

23 February 1956

INTERROGATION REPORT

SUBJECT: Tscherim SOCBZOKOV 7246  
TO: A&R Section, SR/Branch 7

1. Subject was initially interrogated by undersigned 20 February and again 22 February 1956 in a room at the Statler Hotel. The first interrogation lasted from approximately 10:15 AM to 1700 hours with a one hour break for lunch. The second session lasted from 10:40 AM to 1315 hours. Subject in both instances was highly cooperative after the initial rapport had been established, and showed no visible nervousness throughout the interrogation. For the purpose of this report, it would be advisable to break this down into two parts: Subject's biographical history as outlined to undersigned and a personal assessment and evaluation of Subject, which will be indicated at the end of this report.

2. SUBJECT's Personal History:

a. Subject was born 1 January 1918 in TOKTAMUKAI, Caucasus. He is a Circassian by origin of the Moslem faith. He attended the Toktamukai Elementary School from 1928-33 and the Middle School (secondary) from 1933-35. He was later admitted to the Ordshonikidze Military Academy, where he graduated in 1939 with a Lieutenant's commission.

b. Subject's father, Too SOCBZOKOV, was a landowner prior to the Russian Revolution, who owned approximately 75 hectares of land, and considerable livestock. When the Soviets appropriated this land in connection with their collectivization program, Subject's father was relegated to the status of an ordinary farmer. Because of his opposition to the Soviets in their efforts to collectivize his property along with others in his tribe, and because his brother escaped to Turkey with his family, Subject's father was subsequently arrested by the Soviets in 1937 and disappeared from the scene. His father was 68 years old at the time and it is presumed that he may have died soon after his incarceration in a Soviet prison.

c. Subject's mother was Kurach Sobzokov (nee DEDE) born in Grevenskia, Caucasus. A total of 10 children were born to her - 4 boys (of which Subject states he was the youngest and six girls. Two boys died between 1933-37 and also five girls, which Subject claims was due to natural causes. One brother is currently residing in Jordan with his wife and children. His only living sister Suret was married to a Captain in the Soviet Army, who was a veterinarian doctor by profession. His last contact with her was in 1945, where she was living in a village, in Toktamukai with her two children. Subject has no information as to her present whereabouts and has not attempted to communicate with her for fear of jeopardizing her personal security with the Soviet regime.

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d. Subject's wife is Roshnasho DZAMIRSE, who was born in Rachegahukai, Caucasus in 1926. Her father served as a Colonel with the Vlasov army which fought against the Soviets in WWII. He was taken prisoner by the English in Italy and turned over with other Vlasov members to the Soviets in 1945. He reportedly committed suicide enroute to the Soviet Union. Subject and his wife have two children: Jan Kazbek 11 1/2 years old and Sara 6 1/2 years of age, where they are residing in Patterson, New Jersey.

3. Subject states that he never held membership in either the Komsomol nor the Communist party. He was rejected from membership in the Komsomol because his father was in the so-called KULIAK class and because his father's brother had defected to Turkey. Consequently, Subject states that he was blackballed whenever his name was brought up for consideration. For this reason, he feels that his initial application for the Air Force was rejected. Had it not been for the good services of a close friend of his father's, who interceded for him with Vorishilov's office-Defense Ministry, he would never have been appointed to the military Academy.

After graduating from the Ordzhonikidze Military Academy in 1939, Subject was assigned to the 44th Inf. Division in Poland, which was then commanded by Major-Gen. Thackenko. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Company of the 305th Inf. Regiment under the command of Col. Leglandakh, where he remained until 1941. Subject was granted leave in 1941 and in attempting to bring some cloth material for members of his family, was detained by the MVD border guards for a period of 21 days before he was permitted to proceed home on leave. This incident apparently did not improve his morale. Following home leave, Subject was assigned to the 56 Inf. Div. 1153rd Regiment, which was then engaged by the German forces spearheading their drive between Tagarog and Rostov. In March 1942, Subject's Division was pulled back for regrouping and to prepare new defensive lines, where he remained until May 1942. His regiment was then ordered to move to an unknown destination - rumored to be Crimea. Subject, upon reaching a station called Kavkazai, decided to desert and subsequently made his way back to his native village in the Caucasus. He stayed in hiding until 12 August 1942, when the Germans took over the occupation of his village. Subject states that he came out of hiding then and gave himself up to the German Commander, whom he convinced that he was a deserter from the Soviet Army and that he was prepared to join the German forces in overthrowing the Communist regime. In August of 1942, Subject was elected by the inhabitants of his town as Chief of the Circassian Field Gendarmarie for the Toktamukai area, while his older brother was chosen as Mayor for the town.

