

VIA: Air Pouch  
SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH

DISPATCH NO. TLB-W-653

SECRET  
CLASSIFICATION

TO : [ ] DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM : Chief, Foreign Division T

SUBJECT: GENERAL - Miscellaneous Foreign Elements in Colombia

SPECIFIC - Ferenc VAJTA (VAJDA, VLCSEK, VLTSCEK) *i*

Reference: TLB-A-615  
*for Vilandis  
& Sander*

1. Considerable information is available on Ferenc VAJTA in the files at headquarters and has been summarized below for your information.

2. VAJTA, whose real name is reportedly VLCSEK or VLTSCEK, was born at Debrecen, Hungary, in 1914. He studied at the Sorbonne in Paris and at Geneva, and later spent several years in Rome as correspondent of the Hungarian paper Uj Magyarzag until expelled in 1941 for his criticism of the Italian Army. While in Italy, VAJTA was in the service of both the Hungarian Intelligence Service and the German Abwehr. It was also reported that he worked at unspecified dates for the Hungarian Intelligence Service in Belgrade and Istanbul. In 1941-42 he was the Berlin correspondent of Uj Magyarzag and Cultural Attache for the Hungarian Legation in Berlin. Returning to Budapest in 1943, he founded and edited the pro-Nazi weekly Az Orszag. At this time he was described as "a creature of MECSEK and ANTAL", two of the principal political agents for the Germans in Hungary. His task in this capacity was to destroy pro-American and pro-British sympathy among the upper and middle class readers of Az Orszag; his comments were often verbatim translations of official German propaganda. He made scurrilous attacks on the President of the United States and other Western leaders. He was a member of the Hungarian Nazi Ferenc SZALASI's Arrow Cross Party and when SZALASI seized power in 1944, VAJTA was appointed Hungarian Consul General in Vienna. At the beginning of the siege of Vienna, he decamped with the consulate funds and the valuables of his staff. When later arrested by the Americans, some of the stolen property was discovered in his possession. It was also reported that VAJTA was responsible for the deaths of grounded United States Air Force personnel and that until 1945 he had demanded death by hanging of captured American pilots through his paper Az Orszag.

3. By the Allied Governments' definition of war crimes, he fell into the automatic arrest category and was taken into custody by OSS on 7 June 1945. He was subsequently released to 7th Army custody. A few weeks after his arrest,

