

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

SECRET

September 22, 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO : SAInt - Caserta

FROM: SAINT - Bari - 44-007

- Request a) Careful vetting of the following Hungarian nationals, all residents of Rome: ARADI, Zsolt, Journalist; (Magyari, Jozsef or Gula), Priest; KOVACS, Pal (Paul), Technician.
- b) Formulating authoritative statements concerning the suitability of the above named individuals, based upon your findings and an objective review of their case. (See enclosures I and II.)
1. The above subjects were recommended and/or recruited as suitable agents for SI work in Hungary either by ARADI or Baron APOR, former Hungarian Ambassador to the Holy See.
2. ARADI and KLSS are working at present with SI Hungarian desk in the OSS building, Bari. MAGYARI and KOVACS, on the other hand, are being trained (outside of Headquarters) for certain SI missions in Hungary and are expected to penetrate that country very shortly. As to further possible use of ARADI and KLSS by OSS, note last paragraph in enclosure No. 1.
3. The OSS Security Office, Bari, has given security disapproval to KOVACS, MAGYARI, and ARADI. (See Major Kubler's memorandum to Major Chapin, enclosure No. III.)
4. Upon his return from Rome at the end of August, 1944, where he held brief interviews with Baron APOR and several American and British intelligence officers, the Chief of I-2 Bari, has given blanket disapproval to the Hungarians from Rome who were either in the employ of or closely connected with the Hungarian regime. This was conveyed to the Chief of SI verbally. I-2 pointed out, however, that ZSOLT, or any of the individuals concerned, could be used to great advantage by OSS as sources of information or in an advisory capacity. The employment of these people as personnel attached to the desk or penetration agents, in the opinion of I-2, is considered risky for the following reasons:
- a) All of them are enemy aliens, and were until the fall of Rome, officially or otherwise in contact with or to a certain degree under the control of the Nazis or Fascists.
- b) Key members of this group were until recently in the service of the HORTHY Regime, maintaining contact with functionaries of that still enemy government.
- c) Baron APOR, the central figure in the Rome Hungarian circle, is an intimate friend of HORTHY; was, until a few days ago, in possession of a

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DATE 2006

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secret W/T set and an operator, imported from Hungary. His former associate at the Legation, Rev. LUTTOR, the present Hungarian representative to the vatican, is admittedly pro-Nazi (this from AFOR), and associates with the German and Japanese representatives to the Holy See.

d) Attention was also called to SZASZ, Hungarian representative with the QUIRINAL (under Swedish protection), and certain VASVARY, whose whereabouts have not been clearly established. (See enclosure IV).

Discussed by British in Moscow for security

e) Before joining OSS, some of these subjects were in British service; others are known to the British as OSS agents.

5. Attached are also excerpts from a document prepared by the following British officials:

- Major A. F. Dunlop, Head of the Hungarian Section, PWB
- Captain R. Lorimer, PIC
- Mr. J. D. Stewart, Political Advisor of PWB.

This document, however, is not considered authoritative by the Chief of SI, Bari. In all fairness, it is therefore suggested that this document serve you merely as a guide. (See enclosure IV).

Attached herewith:

- Enclosure I - Letter to Chief, X-2, from Chief, Central European Section SI
- " II - Letter to Chief, X-2, from Chief, Central European Section SI
- " III - Letter to Major Chapin, C.E.D., from Major Kubler, Security Officer
- " IV - British Documents - Memoranda and Appendices
- " V - Biographical Data on MAGYARY
- " VI - Biographical Data on ARADI
- " VII - Biographical Data on KISS
- " VIII - Biographical Data on KOVACS

6. We are sending you a total of three sets of these documents in order that you may, at your discretion, send one to London or Washington, and another set to Rome.

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

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ENCL. I

18 September 1944

TO : Chief, X-2 Branch
THRU: Intelligence Officer
FROM: Chief, Central European Section SI

There has been considerable confusion and some objection voiced to the use of some of the Hungarians and ex-Hungarians who were recruited and used after the fall of Rome. It is requested that X-2 state in writing its opinions as to the use of the following:

→ Zsolt Aradi - (a) as a member of the Hungarian Desk of the Central European Section SI, informed of and operating with agents who will penetrate Hungary, and (b) as a staff consultant with no information as to agent operations.

①
→ Laszlo Kiss - (a) as a member of the staff of the Hungarian Desk of this Section, performing the same functions as Zsolt Aradi, and (b) as an instructor of Hungarian POWs with his activities confined to that function.

→ I should also like to have X-2 state its opinion as to the desirability of attaching Messrs. Aradi and Kiss to the OSS unit which will be established in Budapest after the fall of that city and its occupation by Allied forces.

/s/ Howard M. Chapin
Howard M. Chapin
Major AUS

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

SECRET

18 September 1944

TO : Chief, X-2 Branch
THRU: Intelligence Officer
FROM: Chief, Central European Section SI

In accordance with the directives by which X-2
is charged with vetting all agents who go into the field,
it is requested that X-2 provide statements as to the suit-
ability of the following Hungarian agents:

Julio Magyary
Sgt. Steve Gallos
Cpl. Bela Herczeg
Pal Kovacs

/s/ Howard M. Chapin
Howard M. Chapin
Major AUS

1st Ind.
FROM: INTELLIGENCE OFFICER AND CHIEF, SI, Co, B
2677th Regiment, OSS (Prov.). TO: X-2 BRANCH, Co. B,
2677th Regiment, OSS (PROV.). 19 September 1944.

