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14 December 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR : SR/7/DOB/A&R
FROM : SR/7/Cauc-Cent. Asia
SUBJECT : Contact Report Tscherin SOEBZOKOV

1. I contacted SOEBZOKOV on Saturday December 9 at the Governor Clinton Hotel and interviewed him from 1100 to 1430 hours. I am known to Subject as [] , an official of the Department of Army.

2. SOEBZOKOV was prompt for the interview. His general appearance indicated prosperity. He was neat, clean and well dressed, and in no way presented a shabby and sloppy demeanor, so common to Eastern European DPs. This outward appearance seemed to reflect his personality and mentality. He was straightforward, frank and confident, without being aggressive. He was responsive to questioning and gave logical and reasonable replies, sometimes, more comprehensive than necessity demanded. When asked to elaborate a point, he did so with clarity and without verbiage. SOEBZOKOV was also a good listener, an attribute not common to DPs. He digested mentally what was told him and showed interest in the interviewer's remarks. Overall, he seemed devoid of any of those undesirable characteristics common to DPs from the USSR, subjectivity, aggressive dogmatism, inferiority complex, williness, exaggeration, all of which are produced by a mixture of Soviet culture and the "DP psychosis" contracted from long association with refugee camps.

3. No lengthy biographical description of Subject is necessary at this time. It can be done during a full assessment. Safe to say, he is a Caucasian with great national feeling, hatred for Russian and Communist imperialism and dedicated to his people and the future of his homeland. His life history follows a pattern common to many DPs but is highlighted by his position of leadership. Graduated from the Ordshonikidze Military Academy in 1939, Subject served in the Soviet Army until the German forces had occupied the North Caucasus. He then defected and saw service, first, in the civil administration of his occupied homeland, and then in the German military forces, sometime with the Caucasian Legion and later, as the leader of a reconnaissance unit under the German 96th Infantry Division. This latter assignment is witness to Subject's ability for

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only the best "natives" were given responsible assignments with purely German units. At the war's end, Subject found himself in Italy, where, after negotiations with Cardinal Tisserand, through the Collegium Russicum, he was able to obtain residence permits for a group of around eighty of his compatriotes, thus saving them from repatriation to the USSR. In 1947, Subject negotiated with the Jordanian government for immigration of nearby 200 former Soviet Circassians to Jordan (then Trans-Jordan). This was facilitated by the fact that a colony of nearly 10,000 Circassians have inhabited Jordan for many years, having arrived there in waves following Russian subjugation of their Caucasian homeland. SOEBZOKOV himself, after a two year contract with Iraq Petroleum Company as a construction foreman, worked at various jobs with the Amman city administration, his highest position being chief of the office for employment of day workers. In June 1955 Subject emigrated to the US with his family. They live in Paterson, N.J., where a colony of nearly all post-war Circassians is located. Subject has become an automobile salesman since his arrival last June.

4. From 1951-55 SOEBZOKOV was under contract to CIA and was employed by the [] station as an agent spotter and informant. (His cryptonym was forwarded under separate memorandum). Dispatches dated 10 May and 7 June 1955 note his competence and ability and recommend that Subject be re-assessed for future use by CIA. Subject has written the [] station on three occasions since his arrival in the US and is anxious to become connected with anti-communist endeavor.

5. SOEBZOKOV's nationalistic prepossession is unusually strong. I avoid the word prejudice since the use of such a term in Soviet nationality questions only denotes the partisanship of the user. But to label him a patriotic separatist is no exaggeration. This patriotism affects, nay, governs his attitude towards other peoples and nations. To wit:

- a. Subject has an uncompromising antagonism against Russia, Communist or Czarist, as the subjugator and despoiler of his homeland.
- b. Subject quit the civil administration of German occupied Circassia when the Germans began to interfere directly with the civil rights of the Circassian people. Subject resolved his disagreement by joining the fighting forces in which political differences were minimal.

c. Subject

- c. Subject bears a fanatic hatred for the British who were responsible for sending his father-in-law back to the Soviets.
- d. Despite this anti-British attitude, Subject refused to speak to his father-in-law during the war when the latter served on the staff of Vlassov's RDA as a colonel. He regarded his father-in-law as a traitor to his Circassian homeland.
- e. Subject feels great friendship for the Catholic Church, although he is a Moslem, because it was instrumental in aiding his people and saving many of them from repatriation to the USSR.
- f. Subject took a firm stand against Circassians' participating in the Palestinian war. His position was that the Jews had no quarrel with Circassia. This attitude contrasts the Arabic propaganda prevailing at the time which fostered an "all-Moslem" attitude against Israel.

6. All these particularist positions are consistent, be it noted. They are consistent with the logic of a man who puts his country's welfare above all other considerations. Fanatic though he may be, it is pertinent to remember that this word, having a depreciatory meaning in American usage is applied with honor by a Ukrainian. The important thing to consider is how much does Subject's fanaticism limit his usefulness to SR Division?

