will arrange with the French Government to certify his dollar holdings.

"OLLAN is presently negotiating with his Italian associates in the Credito Commerciale, Milan, and the banker CIGOGNE for the loan of ten million dollars to

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finance a syndicate which would build new roads in Venezuela. The Venezuelan Government would give a guarantee to back the interests and capital of this loan. (Field Comment: It is not determined to what extent the Italian firms which would deliver the equipment for the roads would employ ECA funds.)"

21. A memorandum from the American Legation, Bern, to the American Consulate in Geneva, dated 18 November 1949, which concerned the visa application of Ludwig Heinrich SCHEFFER, probably identical with SCHEFFER of paragraph 14, above, advised that SCHEFFER is a retired German mining official, about 66 years of age. He lived in Paris from 1926 to 1938, at which time he moved to Geneva. In 1938, he was considered suspect and was watched by the Swiss police, especially after his personal friend, one GARTNER, was arrested for espionage. SCHEFFER is also described as a close friend of Michel OLLIAN and OLLIAN's wife.

22. From 9 December 1949 to 20 January 1950, Headquarters files contain nine cables originating in [redacted] and Washington, which are concerned with Subject's attempts to receive Italian nationality and British passports, and his association with [redacted] CROSS, et cetera. Since most of this information is to be found in the [redacted] diaries, referenced in paragraph 11, above, it is not considered necessary to repeat it at this time.

23. In reply to a query from Washington, regarding old-time (1920) Communists, a Geneva report of 10 August 1950, advised that Albert BERNHARDT, a well-known trafficker in gold and other contraband, was expelled from Switzerland for this reason during the war. At the time he was expelled, his principal collaborator was Michel OLLIAN. BERNHARDT was believed to be identical or related to one Albert BERNHARDT, a Communist.

24. Finally, the following information is contained in a Bern report of 8 September 1950:

"Michel OLLIAN's negotiations to sell fuses in Italy have as yet shown no results. The Italians have specified that the original timing must be changed from 30 to 40 seconds and, in addition, technical difficulties have arisen because of the oddly-shaped shell nose used by the Italian Army.

"AMORFINA A.G. continues to maintain that although large stocks of time fuses are still available for sale, no Soviet or Soviet satellite offers have been accepted."

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