1. Kindly comply with above request soonest.

/s/ Ems. M. L. Campbell
for
ROBERT F. JOYCE
Intelligence Officer
and Chief, SI

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

SECRET

ENC. III

1 September 1944

TO: Major Chapin, C.E.D.

SUBJECT: KOVACS, Paul, MAGYARI, Gyula, ARADI, Zsolt, Security Disapproval of,

(1) We have just received further information on the above Subjects from higher echelon Security. It is therefore necessary that Security Disapproval be given these Subjects.

(2) Further, we wish to make it clear that if you continue to employ these Subjects, you will do so entirely upon your own responsibility and without the approval of the Security Branch.

(3) This memo supersedes ours of 7 August 1944 in which limited Security Approval was granted.

L.E. KUBLER
Major, Ordnance
Security Officer.

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Encl. IV

OPY No. 24

SECRET

MEMORANDUM

Report on conversations with Hungarian Personalities in Rome
by

MR. J. D. STEWART - FWB
MAJOR A. F. DUNLOP - FWB
CAPTAIN R. LORIMER - PIC

8 A report was received on June 20th from Lieutenant Pearson, FWB, on his interviews with four Hungarians in Rome shortly after its occupation. It was decided that as further useful information might be obtained for propaganda use and also as political background, Major Dunlop, Head of the Hungarian Section, FWB, should proceed to Rome for further interviews. In view of the likelihood of interesting political intelligence being obtained, it was agreed that Captain R. Lorimer, PIC, should accompany him with a watching brief.

During the first two days the following personalities were interviewed:

- Mons. ARADY Zsold - Ex-Press Attache to the Hungarian Legation at the vatican.
- Dr. LENART - Doctor.
- vitez SZASZ - Councillor and Director of the Hungarian Legation to the Quirinal.
- Dr. KOVACS - Doctor.

On the third day Mr. Stewart, Political Adviser of FWB, Bari, joined the party and an interview with Gebriel APOR, Hungarian Ambassador to the vatican, was arranged.

Reports on the free Hungarian Association in Rome and on conversations with Hungarian personalities, together with conclusions and recommendations are given at Appendices A - I as follows:

- Appendix A - Free Hungarian Association in Rome.
- B - Report on conversation with Zsold ARADY
- C - Report on conversation with Dr. LENART
- D - Report on conversation with vitez SZASZ
- E - Report on conversation with Dr. KOVACS
- F - Mr. Stewart's report with Gebriel APOR
- G - Report on M. VASVARY
- H - Memorandum on Status of Hungarians in Rome.
- I - Report on conversation with Mme TOTH in Bari.

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

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ENC. V

September 22, 1944

TO : SAINT - Caserta
FROM: SAINT - Bari
SUBJ: Julio (Cyula) MAGYARI ✓

L-2 Bari has the following information on the above Subject:

1
Born : SZOLNOK, Hungary
Age : 42
Address : Via della SACRESTIA 7, Rome. Phone, 50766
Occupation: Catholic Priest

Professor of penal law on the Propaganda Ride
University of the Holy See

Parents : Hungarians

former Director of Hungarian Priests college at Vienna,
(Pazmansum).

One of contact men of Hungarian monarchists to Dollfuss
and Schuschnigg.

Member of secret organization of Hungarian Monarchists.
collaborated in Rome with Austrian group recognized by
Allied Authorities (br. Froelichsthal).

2
Comments. Subject is very close to Baron APOR. Has always been a
monarchist, and has been in contact with Otto HAPSBURG and
ZITTA. He made a trip to Hungary as late as December, 1943.

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Encl. VI.

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

SECRET

September 22, 1944

TO : SAINT - Caserta
FROM: SAINT - Bari
REF : vetting the following Hungarian National

The following information is available here on Zsolt ARADI:

①

Age : 36
Address : Rome - via GIUSEPPE de NOTARIS, No. 5 - Phone 875005
Nationality : Hungarian
Place of Birth : ZOMBOR, Hungary
Date of Birth : April 29, 1908
Marital Status : Married. 3 Children: Claudio, 11; Juliana, 5; Michael, 2.
Religion : Catholic (Father was a Jew)
Occupation : Writer - Hungarian Press Attache, attached to the Hungarian Legation to the Holy See.

In this capacity from June 1943 to May 1944.

Previously attached as Press Attache to the Hungarian Consulate at MILANO from June 1941 to June 1943.

From 1928 to 1943, free lance journalist and writer in Hungary and Italy.

Education : University of Budapest (law).
Name of father : Arpad ARADI - Inspector of schools. Hungarian. Present whereabouts in Hungary unknown. *father / Zsolt Aradi*
Name of Mother : Julia SEALAY - School teacher. Hungarian. Present whereabouts in Hungary unknown.
Wife : Margaret Krármate Ach. German decent, Hungarian National. Address: Via GIUSEPPE de NOTARIS, 5, Rome. Phone: 875005.

