

Henry

HEADQUARTERS
COMPANY B, 2677 REGIMENT
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES (PROV)
APO 534, U.S. ARMY

6 September 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THROUGH: Major Howard M. Chapin
Mr. Robert P. Joyce

Because certain difficulties have arisen in connection with our affairs and some of these difficulties are in connection with me, I feel compelled to make the following statement:

During June 1944 Col. MocarSKI established contact with me in Rome. He asked me whether or not I would be willing to volunteer for intelligence work in a high-ranking organization incorporated with the U.S. Army. I answered in the affirmative. There are several reasons for this answer and I am willing to give detailed information concerning them. With the greatest willingness I volunteered for this American assignment. If any other American agency had come to me I would have gone to them. Col. MocarSKI stated that I would not operate in Rome, but in Cairo or elsewhere, that I would get room and board and 40-50,000 lire monthly for my family. This sum was agreed upon because as a press attache I had a monthly salary of 20,000 lire but the Legation requested a raise of 100% because of rising prices, not only for me but for every employe. The sum was offered by Col. MocarSKI himself. I wrote a long biography at his request and he promised I would hear from him again. Marchese Theodoli (known in OSS Rome as Julio) advised me later that instead of Col. MocarSKI, someone else would get in touch with me. Later, Mr. Joyce appeared and told me everything had been settled, that I would go to Bari and a certain Mr. Fuller would accompany me. This happened according to schedule. I want to add that I told MocarSKI and Joyce that I would like to have some protection for my family because my citizenship is not clear. Col. Torrielli stated that he would arrange for food rations for my family in Rome.

That is the story of my coming to Bari.

Before I talked to Col. MocarSKI I had reported to PWB during the first days following the occupation of Rome. I gave them a detailed biography through Lt. Pearson, a British officer who spoke Hungarian. I clarified my position with the Allied authorities because I was no longer considered to be in the diplomatic service since before the break of the Hungarian Legation to the Holy See with the Budapest Regime, the Hungarian Government had suspended me and recalled me to Budapest. I then resigned my position. From Sir Francis Osborne, British Ambassador to the Holy See I received a letter addressed to the Allied Deputy Security Chief, Major Battersby, who issued a special pass to my wife and I, dated June 13, to be valid for three months. Sir Francis Osborne in his letter described me in detail and requested the issuance

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of the pass required for free movement. Very few people have obtained this pass.

Col. Mocarski, and later Mr. Joyce, inquired about Hungarians in Rome whom they might use. Captain Hunter of a British organization, through Baron Apor, made the same inquiries. Major Dunlop and Captain Lorrimer spoke at Rome with all potential Hungarian candidates. Mr. Fuller got in touch with the following individuals: Dr. Laszlo Kovacs, physician; Pal Kovacs, glass technician; Dr. Julius Magyary, university professor; Judit Gagyi, teacher; and Dr. Alexander Leffard, physician. By that time Captain Hunter had shipped Imre Toth away.

At the beginning of July, Mr. Fuller submitted the names of the above individuals for security approval. I was not the first one to suggest the name of Toth to OSS but PWB and employees of OSS, Rome. At their suggestion Mr. Joyce looked him up. All those who later on came to Bari in this group are here because I was requested to furnish information on available Hungarians. I stated at that time, and I repeat it emphatically now, that I am responsible only for myself. I feel, however, a certain moral responsibility toward all those (with the exception of Toth!) who came to OSS through my using their names.

I was never a soldier because I was rejected for physical reasons by the Hungarian authorities in 1929. For that reason too I feel a certain obligation toward those who are risking their lives for my cause. I have the same natural feeling toward all those who willingly or unwillingly agreed to free me from an unbearable moral pressure.

