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30 April 1952

RECORDED FOR

SUBJECT: Debriefing and Disposal of PL's 489 and 497

RECEPTION

PL's 489 and 497 arrived at the appointed place at 0545, 24 March 1952, in apparent good health. They were quiet and subdued because of their disappointment about not having been able to complete their training at the school. They were also worried about their health problems. took them directly to the holding site in a car.

DEBRIEFING

We discussed the school late that afternoon and the next day. The deep, profound and heartfelt admiration they expressed for it defies description. One has to listen to their talk to get the full effect of their apparently sincere effort to express the overwhelming impact those few weeks at the school had on them.

After getting their impression of the school, I felt that they had gone overboard in their enthusiasm and had lost their objectivity. I could not believe that the school was so good. I tried to bring them back to earth by telling them that Cassowary 3 would probably think that they had sold out and had become our agents if they told him the same story.² I suggested that they should be more objective and more critical.

That only roused them to defend the school vehemently. They insisted that they were being objective and that everything they said was true. They felt that there were a few minor details that could be improved upon, but they were so minute and insignificant compared to the great solid achievements of the school itself that they had absolutely no place in any intelligent and objective discussion of the school. For example, the fact that the mail was slow was a mere trivial detail.

PL 497 said that he would have given two years of his life just to be with his wife and child for five minutes, but he did not resent the fact that he was not permitted to do so because he realized the necessity for the strictest security in a project that was so vast and far-reaching in its import.

²Being called a HUCURIC agent implies support of the HUCURIC policy toward Ukrainians. In the eyes of the majority of the political groups this is equivalent to treason because their goal is the recognition of an independent Ukraine.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2005

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Cassowary 3 and 4 met with them on 27 March. Subjects praised the school unstintingly. They were so eager to tell how good the school was that they interrupted each other continually to emphasize points, to add details, and to confirm and reiterate what the other was saying. The curriculum was of the highest caliber possible. It would take a lifetime of studying at various universities throughout the world to get the same topics presented so thoroughly, so completely and so objectively. The instructors were excellent. They knew their subjects thoroughly; they had practical experience in their fields; they presented their lectures effectively; they were objective and encouraged the students to participate in the discussions. They did not try to foist any particular viewpoint upon the students. Everyone was free to say what he pleased and if he was not satisfied with the thoroughness or the content of the discussions and the lectures he could go to the library and find several books on the subject by different authors and read until he was sated.

The discussions did not degenerate into arguments between nationals or exponents of conflicting interest groups as they feared might happen. The students presented their opinions and their bases for having them. Others would either concur or dissent and also present their reasons. In this way, everyone was able to become familiar with the many facets of a particular problem. It made them realize that their own knowledge was not as complete as they might have thought, and made them think about the same problem from the other person's viewpoint. This engendered a spirit of tolerance and understanding among the different nationals represented in the school. They could see that the animosities they had between them were caused by their looking at common problems from one side only. The discussions clarified the problems and made them see that the other side had some reasonable points as basis for their attitude. Discussions were not limited to the formal discussion periods allotted, but continued during breaks, meals and during the evenings.

At the school they were treated with all the courtesy and consideration a human being could desire. The instructors and the staff were cooperative and sensitive to their needs and wants. They were treated as guests. Nobody showed any condescension toward them or their ideas. They had adequate recreation facilities. While they themselves did not indulge in sports, others did. They had available to them a television set, movies, books, newspapers, magazines and cards. In the evening they would gather to drink beer or soft drinks. They went on guided tours. Their guide was always a person who catered to their interests and they did not feel that he was their guard. The food which was typically American and well prepared, was served cafeteria style. They were impressed with the fact that the students and the staff ate together. To them this represented democracy in practice.

They were amazed at the freedom of speech they were permitted. No matter what was said by anyone, there was never the slightest hint of any attempt to repress any criticisms or ideas. What amazed them even more

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was that the instructors who, in effect, were representing the U.S. government in this international conclave, were highly critical of some of the government policies and actions and took active part in discussing current controversial issues. It was apparent to the students that the instructors were not forced to follow any kind of "government line." They had absolutely no fear of being disciplined for expressing their own opinions.

PL 127 gave a "typical day" schedule and gave a synopsis of each of the courses taught. He summed up all the complimentary remarks he made in the course of the discussion with "That more in the whole wide world could a person want?" Casowary 3 remarked that, judging from the description of the courses, he himself could gain a lot by attending those lectures.