Mother of Zsolt Aradi

Comments: ARADI is an intimate associate of the former Hungarian Ambassador to the Holy See in Rome, Baron APOR, whose address is VIA MARTIRI FASCISTI, 75. Subject was at one time editor of "KORUNK SZAVA", Budapest; one of the editors of "NEMZETI UJSAG", also of "UJ KOR" all Hungarian publications. He has a wide circle of friends and acquaintances in Rome, and is particularly well-known in Hungarian circles of that city. Among others, he knows intimately Rev. LUTTOR, present head of the Hungarian Legation to the Holy See, and SZASZ, Director of the Royal Hungarian Legation at the QUIRINAL (this Legation is now under the protection of the Swedish Embassy).

②

Subject is now attached to the Hungarian Desk, Bari. 1-2, Bari, believes he could be of considerable value as source of information.

T.O.

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

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Encl. VII

September 22, 1944

TO : SAINT - Caserta

FROM: SAINT - Bari

REF : Vetting the following Hungarian National

NO 201
a.k.a.

1-2 Bari has the following information on Laszlo KISS (in Italy, known as KISH, also using FADISLAC as first name):

- J. J. Kiss*
- Born : DEBRECEN, Hungary, February 15, 1904.
 - Parents : Father, Adolf KISS. Both parents dead.
 - Brothers : Two, living in Hungary;
 - Jeno, age 43, commercial representative, Budapest;
 - Jeno, age 45, bank Clerk, Budapest.
 - Sister : One, Ilona, (Mrs. Alexander VAMOS). Husband, assistant director of the local mills, KARCZAG, Hungary.
 - Education: High School at DEBRECEN, Hungary.
 - Dramatic School at Budapest.
 - 1923-25 : Actor, Budapest.
 - 1926-29 : Student of philosophy and actor, working for UFA.
 - 1930 : Assistant stage manager and script writer, Paris, Paramount.
 - 1931 : Worked for Rex Ingram at NIZZA.
 - 1932 : Art director with "LUMITONE", Buenos Aires, Arg.
 - 1933 : With Pathe film, Paris.
 - 1934 : Married Kilonora ADAMIANTZ, now 36. Armenian ballet dancer. She had a ballet school in Paris; now has one in Rome.
 - 1935 : Worked for Alexander KORDA in London and Paris.
 - 1936 : Stayed six weeks in Hungary, filming certain subjects for the London film Company.
 - 1937 : Story and script writer for Ideal films, London.
 - 1938 : In Paris, prepared script for three films, none of which have been produced. Considers his permanent home at 132 Avenue de VILLIERS, Paris, where he lived off and on from 1934 to 1940. Claims to be the owner of the building.
 - 1939 : Worked for a small concern, name of which he has forgotten.
 - 1940 : (March) Went to Rome on contract and filmed "PICCOLO ALPINO". Lived at the Hotel Imperial.
 - (June) Wife arrived from Paris and rented present apartment.
 - 1941-42 : Engaged in film industry and among others worked for the SABAUDIA Film Company.
 - 1943 : Was engaged in story writing, mostly as a ghost writer. After 1943, contacted PARTITO d'AZIONE and PARTI in Rome.
- Subject cannot recall names of individuals connected with the former party, but mentioned the following with the Communists:

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Dr. MORETTI
Alvari MARCHINI

From October 1943, in touch with the British, particularly (Major) Mando D'Arvy, the SCI Rome, (Major) BOOTON and (Captain) Young; also with the U.S. through (Capt.) TORIELLO. He passed information on to the British under the code name of "URSUS".

On behalf of his information, he claims the British have been successful in arresting 62 spies and capturing 14 radio sets in Rome. From June, 1944, until August 1944, worked for the PWB Film Division in Rome.

Comments. Subject speaks Hungarian, German, Italian, French and English. He is now attached to the Hungarian SI Desk, OSS, Bari.

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

SECRET

September 22, 1944

TO : SAINT - Caserta
FROM: SAINT - Bari
SUBJ: PAUL (PAL) KOVACS

No 21

X-2 Bari has the following information on the above Subject:

- Present address : c/o OSS - Bari
- Residence : Via Luigi Tosti 23, Roma; phone, 762585.
- Nationality : Hungarian
- Place of birth : PETESHAZA, Hungary
- Date of Birth : January 11, 1902
- Marital Status : Married. One daughter, Gertrude, born in Vienna August 10, 1925, and one son, Alfred, born in Vienna, May 26, 1927.
- Wife: Sophie MATEJKA, born in Vienna, May 15, 1905, and is of Czechoslovak origin.
- Religion : Catholic
- Occupation : Technician
- Previous Employment : Glass and vacuum works for the firm S.A.B., via GIUSEPPE NOTARIS 5, Roma.
- Employer : Ing. CESARE MARINICCI, Roma.
- Name of father : Pal KOVACS. Nationality, Hungarian.
- Name of mother ^{Kovacs} : Katalin KOVACS. Nationality, Hungarian.

Comments. Subject is a highly trained precision tool mechanic; chemist. Claims to be a social democrat. Recommended by ARADI ZSOLT.

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REPORT ON ZSOLD ARADY

(Ex Press Attache to the Hungarian Legation at the Vatican.)

