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FOR COORDINATION WITH ^{ed} INS

28 SEP 1966

TO: The Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service

FROM: Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT: TARNOI, Lasso
[aka: TARNOY, Lasso
TARNOY, Doctor
TARNOI, (KOSTYAL) Lasso
TARNOI, Kostyal aka Lasso
TARNOI de THARNO, Ladislao]

1. Reference is made to request dated 7 September 1966 concerning Subject (A14 072 976). The files of this office contain the following information.

2. Information contained in a number of reports covering a period from 1945 until 1962 and received from a predecessor organization of this Agency, the Department of the Army and a biographical sketch regarding the "curriculum vitae" of Ladislao TARNOI de THARNO provided by TARNOI de THARNO himself, indicates the existence of two individuals whom this office believes to be identical with one another and, consequently, very probably identifiable with the Subject of your trace request. The initial identification of the "two individuals," namely, one Lasso TARNOY (aka Doctor TARNOY, Lasso (KOSTYAL) TARNOI, Kostyal TARNOI aka Lasso) and Ladislao TARNOI de THARNO is based on the following facts: that both were born about 1912 in Hungary, that both had an extensive background in law and were active in the Hungarian government during World War II, that both were judges and achieved high positions in the Hungarian judicial system at approximately the same time during World War II,

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that Ladislao TARNOI de THARNO was Secretary of the Hungarian Embassy in Italy during the latter part of the war and László (KOSTYAL) TARNOI, a secretary in the Hungarian Foreign Office arrived in Milan, Italy, in February 1945, apparently to take up a diplomatic post of some type, that after the war, both were active in Italy as businessmen and did not return to Hungary. Both individuals would then very definitely appear to be identical. Upon review of your trace request, certain items worthy of note, in regard to a further identification with your Subject, stand out; namely, date and place of birth, background in law, the use of the name KOSTYAL, which you indicate is Subject's father's name and which we find in evidence in several reports concerning László TARNOI, and the fact that your Subject lists a Venezuelan residence from 1958 until 1964 and currently is a Venezuelan by nationality, a fact which "ties in" with Ladislao TARNOI de THARNO's Venezuelan citizenship and residence since 1948. Based on all these facts, we will endeavor to present for your analysis and investigation the following information on two subjects that we consider identical with each other and your Subject.

3. According to a report dated 10 August 1945 from a source whose reliability cannot be judged but whose information was judged to be probably true, László TARNOY arrived in Milan in April 1945. He was reported to have been formerly in the entourage of one Baron KEMENY; TARNOY helped to evacuate the Ministry (probably the Foreign Ministry) to Szombathely, Hungary. TARNOY was described as a smart businessman who claimed that he was sent by the Minister to inform the Legation verbally on the situation in Hungary. According to Source, TARNOY was a member of the Arrow Cross Party (extreme right wing fascist group), and a former leader of rightist student movements in Hungary. His address was given as Argegnio, near Camo, Italy.

4. According to a report dated 18 August 1945 from the Department of the Army, SCI Unit Z, Rome, Doctor TARNOY was formerly Secretary of the Foreign Ministry and also held a government post under SZALLASI. The Army report indicated that various stories concerning TARNOY stated that at one time he was a judge and a member of the Arrow Cross Party, although he allegedly was a Jew

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and a former Socialist. TARNOY reportedly arrived with his driver from Vienna in April 1945 and was living in Argegno (Como region) where he was on good terms with the Italian Partisans.

5. A usually reliable source reported on 10 January 1946 that Laszlo (Kostyal) TARNOI was a Hungarian Nazi student leader and former official in the Ministry of Public Education. He was in charge of college students' forced labor battalions and was an active and leading member of the Nazi-inspired Hungarian associations, the Veterans of the Eastern Front and the Anti-Bolshevist League. In the SZALASI regime, TARNOI was appointed district judge and later transferred to the Foreign Ministry in charge of deportations. He escaped to Austria in 1945 and came from there to Italy in a car he had stolen. The automobile which belonged to one Elemer RADISIC, the former Hungarian delegate to the League of Nations, was taken into custody by the Swedish Legation in Milan. Posing as a Jewish refugee, TARNOI contacted Allied authorities, and thereafter obtained permission to start an Anglo-Italian satirical review in Milan. When TARNOI arrived in Rome in December 1945, he called on RADISIC's sister, Mrs. Evvina PANFILA, 7 Via Santa Costanza, demanding the above mentioned car be turned over to him. She refused, even though TARNOI threatened to denounce her to Allied authorities. His claim that he had very good contacts among Allied authorities created great consternation among the democratic Hungarians, who knew him as a rabid Hungarian Nazi and a scoundrel.

