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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

4 June 52

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark or initial) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM: RI NO. MASA-1721 *JP*
 DATE

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		RECD	FWFD		
1. EE/SC 200K					52 END R. E. L. Incident
2. H		JUN 10 1952		<i>JP</i>	cc with last file
3. H.B.				<i>H</i>	200K
4.					
5.				<i>JP</i>	
6.					
7. Z			25 June	<i>JLD</i>	Recommend 201 Dispatch is of historical interest - This category restricts document. de with WB
8. EE/SC/H/GEM				<i>JP</i>	
9.					
10. I. I - July					
11.					
12.					
13.				<i>RB</i>	
14.					
15.					

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INTELLIGENCE
JUN 16 1952
RECORDS
ABSTRACT INDEX

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VIA: _____
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA ROUTE)

DISPATCH NO. MASA-1721

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, EE
Attn:
FROM : Chief of Station, Vienna ^{S&W}
SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational
SPECIFIC— Interrogation of Bertalan GEOCZE

DATE: 4 June 1952

01-22-52 (221000051)

1. learned on 17 May 1952 from Mr. De Antonio of MIS, Bad Reichenhall, that two Hungarians, Lasalo MAZINGER and Bertalan GEOCZE, were jailed by the German Border Police for repeated illegal border crossings from Austria to Germany and back to Austria and that both could be interrogated under MIS cover in Bad Reichenhall.

2. Since GEOCZE is known from the Grussome/Chester project as an intelligence operator, upon request interrogated him in Bad Reichenhall in order to establish the following:

- a. Is he or is he not a Communist agent provocateur?
- b. Is he or is he not an intelligence fabricator?
- c. Does he have contacts in Hungary which could be exploited for intelligence purposes?
- d. Are there any control factors we could use in exploiting GEOCZE's possibilities?

3. The contacts by on 19 May and by on 22 May showed that one could not arrive at clear-cut answers to the above questions without a month-long interrogation of GEOCZE, in view of the extensive material and in view of his character. On these two meetings GEOCZE firmly denied fabrication and maintained that his reports were obtained from bona fide sources through clandestine channels. In order to shorten the procedure arranged for a carriage test through Mr. Gialow of CID, Salzburg, for 26 May. A room was rented at the Pension WALTERMEIER at Bad Reichenhall for "a medical specialist", and GEOCZE was escorted by from the Reichenhall jail to this room for "medical examination". GEOCZE suffers from a serious stomach ailment with recurrent spasms, in spite of his undergoing several operations. On the morning of the carriage test he felt well, although he did not use medication.

4. When explained to him the nature of the carriage test, GEOCZE instantly admitted to intelligence fabrication and revealed his intelligence background as follows:

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MAR. 1949

1 attachment n s m.

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5. GEOCZE began his intelligence career in 1932 as informant for Istvan HORTHY who was eager to find out the origin of adverse rumors about Regent HORTHY and his family in Hungary. In 1934 GEOCZE was put on the payroll of the Cabinet-bureau by HORTHY. All the while he retained his job as a school teacher at Sopron.

6. In 1942 he was recruited by the German SD. Istvan HORTHY, who wanted GEOCZE to learn more about German intentions in Hungary, allegedly approved of the affiliation. In 1944 GEOCZE was recruiting stay-behind agents for the Germans, who expected the Soviet to take over Hungary. Some of these men, whom he failed to name, could allegedly be recontacted. Organization of stay-behinds was not completed because the radios which had been promised were never distributed.

7. Upon cessation of hostilities GEOCZE left Sopron in order to evade possible persecution as former SD agent. He left in Sopron his mistress, Rosa BECK, and took along with his wife and three children. *truth*

8. To avoid detection of being a former SD man GEOCZE traveled constantly after the Soviet occupied the country until the end of 1946. In 1946 he befriended a young AVO man in Hegyeshalom by the name of Istvan FEHER, whom he provided with false school credentials which enabled FEHER to secure officer status with the AVH and to become captain of Border Guards. FEHER is now stationed at the Manresa Building, Budapest. Another person who received false school credentials from GEOCZE is one Ferenc SILLIS, who, according to GEOCZE, is now with the Hungarian Planning Office. GEOCZE, feeling that he was now "protected", entered the CP at the end of 1946 and secured employment as teacher at Hegyeshalom.

9. During the summer of 1947 Rosa BECK appeared in Hegyeshalom, and subsequently GEOCZE was questioned twice, once in August and once in December 1947, by the AVO regarding his past. He claimed that he was anti-German and stated that for one month he was under arrest by the SD—which was true. However, arrest was made in view of his refusal to carry out an order which GEOCZE considered unjust. (No details asked or given.)