Both thought that giving carriage tests and interrogation by "FBI" were excellent security measures. It showed that we were aware of the risks involved in this business and that we were taking proper counter-measures to prevent RIF penetration. They felt much safer knowing that all their contacts, both European and American, went through such a check. Any doubts about the loyalty of those with whom they dealt were dispelled.

Casowary 3 questioned them about the morale and attitude of the remaining Casowary group. They lauded the sincere, diligent effort everyone was putting forth and the high morale of the group. They sense that they have the opportunity of a lifetime and all are determined to make the most of it. While PL's 503 and 507 were there, they incited suspicion and discontent by their actions and complaints. When they left, it seemed as though a dark storm cloud had lifted and everyone settled down to serious study in a bright and cheerful atmosphere.

They did not know anyone by the name of "Mr. Temple," nor did they meet anyone who was brusque, arrogant or overbearing. They did talk to a thin, dark man, who wore glasses and who was very businesslike in his manner. This gentleman did not engage in small talk, but he was not unpleasant. He gave instructions and answered questions civilly, and as a matter of fact they rather admired him for his formal attitude.

The clothing they received was new and was of good quality. There was no room for complaint about the clothing because it was no better or worse than the clothing the staff wore.

FINANCES

1. Their pay was converted to R's and turned over to them. Receipts are in their file in LAU.
2. No commitments for employment were made pending clarification of the status of their health. We expect to pay each about 300 R's per month for subsistence until they are employed. No payments have been made to date.

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3. FL 497 is being treated in Frankfurt and will require several days hospitalization for which BENTON will pay.
4. FL 497 has had two separate series of X-Rays for diagnostic purposes. BENTON will be billed for them.
5. Diagnoses, prognosis, and cost of treatments will be subject of later reports.

SECURITY

No additional security oath was required of him because it would have appeared redundant. FL 497's inclination to take a back seat and remain in the background, coupled with his security consciousness, makes it unlikely that he will commit a security breach except under extremely unusual circumstances.

On the other hand, FL 497's penchant for being in the limelight and being considered a big time operator presage security trouble. He claims vast experience in clandestine activity during the war and, instead of it making him more careful, he seems to feel that it gives him licenses to flagrantly flout sound principles of clandestine operation. He does not seem to realize that disclosure of what appears to him to be a small detail can jeopardize a whole project. In spite of the fact that he signed a secrecy agreement and was specifically enjoined not to write anyone about his true whereabouts, he admitted that, before he left for the holding site, he had written to his wife telling her that he was going to BENTON to study political science. He rationalized that his wife always knew of his activities and he was sure that she would not divulge anything. He either totally disregarded, or was wholly unaware of the fact that all communications are subject to interception.

When an acquaintance approached him for a job because he heard that he had contacts with people who had jobs available, FL 497 categorically admitted that he knew of several openings in Frankfurt, but that the qualifications were that a person had to be fluent in English, German, and Ukrainian and must be able to take dictation in all three languages. He shrugged off the accusation that he should not be confirming his association with us with, "Aw, those kind of people are just a bunch of stupid fools."

He was pleased as punch about a rumor he had heard about himself and probably nurtured it by implying to his friends that it was true. The rumor was that he had returned from Frankfurt with a mission of organizing a BENTON guard battalion of 1200 men. The large envelope of X-Rays he was seen carrying about the city was supposed to contain the detailed plans for the battalion.

DISMISAL

The five of us agreed on the following cover story:

1. They would return to Munich with a story that they had been working for a unit similar to LAU doing translations and compiling statistics. They returned on 27 March.

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2. They were given a letter of commendation from the Manpower Analysis Unit, APO 757, covering the period of their absence.
3. The reason for their termination of employment was reduction in personnel.
4. They were given a certificate of employment by LAU only for the purpose of registering with the Fohrungeant. They are not employed by LAU.
5. They will live on their savings and borrowed money until they find jobs.
6. It is recognized that PL 197 presents a control problem whether in our employ or not. He does possess many qualifications which can be used to good advantage by our organization and as an employee more effective control can be exercised over him. Frequent discussions by the Case Officer and Caseworker 3 about security will probably tone him down. Therefore, if their health permits them to work as interviewers, we expect to hire both of them in that capacity.

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