

# BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Extract of EGIA-13131, dated 1. March 1955 \*filed Ladislav DURCANSKY-201

Status Report Operation PATRA (V 21617)

... Purpose of V-21617's second trip was to establish contact to V-22063, to recruit him if possible, as well as two or three additional military sources, and to make preparations for the exfiltration of V-22063 (and his wife) who wished to escape to the West. As an introduction to V-22063, V-21617 carried a letter written by V-22063's sons to their father. This letter had been requested by V-22033 who is an old friend of V-22063 and his children and had the address of V-22063's sons. Their answer to V-22033's letter was addressed to Ferdinand DURCANSKY who passed it on to V-3597. V-21617 left Berlin on 6 October 1953 to cross into the CSR via the border crossing point in the Neustadt/Saxony area of Operation FLORIAN (dropped in the meantime) whose key figures were V-22058, V-22037, and V-22059. Subject was accompanied by V-22057 who took him via Dresden to NEUSTADT where V-21617 was to be taken over by V-22037 who, owing to a misunderstanding, failed to appear, so that V-21617 crossed into the CSR on his own. He exfiltrated, unaccompanied, by the same route on 22 October 1953. On his return V-21617 reported that his mission had been successful in that V-22063 had agreed to cooperate provided V-21617, on his next trip to the CSR scheduled for late December 1953, could furnish proof of his genuineness by bringing back answers to three specific questions pertaining to the relationship of DURCANSKY and V-22063.....

On account of the unavailability of a suitable border crossing point, and other unforeseen circumstances, the third trip did not materialize around Christmas time, but had to be postponed until autumn 1954. Subject left on 8 October with border crosser V-21660 of Operation PONTUS for infiltration into the CSR via Austria over the DYJE river. On his return on 4 November, V-21617 reported that on their way into the CSR V-21660, who led the way, was spotted by Czech border guards who opened fire and that V-21660 fell and appeared to be hurt, but that he had avoided detection and had been able to continue his trip. To date nothing further has been learned of the fact of V-21660.

The debriefing of V-21617 revealed a number of discrepancies and contradictory statements which gave rise to the suspicion that subject might have been turned by the Czechs during his last or even previous trips, or that he became frightened after the before mentioned border incident and returned to Austria without executing his mission. There is even a possibility that V-21617 might have become involved with Alexander BOLF, perhaps through his girl friend since it is believed that the man who approached her in 1952 was probably BOLF.

Among a number of points which ZIPPER was unable to clarify satisfactorily are the following: Prior to his last trip into the CSR, V-21617, contrary to orders received, called on DURCANSKY and discussed with him his forthcoming trip; he also asked, for reasons not quite clear, for SOV leaflets. These the agent leader (V-14178) discovered and confiscated (with the exception of one leaflet with 5 stamps) during a last minute security check prior to dispatch in October 1954.....

V-21617 was first interrogated by V-14178 on a friendly basis, both while sober and under the influence of liquor. Since these first interrogations raised certain doubts about the veracity of Subject, ZIPPER arranged two heart-to-heart talks between V-21617 and DURCANSKY, who was primed by ZIPPER.

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