1. Personal Details. Born 1908 in Budapest.
Father - Hungarian (converted Jew)
Mother - Aryan Catholic
Profession - Journalist
Founded the Roman Catholic Socialist reviews "Korunk Szavai",
"Ujker", and "Virgilia".
On managerial staff of "Magyarsag", before this became a
Nazi organ.
Later joined "Nemzeti Ujsag".

30 2. Political background.

He has always been a member of Keresztény Party and claims to have attached himself to the group in this party inspired by vitez Zichy Janos. Tends to exaggerate the progressive and social intention of this group but does not pretend that the Christian Socialist Unions were anything else other than an organ of the employers for influencing Roman Catholic workmen. Ignores, in describing Nempartas a Democratic and anti-Nazi party, the fact that this party was not suppressed after the putsch of the 19th March.

30 3. Contacts.

While working on Nemzeti Ujsag he often had conversation with Seredi, the Prince Primate of Hungary. In these conversations Seredi declined to endorse the aims of any particular political party, with the formal authority of the Roman Church. He said that he knew Szentmiklosy extremely well and mentioned him with palpable admiration. He also knew Szegedi Maszak, and Count Dessewffy Gyula. He tends to stress his acquaintance with the last three who were all members of the gallery group. During the course of the conversation he did not claim close relationship with many other important Hungarian personalities. He stated in passing that he was acquainted with Peyer Karoly; but did not appear to be very familiar with the name of Anna Kethly. He had no personal acquaintance with Kovacs Imre or any other of the Szabad Szó group. He had been a colleague of Milotay Istvan on Magyarsag, and appeared to have a low opinion of his integrity. About Imredy he said that "he knew him like a picture". Imredy had become a liberal Catholic in order to curry favor with Popovics, the Governor of the bank, and an influential Catholic, but finding however that these efforts were fruitless, he turned to the Germans to help him achieve his ambition. Among emigre Hungarians he knows Biday Gyorgy well.

He was very well acquainted with the group of Hungarians associated with the legation to the Holy See, and was Apor's go-between in the Ambassador's dealing with the Hungarian colony in Rome.

4. Since the war he has been Press Attache to the Hungarian Embassy to the Holy See, and is a great personal friend of Gabriel Apor the Hungarian Ambassador. Owing to his known "left-head" reputation he was recalled by the new government after the 19th March. He told the Ambassador that owing to his mixed parentage it would be suicide for him to go. He had to resign his diplomatic status, and during this period was protected by the Ambassador. According to Arady a day or two after the 19th March the Ambassador Apor sent a telegram to the Regent saying that as he considered the Government unconstitutional he could no longer be associated
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APPENDIX B

with it. In reply he received a special letter from the Regent begging him to continue as a personal favor to the Regent. He continued to act as Ambassador until Rome was relieved by the Allied forces. Arady says that he used his influence against his continuing to act as Ambassador, and on 7th June Apor sent a telegram to the Regent breaking his relations with the present government. When pressed to say whether Apor had also severed relations with the Regent, Arady became evasive, expressed the opinion that Apor would break with Horthy if Horthy was proved to have freely collaborated with the Germans; pointed out that the sovereignty of the Hungarian State is not vested in any person, but in the Holy crown of Saint Stephen. At the same time it was announced that the Ambassador had called for the formation of a committee for the Preservation of the Constitutional Liberties of Hungary and despatched telegrams to all the other Hungarian diplomats who had been deprived of their Hungarian nationality. Since the 19th March all telegrams from the Embassy to the Vatican have had to be routed via Berlin. It seems reasonable to suppose that this telegram was stopped en route for a telegram reached the Vatican from Prime Minister Sztojay stating that Reuters had carried a report that the Ambassador had called for the formation of a free Hungarian Committee, and had appealed to the other dismissed Hungarian Diplomats. Would the Ambassador confirm this report. No reply was despatched to this request. The position therefore remains that the Ambassador while he has refused to treat with the government is still the official Hungarian Representative to the Holy See for he has neither been dismissed from his post by the Regent nor has he been deprived of his nationality by the Government, as in the case of the other dissident diplomats.

Relations of Zsolt ARADY to the committee of Free Hungarians, Rome

3c
This Committee met for the first time on 2 July, 1944, at Rome. It consisted of 11 (sic) members. Apor naturally presided at the meeting. Questioned on the point, he stated that it would rely on 30 Hungarians in Rome. These were not such people as the committee could deal with. He was at pains to emphasize that the committee had decided to stand above politics; it had indeed been chosen to represent all classes, and its members ranged from Apor to two working men. It not only contained two Social Democrats of old standing (20 years and more having elapsed since they left Hungary) but even one near-communist (Toth - also described by Lenart as a "modern romantic, an artistic individualistic socialist"). Asked what was the program, Arady said that the agreed object of the committee was to get in touch with the R.O. A further question as to what it proposed to do then was answered by a rather vague statement of intention to organize internal resistance to the Germans, and to contact diplomatic committees (particularly Bakach Bessenyi of Berne), and other free Hungarians such as the London Group, with Eckardt thrown in as an afterthought. What struck one here was his anxiety to get hold of a transmitter.

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PENDIX D.

