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FIRA - 3786

Italy # 495

12 November 1948

To : Washington  
From : Italy  
Subject : Zolt ARADI  
Reference : FIRA - 3720, KAPOK Italy # 476

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FORM 70-11

I. Current Activities (8 August 1948 to date).

1. Movements.

Subject returned to Rome on 8 August 1948. In late August he went to Gemona Friuli to visit his children on holiday there, returning to Rome on 7 September. During the second half of September he made a trip to Milan.

2. Cover Story.

Since his return, bearing in mind that his initial undertaking, for personal reasons if none other, must be that of re-acquiring his "virginity", Subject has been living fully his factual cover as Italy correspondent for the "Amerikai Magyar Nepszava" and for "Commonweal". In his daily contacts, where necessary or advisable, he has let it be known that as a non-citizen it was impossible for him to continue his previous employment, but that he expects to obtain a position with the "Voice of America"; that the latter appointment has been delayed because of the ponderous nature of bureaucratic procedure; that he will accept the appointment because, in order to obtain United States citizenship, he must live in the country; that in order to maintain himself and his family in the meantime he has accepted the "Nepszava" assignment.

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3. Success in Re-establishing Cover.

Among his friends and acquaintances it is well known that Subject and his wife are undertaking divorce proceedings. In no quarter is there any indication that the divorce is considered other than factual. Reasons for the divorce are known, as is the fact that the marriage will be fully and regularly nullified by the Church. Any observer who has maintained a detailed surveillance of Subject and his activities since his return to Rome could report only the harmless truth, i.e., he returned to settle his personal affairs; his plans to remarry, and to bring his new bride to the United States, were unsuccessful (in submitting this material, Source states that he will furnish the entire story of his personal life to the local station upon request. He does not feel that this is necessary, however, because the matter is well known to three highly placed "people in the organization").

4. Indications as to the measure of Subject's success in re-establishing himself as a completely private citizen may be found in the following instances:

- a) Baron APOR, entirely convinced that Subject's past affiliation has been severed, has no hesitation in speaking openly to him;
- b) During Bishop MUECH's visit to Rome in mid-October, Subject told him that he was no longer connected with AIS. Asked if he had been dismissed because he is a Catholic, Subject replied in the negative. In order to impress more strongly on MUECH that his AIS affiliation is finished, Subject asked his aid in obtaining a teaching position in the United States, and stated that he would accept such employment after completion of his "Voice of America" assignment. MUECH subsequently wrote a very cordial letter in which he stated that he would leave nothing undone in the effort to obtain such an academic post for Subject, and indicated that he would act through Louis BUDENZ and George SCHUSTER to that end.
- c) Subject's acquaintances in the United States and Europe who know that he is the chief of "Nepszava"'s European bureau also

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'know' that his assignment does not include the gathering and reporting of Hungarian news. He actually holds such an assignment, but since Subject's Paris colleague Jare MIKES signs his political articles, the byline is deferred to him. Only Subject's non-political or quasi-non-political articles appear over his signature; and his signed articles are always articles "of opinion", never factual reporting. Thus Subject's Hungarian friends and acquaintances are now congratulating him on his return to the scene of private journalism.

- d) Since his return to Rome Subject has not maintained contacts or associations that could lead to the confirmable suspicion that he is engaged in I.S. activities.
- e) Subject's original acquaintance with Magr. TARDINI was established through their mutual friend Baron APOR, and was in connection with his official assignment of setting up liaison on an I. S. level. TARDINI now unquestionably accepts Subject's profession that his previous AIS affiliation no longer exists, and with reference to the previous phase has stated that Subject "only carried out his (war-time) duty".
- f) Since his return to Rome Subject has not seen Father LEIBER, but has written to request a meeting when the latter returns from the Pope's summer residence at Castelgandolfo. It is almost certain that Father LEIBER has been fully informed by Father ANMAN of the circumstances of Subject's presence in Rome. ANMAN who is very close to LEIBER is also a personal acquaintance of Subject.
- g) A check of Subject's correspondence would reveal that each day he forwards to his newspaper an airmail letter containing six-ten pages of typewritten material plus clippings from the local press. The "Nepszav" staff includes only two professional journalists, its editor-in-chief and Subject. The latter thus provides his editor with interesting European materials, Hungarian political and economic news, local color articles from all over the world, and each week he is required to submit two signed articles on any topic

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he chooses. Subject has just completed an article for "Commonweal"; another recently finished article will be submitted to the "Atlantic Monthly" through friends in Washington. In addition he is working on a play.

b) Subject lives modestly because, on his monthly salary of 127-thousand lire from the "Nepszav" he cannot do otherwise.

