

19 Jul 1974

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Tscherim SOOBZOKOV, [] was first met by chance in a mutual friend's shop by the COS, [] in December 1950. SOOBZOKOV was an unwitting source at the time, providing information on Circassian activity in Jordan, biographic data on Circassians, and information on links between Circassians in and out of Jordan.

In 1952 he was considered as a possible candidate to spot and recruit potential assets for the AEASTER/REDSOX project. This was a Headquarters (SR) controlled project executed in the NE areas designed to train Circassians and other Russian emigres and then send them back into the USSR. After pre-testing and a polygraph (done in Beirut), the people he spotted and recruited would be sent on hazardous missions into the USSR. He was given the qualifications desired in potential assets, i.e. youth, single status, motivation. He spotted two candidates, and only one was accepted for the program. [] was sent to Munich for training but was rejected; Munich said he was too low level for the training, and he was sent back to Jordan. There is no indication of what happened to []. The AEASTER project was terminated in April 1954. SOOBZOKOV was retained as a general informant in Amman and not terminated with the project.

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During the period 1953-mid 1955, SOOBZOKOV continued to report on the activities of the Circassian and other Russian emigres, and he supplied information on British activities in relation to the Circassian emigres. He travelled to Jerusalem at the direction of the Station to meet with emigres and report on their activities. He enjoyed high-level contacts in Jordan and was able to report on Jordanian politics.

In June 1955 he obtained a visa for him and his family to come to the U.S. This was done on his own; the Agency did not assist him in any way.

There was no official contact with SOOBZOKOV from June 1955 until November 1955. SOOBZOKOV had written several letters to COS, expressing his desire to continue to work. The letters were forwarded to Headquarters. In late 1955 SOOBZOKOV was contacted by mail to set up a meeting in New York with Headquarters case officer. At this time SOOBZOKOV was being considered for contract employment by DOB/SB. He was met on several occasions in New York and Washington.

From February 1957-August 1957, after pre-testing and assessment, SOOBZOKOV was sent to Ft. Meade for training in the AEREDY project, a training program for "Hot War Agents". He received extensive training in paramilitary, clandestine fieldcraft and tradecraft, as well as a full course in clandestine communication. His instructor's

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assessment after the training was fair.

In September 1957 SOOBZOKOV was contacted to take a 3-month TDY to Jordan for NE Division; he was to run independent operations into Syria from Amman using local Circassians. Prior to his departure SOOBZOKOV provided a list of potential assets in Jordan and Syria. During his time in Jordan and Lebanon he provided information on Circassians officers in the Jordanian and Syrian armies. SOOBZOKOV returned to the U.S. late December 1957, and his contract with NE was terminated.

In order for SOOBZOKOV to protect his employment while on the above trip, a telegram was sent to him, ostensibly from Beirut, requesting that he visit his brother who was ill. Since this cover would only last approximately 3 weeks, he supposedly was referred to the firm of [redacted]. He

requested a commercial assignment through them in order to defray the expenses of his trip to visit his brother. He was ostensibly to make a survey of products in Lebanon and Jordan that would be profitably exported to the U.S. This firm was a backstopped notional cover organization established by Central Cover Branch.

During SOOBZOKOV's association with the Agency he was polygraphed with inconclusive results 7 times, the last being in November 1959. In January 1960 all contact with SOOBZOKOV was terminated. Discrepancies in his biographic information

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could not be clarified. SOOZOKOV was notified by letter of the termination and given his last payment for December 1959.

SOOZOKOV received payments from the Agency from 1952 through December 1959. There was a break during the period June 1955 to November 1955, when he departed Amman for the U.S. until re-contact was made. Before he departed Amman, he was given a one-time lump sum payment. He was reimbursed for all of his travel to Washington made at our request. During his AEREDY training he was given a salary plus room, board and clothing. The majority of these payments were sent in a letter to him, and he receipted for them via return mail.

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NAME : SOOBZOKOV, Tscherim
DPOB : 24 August 1924; 24 April 1924; 1 Jan
1918; 1921; Toktamukai, Caucasus, USSR
CIT : Became Jordanian 1951, naturalized
American 17 April 1961
WIFE : Hoshnasho NEE Djamirse, 1926,
Ptschegatlukai, Caucasus
SON : Davbek, 1945, Italy
DAU : Sarah, 1949, Jordan
BRO : Musa ZOQBZOKOV, 1906 - Lived with
Subject in Amman
RELIGION : Non-practicing Moslem
EDUCATION : Toktamukai Elementary School 1927-33
- Certificate; Toktamukai Secondary
School 1934-36
LANGUAGES : Circassian, Russian - good; German - fair;
Italian - good to fair; English - fair;
Arabic - fair
POLITICAL : Member of the North Caucasian National
Committee

Since biographic data on SOOBZOKOV holds many discrepancies which were never clarified, the following is in as much of a chronological order as possible. Dates and places conflict, but there is no way to decide which is correct.