REPORT ON Vitez SZASZ

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Was formerly SOMBA.

formerly known as SOMMER, Vitez

Born in 1892. Father and mother both Germ. One grandmother Hungarian, one English.
Name formerly SOMMER

Born in Hungary to which father had moved as an engineer. Served as Lieutenant in the Hungarian Navy from 1911 to the end of the last war, during part of which period he served on the same ship as Admiral Horthy, and carries a personal letter from the Admiral, of which he is inordinately proud. Was conferred vitez for his services in the war.

Has been Chancellor of the Legation in Rome for 20 years. Claims to be no politician and not really interested in politics.

Since the Legation was withdrawn in October 1943, he has remained as representative of the Hungarian Government.

Dr. Kovacs reports that he held strong pro-German views until about the spring of 1943 when he began to change, and when the Germans entered Rome he became definitely anti-German.

His opening to the conversation was an immediate statement of Hungary's traditional claim to her 1,000 year old frontiers with a sweeping gesture to the relief map on the wall. In his opinion this was the fundamental problem of Hungarian politics.

In spite of his traditional views has decidedly liberal sentiments. During the autumn of 1943 he was responsible for the release of 280 Jews from the clutches of the Nazis, and has continued that work up to the present. During the months of October and November, he received official sanction for his operations from the Kallay Government.

He stated that since the 19th March he has had only one communication with the Sztojay Government, namely the removal of Hungarian citizenship from Dr. Kovacs. It is interesting however that he has allowed Dr. Kovacs, a pronounced Jew, with opposition leanings, to live in the Embassy and receive official protection.

At pains to show that he was most anxious that the Americans and British should soon be in Hungary. At any rate before the Russians. He was of the opinion that for the most part the people of Hungary were now definitely anti-German and anxious to be rid of them. On the other hand the Russians were disliked and feared.

As however he has not been in Hungary since 1942 these views must only be taken as a personal expression of opinion.

His position is extremely incongruous for he is still the official representative of the Hungarian Government. He has neither resigned nor has he been dismissed by Horthy or the Sztojay cabinet. Since the liberation of Rome he has come under the protection of the Swedish Legation.

He therefore must be regarded as an enemy alien still, accredited to his government and his actions and contacts are bound to be suspect.

Rome
4 July 1944

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APPENDIX E. SECRET

REPORT ON DR. LADISLAV KOVACS

PART I

1. Personal details: Born in Papa, 1906. father a practising Jewish shopkeeper. Lived in Papa until 1926 when he went to Vienna to study medicine. Returned to Hungary after first year of study to earn money, and worked in various enterprises as a laborer until 1928; in that year he went to Wurzburg and continued his studies. In 1930 he was warned by this professor that his position in Wurzburg would be impossible in view of his religion, that Vienna was equally dangerous and he was advised to go to Italy. He therefore proceeded to Pisa and completed his studies there; medical studies being free in Italy. In 1933 he married a German refugee in Pisa and in 1934 transferred to Rome where he took up a private practice, chiefly among the Hungarian colony living in the city. He has remained in the city ever since.

2. brother of Dr. Ladislav Kovacs

The younger brother of Dr. Kovacs remained in Hungary and during the period 1934-39 he worked as an industrial worker in various industries. Being dissatisfied with conditions in Hungary he went to Spain and served on the Republican side during the Spanish civil war. He was interned in France and finally made his way back to Hungary.

During this time he was politically active as a socialist (sic). The Social Democrat party during this period was only a political organization which had not contact with the socialist workers. There was however throughout this time an organization which, according to Dr. Kovacs, was comparatively widespread and highly organized. It was very active among the lower grade industrial workers and the intellectual left wing democrats. Dr. Kovacs' explanation was that these cells were largely centered in Sports Clubs, "Fahraeder" clubs, "Unterhaltungs" clubs, etc. On the surface they were normal social and sports clubs, but they all had a political nucleus, and in most cases none of the members knew of the existence of any of the other clubs as being within the same frame-work.

He has no personal knowledge of the "Peace Party", but understood that the Embassy had heard from their Government in Autumn 1943 to the effect that the Peace Party was causing official concern.

3. In 1939 Dr. Kovacs received a letter from his brother immediately after the signing of the Russo-German pact in which the brother said: "I have heard from our uncle, this is only a marriage of convenience and the divorce proceedings will be commenced very soon." Later when the German armies were outside Moscow and approaching Stalingrad Dr. Kovacs received another letter from his brother in which he said: "Die geschäftliche Angelegenheiten des Onkels sind garnicht so schlet. Ich habe erfahren dass er seine finanzielle Angelegenheiten bald in Ordnung bringt. Du hast keine Ahnung wie viele ware er noch besitzt."

4. Since 1938 he has been in a Hungarian labor camp at Esztegom. Dr. Kovacs last heard from his brother in a letter dated Budapest 2nd of May, and he was expecting to be sent northwards within the next three days where he hoped to have an opportunity of meeting his old friends. (Implying he meant to desert to the Russians).

5. For some time letters from the brother in Hungary had reached Dr. Kovacs through the medium of an official in the foreign Ministry, who had previously been a diplomat in Rome, and thence by the Diplomatic Bag to Rome. In this particular case the agent

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in the Foreign Ministry has added to the letter that the brother had left for the front and wished him God's help in his intentions. The brother implied in his letter that the spirit of the whole labor battalion was one of determination to desert.