These men are Hungarians who lived in Rome for some time but remained Hungarians and gave testimony that they do not agree with the present regime. They know that they cannot expect much from fate and they know what the consequences are of a war lost by a criminal regime. They entered American service with the greatest confidence; money never counted; and just like their Czech, Yugoslav, French and other colleagues, they wanted to serve the cause only. These Hungarians have proved to be unconditionally pro-Allied and there was occasion to check the truthfulness of their data. They are aware of the fact that they and their country is a small point besides major problems but they came because an offer was extended to them.

Because of certain administrative difficulties, these Hungarians are crowded together with German and Hungarian prisoners-of-war and with others of different nationalities and different cultures, but that would not have mattered. These men should have been told very clearly what their rights are and why they are segregated.

Imre Toth is an extreme individualist and has a difficult character. I stated this at the very beginning. He always felt

that he is being treated as a jailbird and jokingly he told Msgr. Magyary that he is going to run out of the villa in spite of the guards. He is a sensitive man who is always on the verge of tears when discussing this subject. He is well educated. He is an artist.

Pal Kovacs is a simple honest worker who never had time to become sensitive.

Julius Magyary has been in an excellent mood since he left the environment of the villa and he is ready to depart at the earliest possible time.

I am not too familiar with Laszlo Kiss. I met him after the Allied occupation of Rome, through Imre Toth and other friends. He is regarded as an excellent person.

If there are so many people of conflicting dispositions together in a tiny place, particularly if one of them is an incompatible person such as Toth, only the more intelligent can bear it. Under such conditions took place the "escape" of Imre Toth. Though I cannot assume responsibility for him, I do not think that he wanted to use these means to get in touch with enemy agents. At this place I want to mention the statement of Captain Ippoliti that I departed with Mr. Toth from the dispensary and that I brought him back. Whether I remain in the service of OSS or not, I insist that Dr. Ippoliti admit his error. I left Via Melo with Mr. Eric Harris. Our destination was the room of Magyary. In the afternoon I returned with Mr. Daley of the Security Office who came for me to my apartment. I returned with him to Via Melo. Mr. Daley went up to the office by himself and I noticed Mr. Toth on the corner of Via Melo and rushed up to the Security Office reporting that Toth had been found.

I did not go up with Toth because the policy was that Toth and other agents are not to be seen in the office. I went into such details only because I want to show the utter lack of basis of my cooperation with Toth's "escape".

From the behavior of the Security Office and other signs, I saw that something has not been settled. I am not offended. These are sensitive matters which require confidence. If confidence is lacking, cooperation is impossible. Let me say that in this organization, just like in any other organization of this type, no success can be accomplished by the application of police methods. Police methods might be the proper technique with small fry agents who volunteer for money for a small assignment. I would regret it immensely if our relationship would cease but I cannot permit that unclear matters should continue between the organization and myself. I am surprised that after two months of service in the organization such a subject came to the surface.

Maybe there are questions which I can answer satisfactorily. It is impossible to work with the organization in such a way that the question of mutual confidence should not be so.

The problem of the Hungarian agents could be solved easily. The first condition of this is that the men should know how long their "detainment" will last. They have to be separated from all others. Magyary is willing to be infiltrated immediately.

It is evident that the message of Baron Apor should be answered. All of these men are faithful to Baron Apor in a human sense. Magyary is a priest, Toth an individualist, an artist of peasant descent. His father was a policeman. Pal Kovacs is a socialist emigre. Kiss is an ex-actor-producer. He is a Leftist. They will work irrespective of Apor but if anyone believe in this organization that the above is a suspicious Apor group, it would be better to send these men back. There are many possibilities in Bucharest and Transylvania. At the latter place, difficulties would not be trifling but there are thousands of Hungarians in Paris, Belgium, in the mines of Limburg and Charleroi, in the mines of Lille, in Holland and elsewhere. There are ways and means of recruiting men from these places and the men from Rome could be sent away if they are not needed.

I want to state that I cooperate with Lt. Doman on an excellent basis. In order that I should operate further, matters of confidence will have to be settled. I admit that some people find it difficult to understand that a non-citizen could also be loyal. With a little psychology they could find the reasons for it.

Zsolt Aradi

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