5. Recapitulation of Activities.

Subject has re-established contacts with all his local Hungarian friends and meets them regularly in his home each Sunday at a "Hungarian afternoon".

6. Has presented his credentials to the local Foreign Press Association to which he was admitted as a member in September, to the Chief of the Foreign Press Section of the Italian Foreign office, and to Press Attache CAPRIO at the American Embassy.
7. Has called on Count DALLA TORRE of the "Osservatore Romano" a number of times, and with him has discussed Hungarian ecclesiastical matters.
8. Visited Jesuit Father AMMAN at the latter's invitation.
9. Visited Milan Catholic University Rector Father Agostino GEMELLI who invited him to give a series of lectures at the University.
10. Visited Papal Relief chief Msgr. Karl BAYER.
11. Met with Bishop MUENCH when the latter was in Rome in mid-October.
12. Has taken steps to obtain revalidation of his old unlimited Rome sojourn permit.
13. Through Baron APOR established contact with NOBILI and has begun establishing a Paris-Rome information link (see previous report).
14. Has established contact with the Centro Informazioni Pro Dec to which he submits Hungarian and other news items gathered by himself, but which, according to his story to the Centro, are prepared by Bela KURY.

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15. Has obtained journalistic credentials for Bela KURY who acts as his leg-man and who also writes materials for the "Nepzava".
16. For the purpose of obtaining invitations to give lectures at their institutes, has contacted Franz EISEN, of Munich and Bamberg Universities; Otto MOLDEN of Innsbruck; Steven PENROSE of American University of Beirut; and Dr. MORARD, M.D., whose brother, a Dominican Friar, is a professor of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland.
17. On several occasions visited Italo ZINGARELLI, an old friend.
18. In Milan visited Ignazio BALLA, an old Hungarian journalist, press agent to all major Hungarian writers, to whom he sold a manuscript which will appear under a pseudonym (as yet unknown to Subject) in the Milan weekly "Domenica del Corriere". With BALLA made arrangements to sell original Franz LEHAR articles in the United States.
19. Several times met with Steven E. STREETER of I.R.O., from him gathered ideas and materials for a book on Displaced Persons. For this same purpose Subject contacted Steven K. SWIFT, a literary agent employed by McMillan.
20. In August, at the request of Baron APCR, placed former Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc NAGY in contact with His Holiness and with SARAGAT.
21. Re-established contact with Istvan MARKUS, a Hungarian lecturer of Naples University, and a friend for the past ten years; and with Thomas PERCZEL, former Secretary to the Hungarian Legation to the Holy See.

II. Subject's Suggestions for Future Activity.

22. Italian Demochristian Service.

The previously reported Christian Democrat anti-Communist undertaking against Hungary is assuming a more concrete form as regards its Paris-Rome link. On 11 November Baroness Lilly DOBLHOFF was to have arrived from Paris and met with Subject. The

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latter will be able to furnish the names of the organization's Bulgarian, Serbian, and Polish contacts in Paris, all of whom are allegedly running services into their own countries. To date, because of the Federalist Congress being held in Rome, it has been impossible for Subject to meet further with Dr. NOBILI in connection with the project.

23. DOBLHOFF, it is reported, will shortly proceed to the United States for a three-months visit. During her absence her place as chief of the Paris branch will be taken by former Hungarian diplomat Denes NEMESTOTHY (last post Paris, resigned with NAGY). Andor GELLERT has not been informed of DOBLHOFF's proposed absence. It is unfortunate that GELLERT has not been selected to be DOBLHOFF's deputy because, in the event Subject returns to the United States, both the Baroness and her deputy will refuse to collaborate with any outside agency. (local station comment: Subject does not, however, exclude the possibility that DOBLHOFF may still maintain a Paris contact with AIS).
24. Everyone connected with DOBLHOFF's Paris undertaking is convinced that their service is on behalf of a Rome Catholic agency, and that Subject consigns the product exclusively to that agency. If the project proceeds as hoped, DOBLHOFF or, in her absence, NEMESTOTHY will begin to request a reverse flow of confidential informations from Subject.