It limits it in the following way:

- a. His motivation for work with Russians would be nil.
- b. He would be best used in work with Circassians.
- c. There are other nationalities with whom he would work, too, but with less satisfaction. My guess is that they would proceed in the following order:

<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Motivation</u>
North Caucasians	excellent
Trans Caucasians	good
Turkestanis and Tartars	satisfactory
Ukrainians, Belorussians and Balts	workable

7. These

7. These limitations considered, I find Subject an excellent prospect for long term employment with SR. Specifically:

- a. Subject's motivation is highly ideological. His patriotism has been described; he asks no further monetary gain than normal security for his family and a sound future for his children. It was for their sake that Subject immigrated to the US. He certainly is not trying to find a place at Uncle Sam's watering trough. While ideological motivation is desired, it has certain disadvantages. It is usually accompanied by a high but rigid and sometimes brittle standard of values which, unless taken into account, can lead to extreme dissatisfaction. For this reason, ideologically motivated persons require a carefully planned development of their capabilities which will not swear with their ideology. The case officer handling them must appreciate, if not sympathize, with their viewpoint. Their unique usefulness is lost if they are considered "well paid employees who don't necessarily have to work here."
- b. Subject has a wide variety of experience in the intelligence field. Given a course of training consistent with this experience and his capabilities, he will develop into a consultant of broad usefulness. Subject's intelligence background can be summarized as follows:
 - 1) Experience in military reconnaissance (tylovaya razvedka) with the German 96th division.
 - 2) Some experience in P.I in connection with his reconnaissance assignment.
 - 3) Experience in clandestine operating and an excellent sense of security consciousness partly derived from training received from CIA in Jordan (see below).
 - 4) Experience in spotting prospective candidates for REDSOX assignments for the Amman situation. Subject's only actual candidate for a REDSOX assignment was turned down by the Munich SCOB/Assessment Section in 1953. The turn-down

reflected in no way on Subject's judgment. It was, rather, a case of confusion between CSOB and the [] station in their understanding of requirements for agent candidates.

- c. Subject has become a permanent resident of the U.S., intends obtaining American citizenship and, except for an action resulting in his returning to his homeland, will remain in the US. Otherwise friendly towards America, he finds American foreign policy too tolerant of the USSR and Americans too soft hearted in their approach to communist rough and-tumble methods.
- d. Subject has initiative. In four months since his coming to the U.S., he has risen from the position of "nightman" at an auto company to that of salesman in which capacity he earns around ninety dollars weekly. Subject's initiative is confirmed, moreover, by his life history. It was rare, for instance, when any North Caucasian did well enough to win a commission in the Soviet Army in 1939.
- e. As noted in the attached PRQ I, Subject is fluent in five languages including Russian and English.

8. The interviewer prefers to await results of a full assessment before recommending any disposition of Subject. However, some general remarks may be appropriate. In a dispatch dated 10 May 1955, Subject is recommended by the [] station for use as either a) an agent under unofficial cover in Europe or Turkey to work among Caucasian groups there or b) an interpreter in Europe. Such tasks would fulfill none of SR's present requirements. Furthermore, now that Subject is tainted by associations with the U.S., no manageable cover could be worked out to suit his working among European or Turkish emigre colonies. A full assessment should concentrate on his potentiality as a REDSOX consultant for training spotting and agent handling. He might be secondarily considered for [] type work. The interviewer suggests that the psychological section should be aimed at elaborating the following points:

- a. Ability to work with others. (Subject has already voiced a preference to work with young men).

b. Motivation

- b. Motivation for cooperation in projects involving the various minority nationalities of the USSR. (A detailed breakdown of Caucasian minorities is available).
- c. Tolerance for snafu.
- d. Ability to learn - (Subject's usefulness will depend partly on his being trained in intelligence subjects).
- e. Ability to teach i.e., is Subject a good pedagogue?

In the documentation forwarded under separate cover, no thoroughgoing debriefing on Subject's life history is included. This is heartily recommended as the most important aid in a study of Subject's personality and character. Subject's opinion should be encouraged on introspective matters such as what studies he liked best in school, what kind of home life he enjoyed, what feelings he had when attending a Soviet military academy, how he reacted to the German attack on the USSR, what made him decide to quit his homeland and did his decision give him cause for regret or psychological anguish? He also should be required to elaborate his views in a more objective way. The wrongness of communism, mistakes in current American foreign policy, the advantages and disadvantages of federated states (with particular application to the Caucasus or a non-communist USSR) -- These are the kinds of topics which might cast light on Subject's objective sense.

9. While the foregoing paragraph may seem pretentious and pedantic on my part, I hope that it will not be so received. It is the substantive view of the interviewer on how to proceed further and is in no way served as a requirement on the assessment section. I should appreciate any comment which my "advice" provokes. If the tone of this report tends to encourage Subject's employment with SR, operational circumstances and Subject's flexibility for use actually represent the critical factors in any final decision. If there is no place for him now, he is at least a "hot war" asset, and should be trained when a hot-war project is developed for Caucasian and Central Asian minorities.

Attachment - PRQ I

SR/7/Plans