AP
AD
AS
AT
AW
AX
AY
AZ
BA
BB
BC
BD
BE
BF
BG
BH
BI
BJ
BK
BL
BM
BN
BO
BP
BQ
BR
BS
BT
BV
BW
BX
BY
BZ
CA
CB
CC
CD
CE
CF
CG
CH
CI
CJ
CK
CL
CM
CN
CO
CP
CQ
CR
CS
CT
CU
CV
CW
CX
CY
CZ
DA
DB
DC
DD
DE
DF
DG
DH
DI
DJ
DK
DL
DM
DN
DO
DP
DQ
DR
DS
DT
DU
DV
DW
DX
DY
DZ
EA
EB
EC
ED
EE
EF
EG
EH
EI
EJ
EK
EL
EM
EN
EO
EP
EQ
ER
ES
ET
EU
EV
EW
EX
EY
EZ
FA
FB
FC
FD
FE
FF
FG
FH
FI
FJ
FK
FL
FM
FN
FO
FP
FQ
FR
FS
FT
FU
FV
FW
FX
FY
FZ
GA
GB
GC
GD
GE
GF
GG
GH
GI
GJ
GK
GL
GM
GN
GO
GP
GQ
GR
GS
GT
GU
GV
GW
GX
GY
GZ
HA
HB
HC
HD
HE
HF
HG
HH
HI
HJ
HK
HL
HM
HN
HO
HP
HQ
HR
HS
HT
HU
HV
HW
HX
HY
HZ
IA
IB
IC
ID
IE
IF
IG
IH
II
IJ
IK
IL
IM
IN
IO
IP
IQ
IR
IS
IT
IU
IV
IW
IX
IY
IZ
JA
JB
JC
JD
JE
JF
JG
JH
JI
JJ
JK
JL
JM
JN
JO
JP
JQ
JR
JS
JT
JU
JV
JW
JX
JY
JZ
KA
KB
KC
KD
KE
KF
KG
KH
KI
KJ
KK
KL
KM
KN
KO
KP
KQ
KR
KS
KT
KU
KV
KW
KX
KY
KZ
LA
LB
LC
LD
LE
LF
LG
LH
LI
LJ
LK
LL
LM
LN
LO
LP
LQ
LR
LS
LT
LU
LV
LW
LX
LY
LZ
MA
MB
MC
MD
ME
MF
MG
MH
MI
MJ
MK
ML
MM
MN
MO
MP
MQ
MR
MS
MT
MU
MV
MW
MX
MY
MZ
NA
NB
NC
ND
NE
NF
NG
NH
NI
NJ
NK
NL
NM
NN
NO
NP
NQ
NR
NS
NT
NU
NV
NW
NX
NY
NZ
OA
OB
OC
OD
OE
OF
OG
OH
OI
OJ
OK
OL
OM
ON
OO
OP
OQ
OR
OS
OT
OU
OV
OW
OX
OY
OZ
PA
PB
PC
PD
PE
PF
PG
PH
PI
PJ
PK
PL
PM
PN
PO
PP
PQ
PR
PS
PT
PU
PV
PW
PX
PY
PZ
QA
QB
QC
QD
QE
QF
QG
QH
QI
QJ
QK
QL
QM
QN
QO
QP
QQ
QR
QS
QT
QU
QV
QW
QX
QY
QZ
RA
RB
RC
RD
RE
RF
RG
RH
RI
RJ
RK
RL
RM
RN
RO
RP
RQ
RR
RS
RT
RU
RV
RW
RX
RY
RZ
SA
SB
SC
SD
SE
SF
SG
SH
SI
SJ
SK
SL
SM
SN
SO
SP
SQ
SR
SS
ST
SU
SV
SW
SX
SY
SZ
TA
TB
TC
TD
TE
TF
TG
TH
TI
TJ
TK
TL
TM
TN
TO
TP
TQ
TR
TS
TT
TU
TV
TW
TX
TY
TZ
UA
UB
UC
UD
UE
UF
UG
UH
UI
UJ
UK
UL
UM
UN
UO
UP
UQ
UR
US
UT
UU
UV
UW
UX
UY
UZ
VA
VB
VC
VD
VE
VF
VG
VH
VI
VJ
VK
VL
VM
VN
VO
VP
VQ
VR
VS
VT
VU
VV
VW
VX
VY
VZ
WA
WB
WC
WD
WE
WF
WG
WH
WI
WJ
WK
WL
WM
WN
WO
WP
WQ
WR
WS
WT
WU
WV
WW
WX
WY
WZ
XA
XB
XC
XD
XE
XF
XG
XH
XI
XJ
XK
XL
XM
XN
XO
XP
XQ
XR
XS
XT
XU
XV
XW
XX
XY
XZ
YA
YB
YC
YD
YE
YF
YG
YH
YI
YJ
YK
YL
YM
YN
YO
YP
YQ
YR
YS
YT
YU
YV
YW
YX
YY
YZ
ZA
ZB
ZC
ZD
ZE
ZF
ZG
ZH
ZI
ZJ
ZK
ZL
ZM
ZN
ZO
ZP
ZQ
ZR
ZS
ZT
ZU
ZV
ZW
ZX
ZY
ZZ

FORM NO. 51-28  
MAR 1949

SECRET CS COPY  
CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

he escaped to the French Zone where he worked himself into the good graces of the French authorities by revealing the burial place of several thousand kilograms of gold and diamonds. Following this he obtained employment with the French Intelligence Service in Innsbruck, to which organization he represented himself as a victim of American-Hungarian persecution because of his anti-Soviet activities. Several attempts were made by the USFA in Austria to have VAJTA returned to American custody and assurances were given by the French that he would be returned. However, VAJTA eventually was permitted to escape to Italy.

4. In August 1946, there was founded at Innsbruck the "Hungarian Popular Front" organization, composed of General FARKAS, Jozsef NYIRO, Count Mihaly TELEKY, Lajos LIPTAY, Elemer KORANI, and VAJTA. This group was officially admitted into the "INTERMARIUM", an anti-Soviet organization composed of various emigre Eastern European and Russian groups. In June 1946 VAJTA had gone clandestinely to Northern Italy, still working for the French Service, and by September 1946 he was in Rome. There he claimed to be a Hapsburg follower and boasted of his contact with De GAULLE. From Rome he made at least one trip to Paris where it was reported he conferred with De GAULLE on behalf of the Hungarian Rightists. He had several contacts in the Vatican, including Msgr. Zoltan NYISTOR, head of the Vatican Press Office. During this period VAJTA was briefly in Allied custody.