10. Fearing that the police investigation had been brought on by BECK's denunciation and fearing that she may provide proof, GEOCZE fled in February 1948 to Vienna. He moved subsequently to Zell am See and Bruck a/d Gross Glockner Str. In Bruck GEOCZE met Lajos NOVISZEDIAK, who found that GEOCZE had material of interest to western intelligence organizations and had not been debriefed by CIC nor MIS. Through Arpad HEMNEI, a friend of Novisa EDIAK, GEOCZE was recommended to György KOLLENYI, a Zipperite who recruited him as courier agent after debriefing him.

11. In May 1949 he was sent back to Hungary on his first mission, which he accomplished satisfactorily. On the way out he smuggled to Austria one Edith KISS.

12. In the course of 1949 he made two additional trips to Hungary. Each time he had a smuggling assignment in addition to his intelligence mission. On these two trips he used as a safe house the home of Ferenc KISS, uncle of Edith KISS, at Erdlight. The intelligence collected was unorganized and inconsistent except for his own visual observations.

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13. KOLLENYI and Bela LANCZI stated to GEOCZE that too much work on their part would be required to organize the reports into a presentable and acceptable form. Therefore the reports were returned to GEOCZE with the request that he "brush them up".

14. At first this task involved merely some basic research, such as coordinating and checking drawings with available town maps, putting in the exact azimuths, co-ordinates, etc. In the course of this research work GEOCZE found in the Railroad Museum and in the Technical Museum of Vienna a mass of technical data and drawings on Hungary with which he "supplemented" his reports and got away with it. Step by step he became a dyed-in-the-wool "fabricator".

15. He still attempted to retain contact with his "agents" in Hungary and with various smugglers; however, the low level data furnished by these was used merely to give an authentic air to the "manufactured" reports on railroad profiles, bridges, etc.

16. Through the smugglers he obtained Hungarian technical periodicals, in which he found forms used by the Nationalized Hungarian factories to report their weekly production data. These GEOCZE used to formulate up-to-date production reports on the basis of information which he obtained from refugees. He claims that his shipping lists on Austro Hungarian railroad traffic were genuine and that he obtained data for these lists through Josef GEFCSII and Karoly STADLER, both of whom allegedly have been arrested by the Soviet or by Hungarian authorities.

17. The following of his contacts are still available today:

18. Hubert GÖRLICH, Vienna XVIII, Thimiggasse 54. He is a former sergeant of the Luftwache; an Austrian; traveling in the Sovzones of Austria.

19. Jupp KAISER, Vienna XVIII, Hockegasse or Glockegasse 5/3—a city apartment house. KAISER works in the "Winterhafen" as a ship motor mechanic and is frequently working among the Messhart ships, where he retains contact with Messhart personnel. Through these individuals (unidentified) he receives messages from one Jozsef EZER, a Danube River helmsman residing at Tolna. EZER plies the river between Mohacs and the Matyas Rakosi Works at Csepel, delivering coal to the Matyas Rakosi Works. Today he is used as a letterbox for Istvan TATOS, Sr., and Istvan TATOS, Jr., residents of Ujfehértó. TATOS, Jr., is a railroad employee at Nyiregyhaza, and his sister (name unknown) is married to another railroad man employed at Zahony. They furnish "news items" for RFE broadcasts.

20. Istvan SZABÓ, a resident of Lipot village near Győr. Shortly after the war SZABÓ joined the Communist Party at GEOCZE's insistence and became a distributor for the Communist publishing firm "Salkra". SZABÓ served as a courier between Győr and Mickelsdorf, Austria, where he delivered his material to one Karl ACS, who in turn passed it to GEOCZE. SZABÓ has not been used since the end of 1949, but according to GEOCZE he is still free and could be activated. Although his education is limited and he is not very articulate, GEOCZE thinks highly of him.

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21. Max LOPATA, an Austrian resident of Parndorf. LOPATA is a former contact of GECZE who has not been used since the arrest of Karoly STADLER. This contact could eventually be renewed.

22. Heinz KABATH, an Austrian citizen of Hungarian descent. GECZE did not have his address at hand. KABATH has contacts with technical personnel working with the firms "Wiener Brücke", "Biro and Wagner", and the "Siemens" works, all under USIA. These firms send skilled personnel into satellite countries to mount various machinery, and this channel is now used by GECZE to obtain material for his current employer, Aurel ABRANYI of RFE. (Incidentally, GECZE claims that ABRANYI in the past diverted the military information obtained from various channels to the French IS and that ABRANYI also bought Hungarian documents from refugees.)

23. GECZE is contacted every two weeks by an employee of the Sicherheitsdirection, Vienna, named PLACHY. The latter is informed concerning most of GECZE's activities and extends police protection in exchange for information.

24. He is no longer in contact with Mihaly FARKAS, a former Hungarian customs guard, nor with Attila JEKELFALUSI, both of whom are known to him as intelligence fabricators. At present he uses Maxinger LASZLO as a listening post in Vienna among Hungarian refugees.