6. Source further states that he spoke with a great friend in Rome, a woman from Budapest, whose brother a prominent journalist had been in the Hungarian labor camp. She said that he was working at a war factory eighteen hours a day, and that they were not permitted to leave the factory under any circumstances even during the air raids, and they were housed in dwellings immediately outside the walls of the factory.

PART II

SPECIAL REPORT ON RELATIONS WITH ALBERT GOERING

NOTE: The following account was given by KOVACS of his relations with ALBERT GOERING, the brother of Hermann Goering. This account is given separately from what he said about Hungary. It was given voluntarily at the end of the first interview and was prefaced by the remark "There is one other matter which I think I ought to tell you."

1. In 1939 Dr. Kovacs, who had been practicing in Rome for some years, among the Hungarian community there, was asked by a friend to attend a German and his wife then staying at Frascati. He was warned not to be surprised and to have no fear of the consequences.

2. On arrival at the residence he discovered the client to be none other than Albert Goering, brother of Hermann Goering. In spite of the warning, and the particular request of his friend, to help Goering's wife, Kovacs found himself quite unable to attend her. He told Goering his point of view quite frankly, and begged to be excused. He said that he could not have any dealings with the brother of the man who had been directly and indirectly responsible for the sufferings of the Jews in Germany and for the general consequences of the Nazi regime. Goering in reply asked him to sit down with him and to take some coffee, and at least get to know him a little better. At the end Goering asked Kovacs to return the following day. When Kovacs went back Goering explained that he was not interested in politics and burst out into a tirade against his brother, Hitler and the Nazi Regime, and said "Ich spüke auf Hitler, ich spüke auf mein Bruder, auf die ganze Nazi Regierung." Kovacs was so impressed by these protestations that he decided after all to do what he had been asked. As Frau Goering's illness was severe he had to attend her frequently, and thereby became acquainted with the Goerings. As the climate of Rome was not good for her illness Mrs. Goering was sent back to Vienna.

3. On an occasion remarking that Mrs. Kovacs was feeling the strain of life in Rome, he invited her, together with her two children, to stay at Frascati with him for a fortnight.

4. After this he told Dr. Kovacs that he could not afford to go on keeping up his establishment at Frascati, and he requested Dr. Kovacs to find for him a simple apartment in Rome. Kovacs did this.

5. Six months later Goering told Kovacs that he had been receiving a sum of approximately 25,000 lire a month in salary. Of this he required much less for his own expenses. The remainder he handed over to Dr. Kovacs and requested him to utilize it for the assistance of Jews and other refugees from Nazi tyranny. He required no receipt nor knowledge of whom was helped.

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APPENDIX E.

-3-

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6. At a later date G. received an appointment in the SKODA arms factory in Czechoslovakia. While there he opened an account with a bank Orelli in Berne, and wrote at the same time to Dr. Kovacs (the letter was uncensored.) He told Dr. Kovacs that it was only necessary for him to write the bank to obtain money for the assistance of refugees, and for helping them to escape via Lisbon.
7. On his next visit to Rome Goering gave Kovacs a statement in writing to the effect that Kovacs was his personal physician, that he, Goering, visited Rome very often, required his regular attention and desiring that Kovacs be not molested (i.e. by the Gestapo).
8. On the German occupation of Rome, Dr. Kovacs was frightened that his furniture would be requisitioned, and explained his position to Goering, whereupon Goering gave him a certificate to the effect that all the furniture in the flat belonged to Goering.
9. When Goering was asked why he undertook all this assistance to the Jews and other victims of Nazi persecution he replied that he was completely disinterested in politics, that he loathed all oppression and tyranny, and that he was doing in some small way, everything in his power to atone for the evil and brutality of his brother and all the leaders of the Nazi Regime.
10. Kovacs repeated frequently during the course of his narrative that under no circumstances could Goering ever be drawn to speak of politics, and he never mentioned in any circumstances his brother's name or that of any of the other Nazis.

Recommendation: We recommend that this report should be thoroughly investigated. We were impressed by the evident sincerity of Dr. Kovacs while he told this story, but we cannot completely reject the possibility of an *arrière pensee* in telling it.

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APPENDIX F

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INTERVIEW WITH M. GABRIEL APOR, HUNGARIAN MINISTER AT THE VATICAN IN
ROME, 5TH JULY, 1944, AT 5 P.M. AT THE HUNGARIAN LEGATION.

INTELLIGENCE

Note:

Mr. Philip Broad's agreement was obtained in advance to an interview with Mr. Apor. Since, however, by circumstances which appeared somewhat more than fortuitous, the interview had to take place in the Hungarian Embassy, some restriction was imposed on the scope of interrogations inasmuch as anything which might be interpreted as being of an official nature on the part of the British was rigorously excluded.