5. In Madrid in February 1947, VAJTA approached the Spanish Foreign Office with the claim that he represented the anti-Soviet movement "INTERMARIUM", which, he stated, was to provide an army to fight with British and French forces against the USSR. The Spanish Foreign Office approved his plans and put him in contact with the Cardinal Primate of Spain, the Archbishop of Toledo, who was to assist him financially. VAJTA's ostensible mission in Madrid was to handle Hungarian refugee matters. He apparently had a large sum of money at his disposal which, reportedly, originated with the Vatican.

6. Returning to Rome about March 1947, VAJTA became increasingly active in Hungarian affairs. He was in touch with Father Tibor GALLUS, acting head of Hungarian relief at the Vatican, and was also in touch with the "INTERMARIUM" organization. He branched out into business by establishing a tile factory, purchasing a restaurant, and also wrote a book entitled "Save Hungary". In his writing, etc., he bitterly criticized American policy in Austria and Germany.

7. Early in 1947 the Czechoslovakian Government through the Warsaw Polish Embassy in Rome, presented a demand for VAJTA's arrest and extradition. This demand passed through Italian ministerial channels and resulted in his arrest. An Italian agrarian expert named INSABATO, who had known VAJTA in Geneva during the League of Nations period, appealed in conjunction with Fausto PECORARI, Demo-Christian Deputy in Italy, to the Italian Chief of Police FERRARI for VAJTA's release. FERRARI ordered VAJTA's release but did not revoke the order for his

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

arrest. VAJTA was told by the Italians to "disappear" upon his release. INSABATO gave him shelter in his home for a few days and PECORARI arranged to have him taken to a Florentine convent, according to one report. Another report stated that VAJTA had been hidden by the Jesuits until his papers could be recovered from the Italian police. On 1 September 1947, the Italian Foreign Ministry issued an extradition order against VAJTA; however, an American CIC officer, acting in unofficial capacity, assisted VAJTA in escaping on the SS CIUDAD DE VALENCIA sailing from Genoa to Barcelona. VAJTA arrived in Madrid on 25 September 1947.

8. While in Rome, VAJTA had attempted to form an organization to be known as the "Unione Continentale" or "Center of Studies for the Balkans and Central Europe". This organization was to serve as a collecting point for anti-Communist emigre elements and would, incidentally, compete with and eventually replace "INTERMARIUM". During the summer of 1947, VAJTA wrote and had published a book entitled "La Confederazione Danubiana", wherein he reportedly expressed the ideas motivating his post-war activity. According to his own statements, the British and French have offered him assignments in the "Europa Union", an organization sponsored by those two countries. He claims to have refused the offers.

9. VAJTA left Madrid via TWA airlines on 15 December en route to New York and Washington, D. C. His trip was made for the alleged purpose of contacting Hungarian exiles to turn them from "INTERMARIUM" toward the "Continental Union". He was arrested in Washington in January 1948 and taken to Ellis Island for deportation. His presence was said to be "prejudicial to the interests of the United States."

10. VAJTA's detention at Ellis Island was publicized in the English language Habana Post and in February 1948, a source in Cuba stated that VAJTA was a dangerous Soviet spy. Source claimed that VAJTA was a member of the HUNGARIAN Communist Party under a Ukranian name and following instructions of Soviet agents, had joined the Hungarian-Nazi party. According to this source, following collapse of Hungary, VAJTA had escaped to Rome where he kept Italian Communist headquarters informed of United States actions while employed by the U.S. Military Intelligence Service.

11. A Havana report dated 15 March 1948 contained additional information from the source of paragraph 10 above. Source reported that he was personally acquainted with VAJTA when both were students at the University in Hungary about 18 years before. VAJTA was active in young Hungarian extremist circles, in communication with the Soviet Embassy in Budapest and understood to be highly regarded by the Soviet Minister in Hungary. During this period, source stated that he knew from personal experience that VAJTA was often entertained by the Soviet Minister in Hungary in the Soviet Embassy building. When Hitler came into power in Germany about this time, VAJTA appeared in the Hungarian rightist

12 APR 1948

SECRET

SECRET

-4-

extremist youth organizations as a "leader." It was, according to source, an open secret however that the Soviet Embassy did not sever connections with VAJTA. Source believed that VAJTA had switched his activities at the dictation of the Communist Party.