1936-39 Attended ORDZHONIKIDZE Military - graduated
as Lieutenant
1939 Worked on-Kolhoz, probably as clerk keeping
records of others' earnings and labor.
Nov 39-Mar 41 USSR Army, 3rd Co., 1st Bn., 305th Inf. Rgt.,
44th Inf. Div of Soviet Army in Poland. Was
in Brest-Litovsk.

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1940 Changed his birthday to 1921 in order to join the army. When accepted, he and friends celebrated and arrested for hooliganism. Sentenced to one year in jail, served in Krasnodar prison and later Bialastok. Served 9 months and at outbreak of war was released and drafted in Smolensk.

Mar-Jun 41 While on home leave for month was injured and taken to Krasnodar Military hospital, where he remained until outbreak of war with Germany

Jun 41 Reassigned to the 56 Div and stationed between Tghankog and Rostov on Don.

Fall 41 Drafted as a laborer, he prepared defense lines for naval unit in the area of Rostov

Mar 42 Wounded in right shoulder; sent to Orsk in Azerbaijan until Jun 42

May 42 Deserted the Soviet Army and hid until 12 Aug 42 when he surrendered to the Germans

Jul 42 Ordered to the Crimea and, like other Caucasians, he deserted and remained in the Krasnodar area.

Aug 42 Surrendered to Germans

Aug 42 Made Chief of a Circassian Field Gendarmerie for the Tiktamukai area. Collecting Red Army uniforms and weapons in the area

Nov 42 - early 43-44 Joined 835th Circassian field Gendarmerie for the Tiktamukai area as Chief of Commandos

30 Dec 42 Issued a permit by the Germans to search the area of Tiktamukai for Jews and Komsomol

Early 43 Claimed to be Chief of a Commando group which scouted Russian positions and engaged in demolition work

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Mar 43 When Germans retreated, he was recommended to the Germans and was sent to a German-organized North Caucasian Legion in Poland. First assignment was to visit POW camps to search for reliable North Caucasians who might be used to fight against the Russians. Supposedly travelled in Germany, Ukraine, Czechoslovakia and Poland in this recruiting capacity.

Early 43 Subject joined North Caucasian Battalion 835 in Kalushinsky. Unit composed entirely of Caucasians under a German Capt. Claimed to be Chief of a Commando group which scouted Russian positions and engaged in demolition work.

1943-45 Met Colonel commanding an SS unit in Germany who was a friend of his father. Colonel appointed him as officer to search the POW camps for recruits. Established an office in Ash, Hungary with two assistants.

1943-44 Recruited in the POW camps in Germany, Ukraine, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

1944 Germans organized the Moslem SS Division under the SS Colonel.

Winter 43-44 Led 3,000 Circassians and White Russian Refugees from Odessa to Varano.

Mar 44 Proceeded to Greece, then to Warsaw, then Berlin.

1944-45 Worked in the U.S. Army Provost Marshall Office in Rome.

May 45 When Germans surrendered he fled Hungary and was captured by British in Austria and held in Spital camp. Escaped and went to Villach on Austrian/Italian border. Visited the British Red Cross and stated his followers who were residents of Greece had been forced labor in Austria by the Germans. British Red Cross provided travel certificates to proceed to Greek Consul in Bari. Turned down by both Greeks and Turks.

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Jul 45-47 Lived in Rome until given permission by King Abdullah to go to Jordan.

Oct 47 Met Abdullah or Abbas Mirzi, Minister of Interior in Amman, Jordan. There collected money from Circassians in Jordan to pay expenses for him and troupe to travel from Italy to Jordan.

Nov 47. Departed Italy for Jordan

Apr 48-Dec 49 With Iraq Petroleum Co., Jordan. Was construction steward and inspector.

Jan 50-Apr 52 Assigned as controller of laborers and did various jobs for the municipality of Amman. Was terminated when his position was abolished. (also rpted as Jan 50-Jun 51).

Apr 52-Jun 53 Unemployed

Sept 52 Employed again by the Municipality of Amman as personnel officer until 6 Jun 55. At same time served as representative of the North Caucasian-National Committee in Jordan.

June 53 Reported he was hired again by the Municipality of Amman.

June 55 Departed Amman for the U.S. and settled in Paterson, N.J.

Jun/Jul 55 Worked at a Plymouth agency in Paterson, N.J. as night watchman; later was promoted to salesman.

1956 Was hired after passing the competitive insurance agent exam of the State of New York Mutual Life Insurance Co.

Sep 58 Lost job at New York Mutual Life Ins. Co.

June 60 Worked at Color Plastics (sic) Co., Paterson.

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