- I. Second Front. Hungarians of source's acquaintance were surprised at the apparent ease with which the initial phase of the Allied landings in France were accomplished. On the other hand source maintained that informed Hungarians had been confident of Allied victory since the failure of Germany to take Moscow.
- II. Press. Source explained a necessary function of the government in regard to the press in Hungary. Standardized reporting on propaganda was not sufficient; debate and a representation of opposition was necessary. The government has therefore to a degree welcomed the existence of an opposition press.
- III. The Future. M. Apor held that it must be the policy of all Hungarians abroad to sink all differences and to concentrate all their endeavors to the creation and encouragement of resistance in Hungary. Questioned as to whether such resistance would not require a firm lead from above, source said that encouragement should be given to the reorganization of the parties, who had a vast administrative system at their disposal which cannot have been fully suppressed. They could organize resistance. Attention was directed to the MEP (the only party possessing this administrative system) and it was asked why this party or its leaders, who had been in power since the war started, had never given the lead to such resistance. The reply was that this would have involved immediate occupation of Hungary by Germany - an action which had only been avoided in March 1943 by sympathetic pressure on the part of Italy. The question was further countered by an analogy with Allied compromise at Munich. Occasion arose later to illustrate the value of the ten days' respite accorded by the short-lived resistance to Germany by Yugoslavia and Greece - this in reply to a statement that Yugoslavs were fighting each other and not the Germans.
- IV. Tibor Eckhardt. Source pointed to the value of Tibor Eckhardt as a spokesman to Hungary from the outside world. He was a brilliant orator, sympathetically regarded, known to have left Hungary with the knowledge of Teleki and Horthy, unexceptionable to the Allies, and leader of a party with a generally acceptable policy (the Smallholders).
- V. Imredy. Source was asked why Imredy, who doubtless had German support had not been chosen as Premier in March. He replied that Horthy had not appointed him because he hated him. Asked whether this implied that Horthy had appointed Sztojaj, source replied in the affirmative, but made a rather rapid but

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APPENDIX F.

-2-

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stumbling recovery exonerating Horthy on this point. He followed up with a report of a statement made by Horthy to Von ~~Mast~~ ^{Mast} when the latter visited Budapest in 1938, to the effect that Germany could beat the Allies since she had no fleet. This he said had been reported to Hitler who was furious.

Source described Imredy as having a power-complex, "rather like a schoolboy who will accept first prize but never the second". Imredy had become pro-German and convinced in German victory when he visited Germany in 1938. Horthy and Szombathely had not been similarly impressed during their visit.

VI. German morale. Source described how German soldiers had taken Italian soldiers in their arms in Rome, and cheered wildly, when a rumor spread in May that Hitler had been shot. He explained how German units had been made up to a greater and greater extent by minorities who had accepted German nationality upon incorporation of annexed territories into the Reich, sooner than lose their land and possessions. These were bad fighting elements - and he compared them rather illuminatingly to the Czechs fighting in the Hungarian army in the last war.

VII. Russian War. Hungarians were convinced that Germany would defeat Russia within a few weeks of the beginning of the Russian War. Indeed the German G.S. had given their official maximum estimate of Russian endurance as 8 weeks. Hungary therefore sent only "symbolic" units to the front, and it was not until the German failure before Moscow that Ribbentrop demanded more. Source blamed the uselessness of the Italians on their flank for the crushing Hungarian defeat at ~~Volozh~~ ^{Volozh}.

He visualized the progress of the Red Army as a pincer movement to the Prussian frontier - one arm north against the Baltic, one south through Galicia; he clearly hoped that all the fighting would keep outside and north of the Carpathians. The suggestion that a Russian trend through Roumania was not unlikely, produced the impression that the source was wishfully blind to this possibility. His various other statements upon Kallay's policy in relation to the fall of Mussolini, showed that he with many other Hungarians are loth to drop their recurrent hope that Russia will by-pass Hungary and the Allies effect a conclusive landing in the Balkans leading to a joining up with Hungary. The same people appeared not to have moved from the earlier contention that the British Alliance with Russia was a marriage of convenience for the short period which Russia was then expected to remain in the war.

Note on Source

During the whole interview the impression was gained that source was nervous and extremely sensitive both as to the impression he was creating upon his listeners at every point, and as to the possible implication of questions and statements put by them. One was conscious that he was testing his ground and the attitude of the listener. The nature of the interview tended to produce little in the form of factual intelligence, but considerably more in the form of a guide as to what Hungarians in his class and position may be thinking and feeling. He is not likely to prove of great constructive use to the Allies unless and until he can be persuaded or obliged to place himself in a less equivocal position and to produce information and communications which must clearly be at his disposal.

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Report on Information Obtained on

M. BY

Sources: Count Gabrielle APOR, Dr. L. KOVACS, CIC, Rome.

In the middle of May the food situation in Rome being very severe the Hungarian Embassy, with the approval of the German Government arranged to send a messenger to Budapest with a lorry, to collect food for distribution to the Hungarian colonies in Rome. The man selected for this mission was a Jew by the name of VASVARI. This man had been acting as interpreter for the Nazis.

He proceeded to Budapest about the middle of May, armed with both German and Hungarian documents. He returned with supplies of food about the 2nd of June. This food was then distributed to the Hungarians in Rome as arranged. The individual he proudly produced the Nazi armband with which he had been supplied for the journey.

On the arrival of the Allied troops in Rome, he was given protection in the Embassy to the Vatican by Gabriel Apor. Two days later, owing to his fascination for railways he went out and down to the main station. While there he was recognized and denounced to the Italian police as a collaborator by one of the crowd. He was promptly arrested and imprisoned; so far, efforts to trace his whereabouts in gaol have been unsuccessful, but he is known to be still in custody.