12. The information in paragraphs 10 and 11 above was evaluated C-3 at the time of submission. The evaluation of the source of this information, whose pseudonym is [ ] has however recently been lowered to a D, and the above information should be viewed with that in mind.

13. In addition to the above, there is a report from Italy, dated 20 April 1949, and evaluated C-3. The source is identified as Hungarian Ecclesiastical leader in Italy. Source commented on the fact that VAJTA was under investigation by the FBI in the United States at that time. Source was of the opinion that VAJTA was an agent provocateur of the Russians, sent to penetrate Hungarian circles in the United States. The Hungarian experts at headquarters commented at the time this report was received that there was nothing in VAJTA's past record to substantiate this source's suspicion.

14. VAJTA may have been in Cuba in 1949. The arrival of a Major Bence VAJDA, possibly in February 1949, was reported by the Havana station in a report dated 18 April 1949. The source, Amandin, reported that Major VAJDA claimed to be an officer in the present Hungarian Army on six months leave, was a social democrat, and did not feel very happy in his present employment in the Hungarian Army because of the Communist leadership in Hungary which had wiped out most of his friends in the Army. Major VAJDA claimed that the Army respected his ability as they needed intelligent young men and he was employed in the technical phases of the Hungarian Army's operations.

15. A later report received from Havana, dated 3 August 1949 and evaluated B-2, reported the arrival of one Vaida BENOIT in Cuba from Genoa, Italy, aboard the Polish vessel JAGIELLO on 1 February 1949. BENOIT was a Hungarian citizen carrying passport 56300, thirty-five years of age, a bachelor, and a medical professor. [ ] claimed that Vaida BENOIT was identical with Major Bence VAJDA. [ ] reported that Major VAJDA had during the past few months stated that he was formerly a member of the Hungarian Communist party and on one occasion stated that he was only on leave from the Hungarian Army at the present time. A report dated 9 September 1949, source [ ] reported that Bence VAJDA, although careful to emphasize his anti-Communist leanings had continued to give evidence that he had a number of friends in Hungary who still had influence. He was working for the division of the anti-Communist Hungarian group in Cuba by establishing a Protestant religious association. According to [ ] the result would be to divide the Free Hungarian Movement in Cuba into two groups. VAJDA's wife's father, named Imre RAVESZ, was in Hungary. Bishop REVESZ, a Catholic, had made pro-Communist statements. VAJDA claimed to have divorced his wife and stated that she and their child were living in Hungary.

12 APR 1949

SECRET

**SECRET**

-5-

16. It was believed at that time that Fencé VAJDA might be the same as Ferenc VAJTA although there is nothing later in the files at headquarters to indicate that this was ever established.

17. Headquarters is unable to evaluate the following information which indicates that VAJTA was anti-Nazi in 1941-1942. A report from Madrid, dated 7 November 1947, reported information on file at the Embassy regarding Ferenc VAJTA. According to this information, VAJTA was expelled from Italy by the Mussolini government for his anti-fascist sentiments, and in 1941 was sent to Berlin as head of the Hungarian Legation's Press and Information section. In 1941-42 he organized a group of Balkan and Eastern European intellectuals into an organization to combat German influence in those areas. He headed a newspaper of similar tendency and was often the subject of strong attacks on the part of the German press, especially the Volkischer Beobachter and the Frankfurter Zeitung. In 1943, together with one KALLY, President of the Hungarian Council, VAJTA founded another newspaper dedicated to championing the rights of Eastern and Southeastern European countries to manage their own affairs. This was suppressed when the Germans formally occupied Hungary in March of 1944.

18. Other than this unevaluated report, and the accusations of a source in Italy and the source in Cuba (which it is felt should be viewed with some degree of caution), an examination of the files at headquarters indicates that VAJTA has been consistently pro-Nazi, anti-Communist, anti-American and anti-British. He is reputed to be a man without scruples or principles. He appears to have jumped from one sponsor to another, if the change were to his advantage. There is no record in our files that VAJTA was at any time, or is, connected with the Hungarian Communist Party or any Communist party. It is significant that in early 1947 the Communist Hungarian Charge in Rome requested the Italian Police to arrest VAJTA on the grounds that he was classified as a war criminal by the present Hungarian regime.

19. It is apparent from the above that there is considerable doubt that VAJTA is, or could be, an agent of the Soviet Union. However, it is believed that there is just sufficient information to this effect to warrant an investigation of his present activities and contacts—over a reasonable period of time.

**SECRET**