6. According to a report dated 25 June 1946 from a reliable source, Laszlo TARNOY (TARNOI) alleged doctor, and a Hungarian citizen, married with no children, lived at 25 Piazza Castello in Milan and claimed to be an agent of the British Intelligence Service (subsequent inquiry sent to the British, revealed that they had no record of anyone by that name except for one reference concerning one Laszlo TARNOY, a Hungarian Nazi). Source stated that TARNOY was in fact an active member of the Crocefrecclata (Arrow Cross) Party, by virtue of which he penetrated the Budapest magistracy and rose as high as chief judge. He was at that time a relentless persecutor of the Jews and of pro-British elements. His conduct in the BEKEFI affair was given as an example; Laso BEKEFI, an actor and noted for

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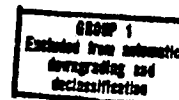
his anti-Nazi and pro-British views, was arrested together with some of his friends and condemned to death by TARNOY. BEKEFI's sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. After the fall of Budapest, TARNOY went to Milan with two cars, a great many furs, and his pretty young wife, who was described as a musical comedy artist (further investigation and check into our files reveals that Laszlo TARNOY's wife was one Baba KAPUS who was 22 years of age in 1945 and described as a former actress-this causes some discrepancy with your name trace request since you show Subject divorced in 1938 with no evidence that he remarried; however, the possibility that he might have remarried or cohabited with another female subsequent to his divorce in 1938 could exist). TARNOY penetrated the ranks of the Fronte della Gioventu (Youth Front), where he passed for a refugee and a professional journalist.

7. The following information concerns Ladislao TARNOI de THARNO, Venezuelan citizen: he was a naturalized Venezuelan citizen, was born in Hungary in 1912 and obtained the Doctor of Law degree in the Royal University "Pazmany Peter" of Budapest in 1934. He was a lawyer by profession, and eventually was named Judge of the Superior Tribunal of the capitol (1942), then Director of the Cabinet of the Ministry of Justice and later, Secretary of the Hungarian Embassy in Italy. At the end of World War II, having refused to return to his country, he was deprived of his possessions and his citizenship. During the first three years of his voluntary exile, he worked as a port laborer in Genova (sic), Italy, and later, as a businessman in Milan. In 1948 he emigrated to Venezuela, where he obtained Venezuelan citizenship in 1953, and in 1962, he was working in a lawyer's office as a public interpreter. TARNOI de THARNO's scientific activity was described as characterized by a fervent dedication to philosophical studies, especially those of law philosophy. He attended the Inter-American Philosophy Congresses held in Santiago, Chile, in 1956, in Washington in 1957, in San Jose, Costa Rica, in 1961, and the International Philosophy Congress, held in Venice in 1958. He conducted various lectures and scientific talks, meeting with professors of the Law Schools of the Universities of Montevideo and Buenos Aires in 1956, conferences held at the National Universities of Santiago, Chile, in 1956, Zulia, Venezuela, in 1957,

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San Jose, Costa Rica, in 1961, and in the Center of Philosophic Studies of the National University of Mexico in 1962. TARNOI de THARNO boasts many publications and various studies in legal and philosophic magazines along with various literary works edited in the Hungarian language and a historical novel of the time of Pericles which was to be edited in 1962.

8. The files of this office reflects one other report that appears on a card record only, dated circa 1952. The card indicates that one Lassic TARNOI was a representative of the Hungarian Communist Party in Caracas, Venezuela.

9. A check of other offices of this Agency reveals a report dated 1944, source not given, in which one Doctor Lassic TARNOI was alleged to have been the national propaganda leader of the TURUL Association (sic) and a staff member of the publication VIRRADAP (translation-Daybreak).

CSCI-316, 04857-66

Encl. 1 name check

CC: Federal Bureau of Investigation

RID/CE: JMA/JFS/bcs

BASED ON:

JX 819 c1952 (card record)
XARZ 8495 10 August 1945
JSX 1934 18 August 1945
JSX 5754 10 January 1946
JRX 3507 25 June 1946
XX 12659 23 October 1946

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