This man should certainly be interrogated for the part he played prior to the occupation of Rome, also, since he is so recently come from Hungary extremely valuable information might be obtained from him on the present conditions, political thought and morale in the country at present.

Rome
5th July, 1944

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MEMORANDUM.

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Status of Hungarians in Rome.

(a) I. from various sources it is known

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1. That M. APOE, on the occasion of the entry of German troops into Hungary and the nomination of M. SZTOJAY as Premier, had informed the Regent that he no longer felt bound by allegiance to the Hungarian Government (a course followed by other Hungarian diplomats in neutral capitals). According to a member of the Hungarian Foreign Office he did, however, specifically assure HORTHY of his continued personal allegiance to him.
 2. At the personal request of the Regent he remained at his post pending the Allied occupation of Rome. When this happened he sent a further message to the Regent and made a statement to Reuters that he regarded the SZTOJAY Government as a Quisling Government imposed by the Germans and that he declined to recognize it as the Government of Hungary.
 3. SZTOJAY telegraphed to M. APOE that he had learned of the Reuter statement and "assumed that it was not true." It is believed that no reply has been made by M. APOE to this telegram.
 4. M. APOE has apparently not withdrawn his allegiance to the Regent but avoids making any positive statement to that effect, maintaining rather that his allegiance is to the "Crown of St. Stephen."
 5. M. APOE still occupies the Embassy and continues to enjoy the diplomatic facilities of the Vatican: he has indicated no departure from his status of Hungarian Ambassador.

IX. Against the background of confused and self-contradicting attitudes, his behaviour in the face of the Allied occupation of Rome is peculiar and ambiguous. Reference is made to the following specific circumstances:

1. He has assumed a role, if not the leading role, in a band of Hungarian ex-diplomats who have, willy-nilly, been "liberated" by Allied progress in the war, or who have revised their attitude towards the Hungarian Government. This embryo group strives after some composite representation of Hungary in the outside world.
2. He has mooted the formation of a Committee for the Restitution of Hungarian Constitutional Rights.
3. He has been elected President of a newly formed Free Hungarian Association in Rome (SZABAD MAGYAR SZOVETSEG, ROMA) comprising both Hungarians, such as himself, still enjoying diplomatic status and privilege. As Hungarians, in the Vatican, and independent Hungarians stranded in Rome. It is his desire to see this group welded in some way into a united Free Hungarian Association on an international basis.

(c) III. It is submitted that the status and attitude of other Hungarian diplomats in neutral capitals should undergo careful scrutiny to establish whether the same disqualification applies.

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3. Certain Hungarians from Rome having already been employed by Allied organizations for tasks ranging from simple translation work to eventual infiltration, and M. APOR being in possession of information on these tasks, with the channels still at his disposal for communicating them via Berlin to Hungary (it is thus the channel runs), urgent action is desirable to clarify the existing situation.

The more specific information obtained from M. APOR during the course of the interview is recorded in Appendix F.

ARADY Zseld.

4

Ex Press Attache in Apor's Legation. Apor's link with Hungarian community at Rome. Claims personal influence with Apor. In view of his close connection with Apor and Szasz (see below) we consider that he should be regarded as unsuitable for employment in the British Service. He has been deprived of his appointment, but not of his citizenship, by the Satojay Government. Regrettable consequences have already arisen from the continuation of his relationship with Apor, with his too sympathetic reception here. He is aware of an ISLD infiltration plan which on his own statement he has communicated to Apor. Not only this, but he has agreed to submit to Apor's scrutiny the names etc., of the contacts which he is going to suggest to the ISLD agent. This is, in our opinion, a disgraceful breach of security and ought to be fully investigated.

Vitez SZASZ (né SOMMER)

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Councillor and Director, R. Hungarian Legation at the Quirinal. Protecting interests of Hungary in Rome. Both parents were German. A Hungarian Blimp. Maintains contact with Spor, Kovacs and Arady. Still dilligently distributing anti-Trianon propaganda. He appears to be acting in accordance with international law; but the question of his legal position ought to be investigated. In the meantime no British officer or official should have any contact with him.

DR. LENART

Physician. Has no politics other than the sentimental liberalism of a sensitive and cultured man. Has contact with Arady and Co., but probably does not share any secrets of theirs. This is borne out by his record. He was appointed by the Italian committee of Liberation to assist escaped British POW, and is known to have done so. He is too dreamy a person, and besides has too close a personal connection with Arady, for him to be suitable for employment in any part of His Majesty's Intelligence Service. We consider, however, that he would be as a doctor, acquainted with Magyar, be suitable for employment, if required, with such a body as U.N.R.R.A. We feel that he has already deserved well of us, having risked his life before the fall of Rome, in our interests, and that we should do something for him in return.

VASVARI

We recommend that his case should be taken up with minimum delay by a competent security authority; and that he should be thoroughly interrogated, if possible with P.I.C.'s guidance, by C.I.S.D.I.C. or S.I.L.O. at Bari.

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* 10TH. Inre.

This man was not seen in Rome but from information given by Arady and Kovacs he was one of the prime movers of the Committee of Liberation. He had already left for Bari to join ISLD. The fact that he is obviously in touch with Arady and Apor makes his connection with ISLD dangerous and it is recommended that he should not be used until his position vis-a-vis Apor and the other has been cleared up.

PMB 12th July 1944.

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