25. Dorokos HADNAGY.

It is believed that HADNAGY could be more fully exploited than in the past, and that if properly handled he could furnish excellent military information. Subject has told HADNAGY that he is completely out of all intelligence activity, that on general principles he does not wish to engage in such activity in Italy.

26. Mscr. Gyula MAGYARY and the Vatican.

Subject suggests that he is in a position to exploit MAGYARY effectively. The latter, for example, is convinced that Subject is largely responsible for the fact that he has recently been awarded the American Medal of Freedom for his wartime services; among the

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Hungarians Subject is the only person aware that MAGYARY's AIS affiliation continued even after war's end, that he was anxious to maintain that contact; MAGYARY's selfish interests make it advisable for him to collaborate with AIS because of his hope of sending his cousin and his family to the United States.

27. MAGYARY's collaboration in return for payment and a promise of U. S. visas for his family would, for example, be a necessary step in attempted Vatican penetration. DALLA TORRE could be exploited to the same end, never directly, but only on the purely Hungarian level of exchange for Hungarian informations.

28. Ivan BOLDIZSAR.

Subject feels certain that he could make a long-range "agreement" with Hungarian Undersecretary for Propaganda Ivan BOLDIZSAR if the latter were to come to Rome. In Subject's absence from the city the same sort of agreement could be carried through by former "Pester Lloyd" editor-in-chief George OTLIK on behalf of the Hungarian group. Elaboration of such a plan requires considerable time, but Subject is determined to work the project out.

29. Hungarian Socialist Groups.

The following groups among the Hungarian emigration have not yet been properly exploited:

- a) Karoly FEYER group which is affiliated with the Washington Nemzeti Bizottsag (Hungarian Committee). FEYER, however, lacks popular support;
  - b) Antal BAN group led by the recently exiled Hungarian Minister for Industry, of which former Hungarian Minister to London Istvan Barothy BEDE, who left his post when President TILDY was ousted, is also a member. This group, because of the late date of its exile, is not accepted by the Nemzeti Bizottsag, and in some quarters BAN is actually considered a Soviet agent.
30. According to current rumor the BAN group will be accepted for membership in the Socialist International because of the importance of certain of its members. These, however, are largely British.

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sympathizers, and some of them may actually work under BIS patronage. At the same time it should be borne in mind that this group has considerable popular support in Hungary among labor circles.

31. Although he has not yet reached a definite conclusion as to the most satisfactory manner for approaching this group, Subject emphasizes that such a step would be most valuable. Thus far the "Amerikai Magyar Nepszava" has remained neutral vis-a-vis the BAN group, probably because its owner BATOR has certain plans in that regard. It is Subject's opinion that any exploitation of the group can best be centralized through BATOR and the "Nepszava" as was originally foreseen in Subject's Washington discussions; and that, if BATOR is aware of such plans, and if the Hungarians know that BATOR actually stands firmly behind them, the maximum of security will have been achieved.

32. Centro Informazioni Fro Deo.

It is only a matter of time until Subject will be able to work himself more firmly into CIP, and to bring his association onto the intelligence level.

III. Subject's Contacts.

33. Close Friends.

- |               |                  |  |
|---------------|------------------|--|
| a) ARADI-ACH, | Mrs. Erdmute:    | Subject's wife whom he is divorcing, and whom he describes as "the most honest person I know" (see para. 3). |
| b) CHAFIN,    | Howard M.:       | General Foods Corporation executive, 250 Park Avenue, New York City.   |
| c) GEMELLI,   | Father Agostino: | Rector Milan Catholic University (see para. 9).  |
| d) HOCKE,     | Dr. Repe Gustav: | publisher-writer, Haus Aurora, Starnberg, Oberbayern, Germany.   |

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- e) KURY, Dr. Bela: Journalist, No. 1 Via Giulia, Rome (see paras. 14, 15).
- f) MOSKOVITS, Dr. Istavan: F.A.O. official, 14 Via Po, Rome.
- g) PENROSE, Steven: President, American University of Beirut (see para. 16).
- h) Dalla TORRE, Count Giuseppe: Editor-in-chief, "Osservatore Romano", Vatican City (see paras. 7, 27).
- i) VEROSIA, Dr. Stefan: X Foreign Office, Vienna, Austria (Subject's cousin).

