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ATTACHMENT #1

DRAFT
NE/ARN/JJ
15 July 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Immigration and Naturalization Service
SUBJECT : Tscherm SOOBZOKOV
REFERENCE : Your Request for Information dated 3-21-75 Regarding
Tscherm SOOBZOKOV- I&NS File A 10 083 288

1. A thorough review of Subject's file does not reveal any firm information or evidence of a derogatory nature except ^{perhaps} as follows:

a. In April 1958 Subject stated he had initially falsified his date of birth as 1921 in order to join the Russian Army and that in 1942 he subsequently falsified it as 1918 in order to attain officer rank in a Circassian military unit organized by the German Army. He also stated he falsified his level of education and military and employment record in order to enhance his position.

b. In November 1959 Subject admitted that he had been recruited by German Intelligence in 1942 as an informant on Circassian activities and at their instructions joined a Circassian military unit under German command in order to perform these duties more effectively.

2. We terminated our substantive relationship with Subject in November 1959 because we believed he was being evasive about biographic details of his early life and were unable to resolve our doubts.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2004 2005

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Signature _____

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HIGHLIGHTS OF AGENCY RELATIONSHIP

Tscherim SOOBZOKOV, [] was first met by 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 controlled project designed to train Circassians and other Russian emigres and then send them back into the USSR. He possessed the qualifications desired in potential assets, i.e., youth, single status, motivation. He spotted two candidates, and only one was accepted for the program. One, [] was sent to Munich for training but was rejected on the grounds he was too low level for the training and he was sent back to Jordan. The AEASTER project was terminated in April 1954, but SOOBZOKOV was retained as a general informant in Amman and not terminated with the project.

During the period 1953 - mid-1955, SOOBZOKOV continued to report on the activities of Circassian and other Russian emigres, and he supplied information on British and Jordanian activities in relation to the Circassian emigres. He appeared to have high-level contacts in Jordan and was able to report on Jordanian politics. In June 1955, after much effort, he obtained a visa for himself and his family to come to the U.S. This was done on his own initiative and the Agency did not assist him in any way.

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There was no official contact with SOOBZOKOV from June 1955 until November 1955, although SOOBZOKOV wrote several letters to COS, [] expressing his desire to continue to work with the Agency. In late 1955 a letter was sent to SOOBZOKOV to set up a meeting in New York with a Headquarters case officer. At this time SOOBZOKOV was being considered for contract employment by SS/DOB, and 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 AEREADY 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.

In September 1957 SOOBZOKOV was sent on a 3-month TDY to Jordan for NE Division to run independent operations into Syria from Amman using local Circassians. During this time in the area 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.

To protect his employment while on this trip a telegram was sent to him, ostensibly from Beirut, requesting that he visit his brother who was ill. As this cover would only last approximately 3 weeks, he was referred to the firm of [] to seek a commercial assignment from them to defray the expenses of his trip. Ostensibly he was making a survey of products in Lebanon and Jordan that would be profitably exported to the U.S. This firm was a notional cover organization established by Central Cover Branch.

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During SOOBZOKOV's association with the Agency he was polygraphed with inconclusive results 7 times, 23 February 1953, 25 February 1956, 13 December 1956, 24 August 1957, 17 October 1957, 22 April 1958, and 19-20 November 1959. The last interrogation was the most thorough and led to the cancellation of his provisional clearance. Previously, Subject had volunteered in a letter on 20 March 1958 that he had used an incorrect birth date on his U.S. visa application. In a subsequent interview on 22 October 1958 Subject stated he had used a false birth date to make himself appear older and be eligible for service in the local militia and had also falsified his level of education in order to be eligible for officer rank and generally get a better deal. He added that these fake dates had become publically accepted and he felt compelled to use them when applying for a U.S. visa at the Embassy in Amman.

Several of the polygraphs were favorable in conclusion in that they revealed no connection with any intelligence services or revelation on his part of his relationship with CIA, but they did not focus on earlier biographic details. The first and the penultimate polygraphs, however, both noted evasions on questions concerning early biographic detail. The last interview focused heavily on this area and the operator concluded that there was something in Subject's background so pertinent and important to him that he was willing to jeopardize employment with CIA rather than reveal the information. It was at this same interview that Subject admitted he had been recruited by German Army Intelligence in 1942 as an informer and at their instruction had "volunteered" for duty in a Circassian military unit fighting for the German Army in order to perform his duties more effectively.

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There are numerous reports in Subject's file containing allegations of a derogatory nature. Many of these, particularly the more recent ones, are from other government agencies. Those emanating during the period of his active association with CS were eventually dismissed and generally attributed to emigre politics and jealousies. The decision to terminate our relationship with him was not based on positive knowledge but rather ^{the fact} that we could not obtain a clear reading on certain periods of his life and we could not accept this uncertainty.

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