4. In November 1942, Subject joined the 835 North Caucasian Volunteer Battalion under German command, which fought against the Soviets at Kalushenakin. Subject appears to have participated in numerous reconnaissance patrol missions against the Soviet forces with considerable success. During the German retreat in February 1943, Subject was wounded in the right shoulder while on a reconnaissance mission to blow up a vital bridge to stem the advance of the Soviet forces. He was then sent to the Military

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Military Hospital in the Ukraine for treatment.

5. After recovering from his wound, Subject was sent by the Germans to the Hdq. of the North Caucasian Legion, which was then located near Warsaw. Here he was appointed as a special representative to recruit Caucasian elements from German P.O.W. Camp, which were to be formed into volunteer units to fight against the Soviets. In March 1944, Subject was ordered by Lt.-Gen. Von Forester to lead 3,000 Caucasian and White Russian refugees from Odessa through Rumania to Barano. Subject's only form of transportation for these refugees was by means of horse and carts. After bringing his refugees to the Rumanian-Hungarian border, they were turned over to the German authorities. Subject was next ordered to proceed to Athens, Greece to take over as Adjutant of the 836 N. Caucasian Battalion. His stopover in Greece was short lived in view of the large scale Greek partisan activity against the Germans at the time. Subject states the high altitude caused him to bleed from the nose and mouth and after an 8 hour stay in Greece, he was sent back to the Hdq. of the Caucasian Legion located near Warsaw. Warsaw was in a chaotic state of uprising at the time, so Subject proceeded on to Berlin.

6. In the early part of 1945, Subject joined the Caucasian SS Division, which was organized under Standartenführer Thoernan and Caucasian Standartenführer Ubuway, where he was appointed as their representative for the liberation and recruitment of Caucasian nationals from various POW camps and concentration camps to fight against the Soviets. After being properly documented as an SS officer, Subject established his headquarters in Balta Kapaza, Hungary, where he was assigned camps in Austria and Hungary to carry out his work. After staying here until April 1945 and realizing that the German cause had collapsed, Subject proceeded with his wife to Oberdranburg, Austria, which was already occupied by the British. Upon arrival, Subject (dressed in an SS uniform) gave himself up to the British. His efforts to explain to the British that he was not a member of the German SS, served no useful purpose. He was incarcerated in a prison with German SS members and later shipped out of the area by truck, where he made his escape. He subsequently found shelter with an Austrian woman, who gave him civilian clothes and after making his way back to his wife, he arranged to secure false documents through an Austrian and with 42 other Circassian refugees, made his way to Barre, Italy in June 1945 by means of a large truck, which he managed to secure for the trip.

7. Subject finally settled his small group of Circassians in Rome, Italy and lived by dealing in blackmarket activities. After staying in Italy until 1947, Subject, as the appointed leader of his Circassian group, attempted to secure political asylum for them, first in Egypt, which was unsuccessful and later through a personal conference with Abdullah of Jordan, who granted asylum along with financial assistance to transport the group from Italy. Subject also succeeded in securing a personal audience with the Pope, who later provided funds to help repatriate subject Circassian to Jordan.

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9. From April 1948 to December, 1949, Subject worked in Jordan as Station Construction Stewart. From January 1950 to June 1951, he was assigned as Controller of Laborers and did various jobs for the Municipality of Amman. He was released when this post was liquidated by the Amman Administration. Subject was subsequently reemployed by the Amman Municipality in September 1952 as Personnel Officer, and worked until June 6, 1955. During this period, he served as Representative of the No. Caucasian National Committee in Jordan. He resigned his post when his visa was granted to emigrate to the U. S. with his family.