34. Hungarian Group - Friends, Acquaintances.

- a) AFOR, Baron Gabriel: former Hungarian Minister to the Holy See (see paras. 4-a, 4-e, 20).
- b) BAILLA, Ignazio: Hungarian journalist-press agent, Milan (see para. 18).
- c) BOKA, Laszlo: Undersecretary of Education, Hungarian Government.
- d) BOLDIZSAR, Ivan: Undersecretary for Propaganda, Hungarian Ministry for Foreign Affairs (see para. 28).
- e) CZAKO, Dr. Josef: Young ex-Hungarian diplomat who fled his country in 1947; now student at Rome's Gregoriana Institute; will become a priest.
- f) DINNYES, Lajos: Prime Minister of Hungarian Government.
- g) GALLUS, Father Tibor, S.J.: An old friend; now a member of the Pontifical Biblical Institute; a regular visitor (see para. 5).
- h) HADNAGY, Domokos: (see para. 25).
- i) HLATKY, Dr. Endre: Former Press Chief in Hungary; sent to concentration camp by Nazis, liberated with BLUM.

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SCHUSSNIG, etc., by American forces;  
now chief of Hungarian section of  
Pontifical Welfare (see para. 5).

j) HORANYI, Dr. Tibor: Recently fled Hungary (see para. 5).

k) KOSA, George:- Currently Press Attache at Hungarian  
Legation, Rome.

l) KOVACS, Gyula: Former member of the Hungarian  
Economic Delegation.

m) LIGETI, Prof. Lajos: Since the death of Sir Aurel STEIN  
is the greatest living expert on  
Central Asia; now living in Budapest.

n) MARKUS, Prof. Istvan: Lecturer at Naples University (see  
para. 21).

o) MIHALOVICS, Magr. Sigismund: regular caller at Subject's home  
(see para. 5).

p) NAGY, Ferenc: former Hungarian Prime Minister  
(see para. 20,23).

q) ODESCALCHI, Princess Margit: ardent Communist, recently assigned  
as First Secretary to the Hungarian  
Legation in Washington, D.C.

r) ORTUTAY, Gyula: Minister of Education, Hungarian  
Government.

s) PERCZEL, Thomas: former Secretary to Hungarian  
Legation to the Holy See (see para. 21).

t) SZAKASITS, Arpad:- President of the Hungarian Republic.

u) SZEKFU, Gyula: Former Hungarian envoy to Moscow  
(1945-48).

v) VEICIS, Laszlo: Present Hungarian Minister to Italy.

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35. Italian Group - Friends, Acquaintances.

- a) AGOSTI, Guido: well-known pianist.
- b) ALESSANDRINI, Federico: editor-in-chief of "Giornale".
- c) CAPICCI, Marchese G.: now attached to Italian Embassy, Madrid.
- d) CIADEA, Basilio: (see previous report).
- e) COLONNA, Prince: Assistant of the Papal Throne.
- f) FAVARETTO, Fnu: well-known pianist.
- g) FRANCIOSI, Fnu: Editor of Christian Democratic newspaper of Naples.
- h) De GASPERI, Alcide: Premier of Italy; Subject's last meeting was in 1946.
- i) GONELLI, Guido: Italian Minister of Education; a friendly acquaintance since 1939.
- j) MANZINI, Fnu: Editor of Christian Democratic newspaper of Bologna.
- k) MILLOSS, Aurel M.: Former head of Rome Ballet, now head of Milan La Scala Ballet; and through him ballet circles of all Italy.
- l) NOBILI, Dr.: (see previous report, and paras. 13, 22).
- m) ROCCO, Guido: Former Italian Ambassador.
- n) SARAGAT, Giuseppe: Italian Minister of Merchant Marine; acquaintance dates from 2 November 1948 (see para. 20).
- o) VINCI, Dr.: Chief of Foreign Press Section, Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. (see para. 6).

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p) Zingarelli, Italo (see para. 17).