25. After the above confession by GECZE the test ran as follows:

TEST #1	Answers
1. Is your real name Bertalan GECZE?	yes
2. Were you born at Ungvar?	yes
3. Are your children and wife in Hungary?	yes
4. Did you have breakfast today?	yes
5. Were you ever or are you now in touch with any Soviet or Communist-controlled agencies?	no
6. Do you smoke?	yes
7. Are you a Communist	no
8. Are you married?	yes
9. Do you have reliable informants in Hungary?	yes
10. Is your current residence in Hungary?	yes
11. Were the statements you gave me today all true?	yes
12. Were you ever arrested, other than the cases you reported to me?	no

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26. Upon listing the questions to GEOCZE the latter reiterated that he was a CP member but not a Communist in 1946-47. He further confessed that in January 1952 an unknown Hungarian security agent called him on the phone and subsequently passed to him, through P. O. Box 180, a letter requesting him to cooperate with the AVH and also requesting a personal meeting. The meeting did not materialize. The Hungarian agent never mentioned the name of GEOCZE and addressed him by his alias, Ing. Prichler. The incident was reported to Mr. "Mark" of CIC and to Herr Flachy.

TEST #2

A second test was run in which the questions and answers to numbers 1 and 2 were the same.

- 3. Were you or are you now in contact with the individuals whose names I just listed? (names of all the prominent Austrian intelligence-fabricators, such as Josef URBAN, Wilhelm HOESTL, etc.) no
- 4. Did you have breakfast today? yes
- 5. Were you ever or are you now in touch with any Soviet or Communist-controlled agencies? no
- 6. Do you smoke? yes
- 7. Did you return in person to Hungary in 1949? yes
- 8. Are you married? yes
- 9. Do you have reliable informants in Hungary? yes
- 10. Is your current residence in Vienna? yes
- 11. Are you currently in contact with others than those given in your statements today? no
- 12. Do you have reliable couriers to Hungary? yes
- 13. This is now a delicate question (pause). Do you believe in God? yes

TEST #3

27. A third test was given to see whether subject is a good reactor. Questions numbers 1, 2, and 3 were the same as in the second test. Question number 4 was preceded by the statement, "Your future depends now on this question". Then, as if the interrogator had changed his mind about proceeding with the questioning, the statement was made, "You don't have to answer any more questions."

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28. [] found subject a good reactor. No indication was observed that he was or is an agent of the opposition or that he had lied. Subject broke down twice during the interrogation when conversation revolved around the subject of his children in Hungary. To Kollenyi he had denied in the past having a wife and children in Hungary, because he learned that Kollenyi may blackmail his contacts into cooperation, and he did not wish to furnish such potential lever.

Conclusion

29. On the basis of the carriage test we arrived at the following answers to the four questions listed in paragraph 2.

- a. It is believed that GEOCZE is not a Communist agent.
- b. GEOCZE admitted to being a fabricator; yet at the same time he claims he made efforts to establish a genuine intelligence network in Hungary. In this endeavor, he covered the field, in our opinion, systematically and effectively--considering the means at his disposal. The fact that he turned fabricator could be at least partly attributed to lack of proper control and guidance on the part of his former control agents, Lansky and Kollenyi.
- c. He probably has contacts in Hungary which could be exploited for intelligence purposes. GEOCZE expressed his willingness to submit himself and also his couriers to any control, including repeated carriage tests.
- d. We have hardly any control factors at our disposal in dealing with GEOCZE. He is fond of money. He seemingly longs to establish himself as a man of good standing with the U. S. authorities, primarily to secure steady employment from which he hopes to gain improvement in health. Yet the strongest control factor is in the hands of the opposition, i. e., he is very fond of his three children. His wife has little role as a control factor, because he is estranged from her. But the opposition is probably aware already of his true identity and knows his whereabouts.

Recommendation

30. It is believed by the undersigned that were GEOCZE to receive proper guidance and training under a senior case officer he would become an efficient intelligence operator. If the security problems listed in the previous paragraph can be solved, GEOCZE could be considered for employment.

Contact Arrangements

31. GEOCZE will recognize anyone as an associate of [] who will show him a slip of paper with the question: "Reggelsett ma?" (Did you have breakfast today?) He can be reached at Vienna Poetsleinsdorferstrasse 60.

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Security

32. [] who administered the carriage test and watched for possible reactions, was unable to follow the conversation in Hungarian or German with GECZE and although aware of intelligence interest, is not familiar with the topics discussed.

33. A cursory interrogation of MaYinger, a former schoolmate of GECZE, showed that he is of no specific operational interest to us.

33. Attached are three carriage test diagrams for your perusal.



- 2 - Wash (encs.) ✓
- 2 - Vien
- 2 - Sals

SAH Note. CC PASSED INFORMALLY TO POB

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REF ID: A66000
DISPATCH NO. MASA-1721

CLASSIFICATION

TO: Chief, IS DATE 4 June 1952

FROM: Chief of Station, Vienna

SUBJECT: Operational - Operational

INTER: Interrogation of Bertalan GEOCZE

Handwritten: [unclear] [unclear]

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MASA-1721
4 June 52

FORM NO. 51-28A

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