

DISPATCH		CLASSIFICATION SECRET	DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NO. EGMA 40174
TO INFO	Chief, IO EE, COS/G	HEADQUARTERS FILE NO. 200-124-39/3	
FROM	Chief of Base, Munich <i>msu</i>	DATE 3 February 1959	
SUBJECT	D/DORIC/QKACTIVE/REDWOOD/LCINPROVE/Operations Colonel Georgiy Iliyitch ANTONOV	RE: "43-3" - (CHECK "X" ONE) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARKED FOR INDEXING <input type="checkbox"/> NO INDEXING REQUIRED	
ACTION REQUIRED	None. For your information	INDEXING CAN BE JUDGED BY QUALIFIED HQ. DESK ONLY	
REFERENCE(S)			
<p>A. DIR 08426, 16 January 1959 ✓ B. EGMA 39995, 27 January 1959 ✓</p>			
<p>1. [ ] has just furnished us with a memorandum for the record which sets forth all that is known about the problems of Colonel Georgiy Iliyitch ANTONOV as far as PBCHORD personnel are concerned. This report should be considered as a reply to the request made in DIR 04426 for the views and recommendations of [ ] in this case. The report is also a complement to previous dispatches which we have sent reporting developments in the ANTONOV case. The most recent of these dispatches was EGMA 39995.</p>			
<p>2. In reading [ ] memorandum for the record which we are attaching under separate cover, we note that the report agrees substantially with the information which has been previously furnished Headquarters. One exception to this would be that in paragraph 3 of EGMA 39995 it was stated that because of being intoxicated ANTONOV failed to keep a dinner engagement with [ ] on 22 January. This report received by Munich Base is now established as having been false information. From [ ] memo, as well as from a more recent report from [ ], it would appear that on the day ANTONOV was scheduled to entertain [ ] his cook (and landlady) became ill. ANTONOV called [ ] to apologize for having to call the dinner off. [ ] then invited ANTONOV to dine so that the engagement was kept even though not at ANTONOV's home.</p>			
<p>3. [ ] report seems to bring the ANTONOV case up to date. We shall continue to furnish Headquarters any further information as we obtain it.</p>			
Approved: [ ]		[ ]	
Attachment: A/s		<p>DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT DATE 2007</p>	
<p>Distribution: 2 - IO w/att in dupl (USC) 1 - EE w/1 cy att (USC) 2 - COS/G w/1 cy att (USC)</p>		copy filed in 201-16290.	
FORM 10-57 53 (40) USE PREVIOUS EDITION. REPLACES FORMS 51-28, 51-28A AND 51-29 WHICH ARE OBSOLETE.		CLASSIFICATION SECRET	PAGE NO. <input type="checkbox"/> CONTINUED 200-124-39/3

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SEPARATE COVER ATTACHMENT

TO EGMA

40174

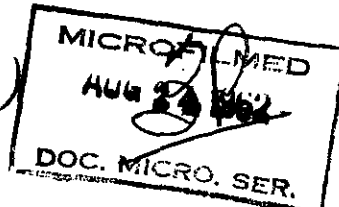
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January 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: ~~FR~~ ANTONOV, (Col) Georgiy Ilich (201-16290)

DISCUSSIONS



Reference is made to our conversation regarding ANTONOV and the rumors prevalent at this time regarding his possible re-defection.

I discussed these rumors in early January with KELLEY and in particular we discussed the possibility of KELLEY calling ANTONOV, in an effort to meet with him and to offer him whatever support and encouragement he could. KELLEY advised me at that time that he is not too well acquainted with ANTONOV and the two are not in frequent professional or social contact. Although it was agreed that efforts should be made to contact ANTONOV and to offer him assistance, it was felt that, weighed against the possible propaganda value were ANTONOV to re-defect, such an effort should not be made by KELLEY personally.

Following this discussion with KELLEY on 7 January 1959, KELLEY, DREHER, AND CONDON met, at which time it was decided that any efforts relating to the support to be given ANTONOV by the American Committee should be relayed to ANTONOV by DREHER. It was decided that DREHER should meet ANTONOV for lunch within the next few days and should report on any additional information gleaned from ANTONOV at that time. In addition to his personal contacts with ANTONOV, DREHER has received much information which has been forwarded from Alexander MELBARDIS, his assistant in the Emigre Relations Division. Before discussing at length DREHER's opinions and activities in this matter, it would be well at this point to review the information received and furnished by MELBARDIS relative to ANTONOV. During the past four or five months, MELBARDIS has received from emigre contacts unverified rumors to the effect that (a) ANTONOV had been in touch with Soviet officials during his visit to the Brussels Fair in August; (b) that shortly after this time ANTONOV was visited at home by "a Soviet agent named Dombrovsky (?)" who allegedly talked to him at length and turned over to him letters from his long-lost daughter; (c) that the following remark in the presence of several SBNR colleagues: "Well, nobody gives a damn about me here, but Gen. Vyshnevsky writes -- 'Esteemed Georgiy Ilich, we regard you highly!'; and (d) Ovchinnikov visited ANTONOV's apartment a day or two before he re-defection.