## II. ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF SUBJECT:

1. The foregoing resume of Subject's personal history and background reflects to some degree his inherent characteristics which make up his personality. Subject possesses a keen, alert mind, is articulate, well poised, and is decidedly above average in intelligence. He speaks Circassian, Russian, German, Arabic and Italian. His English is considered fairly good. Subject's ability to survive during WWII and immediately following the cessation of hostilities would appear to indicate that he is also resourceful with a considerable degree of native cunning developed to a marked degree in his fight to survive under adverse conditions. He possesses qualities of leadership, if one is to judge from his account of shepherding his group of Circassians through Europe and into Italy at the end of WWII and subsequently arranging to resettle them in Jordan at a time when they were faced with possible repatriation to the USSR.

2. Motivation: Subject's basic motivation appears to stem from a fanatical desire to liberate his people from Communist domination. He has a marked hatred for the Soviet regime, which may essentially stem from the fact that his father was persecuted by the Soviets. Subject has clearly indicated that he is prepared to join forces with any group working actively against the Soviet regime.

3. Although Subject appeared to answer questions put to him in an open and honest manner, it was evident to the undersigned that he was somewhat reluctant to go into any specific details when queried on his service with the German forces, and in particular with the Caucasian SS Battalion. The undersigned feels, however, that his explanations in this respect were not convincing and that there is a strong possibility that Subject may have participated in unsavory activities for the Germans, which might well be categorized under minor war crimes. When questioned in this respect, Subject categorically stated that his war activities with the Germans were directed only against the Soviets and that he was not involved in any crimes against humanity generally attributed to the SS elements of the German forces operating in the USSR during WWII.

4. There is little evidence in Subject's background which would indicate that he is a "planted" Soviet agent. As a deserter from the Soviet army and later joining forces with the Germans to fight against the Soviets, automatically placed

him on the Soviet criminal list as a traitor against his homeland. Hence, had he been apprehended by the Soviets prior to escaping to the West, he would have in all probabilities been shot or hanged. All supporting documents in the possession of Subject appear to substantiate the veracity of his statements and eventual escape to Italy before securing political asylum in Amman, Jordan with his Circassian associates.

5. Subject was carefully questioned on the possibilities of having other members of his immediate family besides his sister still residing in the USSR. Subject's explanation that 2 brothers and 5 sisters died of "natural causes" left some doubt in the mind of the undersigned. He appeared somewhat vague as to the nature or cause of these deaths, which leads the undersigned to suspect that Subject may have some motive for shielding this information from his examiner. It occurred to the undersigned that Subject is clever enough to realize that having other members of his family still residing in the USSR may be a militating factor, in his rejection for government employment. Should this actually be the case, Subject could readily be "blackmailed" by the Soviets through direct threats to take appropriate action against members of Subject's family still residing in the USSR. This possibility would be considerably enhanced should the Soviets learn of Subject's connections with KUBARK at a later date. Subject should be examined on this point when the LCFUTTER is administered to determine whether he is telling the truth in this connection.

6. Since Subject had resided in an area predominantly under the influence of the British, he was questioned rather closely as to his relations with them during his tenure in Jordan. Subject truthfully revealed that he had been approached by the BIS to work for them. Apart from giving some general information on certain individual refugees of interest to the British, it would appear he had no further intercourse with them. It should be noted here that Subject is strongly anti-British in his views, which stems largely from his unfortunate experience with them at the end of the war and the fact that he blames them for turning over his Father-in-law (Member of the Vlassov Army) to the Soviets.

7. Subject was recruited by KUBARK in Jordan in 1953, where he worked as a spotter and informant up to the time of his departure for the U.S. in June 1955. Apart from this experience with KUBARK, his background shows no indication of additional intelligence experience. However, Subject has the requisite qualifications combined with his area and language knowledge to be considered for this work.

8. Assuming that Subject meets KUBARK's assessment standards and his bonafides are established beyond any reasonable doubt, Subject could be considered for employment in any one of these three categories:

- a. As an agent under unofficial cover in the Middle East or Europe.
- b. As a spotter/recruiter for Caucasian elements in the U.S. for REDSOX activities.
- c. As a possible contract employee in training Caucasian elements for subsequent dispatch to denied areas.

His natural antagonism toward Russians in general would possibly preclude Subject's use in working with this national group in an operational capacity, notwithstanding his excellent command of the Russian language.