On Thanksgiving Day, MELBARDIS reported the following observations as ANTONOV and his elderly German landlady (and devoted companion), Mrs. Berta GEGENFUERTNER, visited the MELBARDIS apartment for Thanksgiving Dinner: "ANTONOV appeared unusually nervous and ill at ease. He showed me a photograph of his daughter, a chemical engineer, who resides in Leningrad. The picture shows a young woman about thirty with a child about two years old (hard to identify whether boy or girl). ANTONOV gave no details as to identify of his son-in-law. Interesting in this connection is the remark made by Mrs. GEGENFUERTNER; "Now he's found his family and he may return! By the way, he gets furious every time I mention his possible return to the USSR! (approximate quotation). As to how the photograph reached him, ANTONOV gave a rather confused account. According to him it was mailed from Brussels, and enclosed in a letter written by one of "his daughter's former college friends," "who somehow obtained ANTONOV's address in Germany (sic!). He also told me that he learned from the letter that his daughter visited the Brussels Fair this summer with a group of Soviet tourists. ANTONOV denies he met his daughter in Belgium. He concluded the conversation by saying that he burned the letter received from Brussels and only kept his daughter's photograph."

End 1

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In addition to the above, DREHER has reported on his own activities and has indicated that he is attempting to keep ANTONOV under close scrutiny and to give ANTONOV every opportunity to confide in him. DREHER reports that in a luncheon conversation on 12 January 1959, ANTONOV talked at length about his troubles. He described in detail how he had broken down on receipt of the picture of his daughter. He had been told that she and his wife ~~xxx~~ had perished in a wartime bombing attack and had long since ceased to think of himself as part of a family. He expressed agreement with DREHER that this was undoubtedly a provocation by the Return to the Homeland Committee directed at him because of the effectiveness of SBONR and the importance of his position with it. ANTONOV agreed with DREHER that the smile on the face of the woman in the photo was betrayed by the strained expression in the eyes, and that there was significance in the fact that there had been no word in his daughter's handwriting. He did not say anything about his daughter's having visited Belgium and said he believed that the photo had probably been mailed by someone at the Soviet Embassy at the request of the East Berlin Committee. He indicated that return to the homeland was on his mind, but only in a negative sense; i.e., by repeating several times it was out of the question for him to go home.

During the latter part of the week of 11-17 January, MELBARDIS was told by one of his emigre contacts that there were reports in the emigration that ANTONOV had been visited by Soviet agents during that week. The source of these reports was not identified and there was no further confirmation. However, on Monday afternoon, 19 January, ANTONOV called MELBARDIS and asked to see him urgently. The report of their conversation on 19 January is incorporated in the report from MELBARDIS as set out below.

( ) please insert here the MELBARDIS report which I furnished you last week on the visit of the two Soviet representatives to ANTONOV's apartment.) See attachment to EGMA 39995.

On Wednesday morning, 21 January 1959, MELBARDIS, DREHER, and CONDON met to discuss the above report. At that time DREHER also advised that he and MELBARDIS were invited to have dinner with ANTONOV at his apartment on Thursday, 22 January. It was decided at that time, that during the course of this dinner, efforts should be made to ascertain from ANTONOV's landlady if the above version of the visit by the two Soviet representatives were true and, further, it should be suggested to ANTONOV that it might be a good idea if he were to publish something in the SBONR journal indicating that he had been under heavy pressure by the Soviets to re-defect but that he, of course, intended to remain strong and to remain in the West. On Thursday afternoon, DREHER reports, ANTONOV called apologetically and stated that his landlady had fallen ill and he would be forced to postpone the dinner. In turn, DREHER invited him to have dinner at his apartment later on, which dinner engagement was subsequently kept. During this dinner, ANTONOV elaborated on the story as reported above by MELBARDIS, but with a few notable exceptions. He insisted that he had told only DREHER, MELBARDIS, and BUSCHMAN of the story and that he had told some of his SBONR friends two fictional accounts, one to the effect that he had received an anonymous letter about his wife and daughter and enclosing a photo and the other indicating that he had been visited by a man from the Soviet Embassy who requested that they send copies of their publications to the Soviet Embassy. ANTONOV, according to DREHER, digressed several times during the evening to talk about what a great family man he had always been and to discuss how very much he had loved his wife and daughter.

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During this dinner, DREHER took advantage of the opportunity to urge ANTONOV to protect his position in SBONR by writing a frank article as discussed above and indignantly describing and denouncing the Soviet campaign against him. It is not known as yet whether ANTONOV will go ahead with this suggestion.

DREHER, who has had the most intimate contact with ANTONOV in this matter, indicates that there appears to be much more to this case than meets the eye and he states it is extremely difficult to feel confident in any analysis or prediction. MELBARDIS, on the other hand, indicates that the rumors reaching him would indicate that ANTONOV has had more contact with the Soviets than he has stated to us and may already be under their control. On the other hand, it is difficult to place reliance on these rumors since some of them originate with KOSSAREW, a man reputed to have been very loose with the truth in the past. It is DREHER's opinion that we should continue to give ANTONOV all possible aid and sympathy during this period and in discussing this matter with KELLEY and CONDON, it has been decided that such efforts should continue but without making any unusual or obvious moves which ANTONOV might distort after his possible re-defection. It is felt that the statement in the SBONR bulletin would be a very important factor in preventing re-defection or in minimizing its effect if it should occur. It is the opinion of KELLEY, DREHER, and CONDON that the loss of ANTONOV either through re-defection or discreditation might well mean the end of SBONR as an effective political instrument. At this point, DREHER can see no one with sufficient standing and/or authority to lead the organization through and beyond the tremendous shock which would accompany such an event.

This matter is being followed closely and Adg. will be promptly advised of any developments. Condon has briefed Moolten + Lfv on this matter and is keeping in close touch with the German security authorities so that we may be appraised by them of anything they develop + to obviate the possibility of their claiming (after possible re-defection of Antonov) that we had not kept them advised of such developments.

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