36. Vatican Group - Friends - Acquaintances.

- a) AMMAN, Father, O.J.: Hungarian Jesuit priest (see paras. 4-f, 8).
- b) BARBETTA, Msgr.: Official of Vatican Secretariat of State.
- c) BARTOLINI, Luigi: Vatican journalist.
- d) BAYER, Msgr. Karl: German, Chief of Papal Relief, Rome.
- e) BOUQUIN, Msgr. Andre: French, member of the Congregation of the Propaganda Fide.
- f) BRELICH DALVESTA, Mario: Italian citizen (by birth half Italian, half Hungarian), writer-journalist, editor of Hungarian Cardinal MINDSZENTHY's "Magyar Kurir" agency.
- g) BRINI, Msgr.: Official of Vatican Secretariat of State.
- h) CIGOGNANI, Msgr.: Apostolic Delegate in Washington, D.C.
- i) CIARIZIO, Msgr.: Official of Vatican Secretariat of State.
- j) COUSSA, Msgr.: Syrian, member of the Congregation of Propaganda Fide.
- k) McCUE, Msgr.: Official of Vatican Secretariat of State.
- l) FAULHABER, Cardinal: Munich.
- m) GESSI, Comm. Leone: Official of Vatican City Governatorate.

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- x) GIOVANNETTI,      Magr.:      Official of Vatican Secretariat of State.
- o) HABAN,      Father Method, O.P. Olomouc, Czechoslovakia.
- p) LEIBER,      Father Robert, O.J. Private Secretary to His Holiness (see para. 4-f).
- q) LOLLI,      Prof. Cesidio:      Deputy editor-in-chief of "Osservatore Romano".
- r) MAGYARY,      Magr. Gyula:      Hungarian member of the Congregation of Propaganda Fide (see paras. 26, 27).
- s) MAUER,      Rev. Otto:      Professor, Vienna.
- t) MERKLEN,      Magr. P. Leon:      Editor-in-chief of "La Croix", Paris.
- u) MONAY,      Father Ferenc:      Hungarian confessor of Church of St. Peter, Rome.
- v) MONTINI,      Magr.:      acting deputy Vatican Secretary of State.
- w) MUENCH,      Magr. Alisius:      Bishop of Fargo; Apostolic Visitor for Germany (see paras. 4-b, 11).
- x) NYISZTOR,      Magr. Zoltan      Professor, Bogota, Colombia.
- y) PETERFI,      Magr. Eugen:      Chief of Hungarian Papal Institute.
- z) PIUS XII,      His Holiness:      An acquaintance before he became Pope.
- aa) ROESCH,      Father:      Jesuit priest, Munich, Germany.
- bb) ROHRACHER,      Magr.      Archbishop of Salzburg, Austria.
- cc) ROTTA,      Magr. Angelo:      Former Nunzio to Hungary.

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- dd) TARDINI, Msgr.: Acting deputy Vatican Secretary of State (see para. 4-e).
- ee) TISSERANT, Cardinal: Congregation of Oriental Affairs.
- ff) WINKEN, Bishop: Representative of the German Catholic Episcopate to the Four Power Council.
- gg) ZWIGER, Father Ivo, S.J.: Assistant to MUENCH, Frankfurt, Germany.

37. German Group - Friends, Acquaintances.

- a) CURTIUS, Prof. Ludwig: former German professor of archeology; resident in Rome.
- b) EISEN, Franz: Munich, Christian Democrat.
- c) HUNDHAMMER, Alois: Bavarian Minister of Education.
- d) KOGON, Eugen: Christian Democrat.
- e) MAHNER-MONS, Frau: German writer, in Rome.
- f) SATTLER, Frau: Bavarian Undersecretary of Education.
- g) SYRILED, Frau: former Minister, Munich trade-unionist.

38. Other Friends, Acquaintances.

- a) KLOSS-RINALINI, Mrs. Frau: Italian, one of Subject's first friends in Rome.
- b) MOLDEN, Otto: Austrian, professor living in Innsbruck (see para. 16).
- c) MORAUD, Frau. M.D.: Swiss doctor (see para. 16).
- d) MORAUD, Frau: Swiss Dominican friar, professor at University of Fribourg, Switzerland (see para. 16).

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- e) NEUMANN, Franz: Austrian Jew married to Hungarian Jewess, during Jewish persecution were hidden by Subject in his apartment; now living in Rome.
- f) POPOFF, George: Estonian, working as a Swiss journalist, lives in Rome.
- g) PORZIO, Mario, M.D.: Subject's family physician in Rome, one of his first Rome friends.
- h) RESENICH-SIGNORELLI, Mrs. Olga: Elderly Italian-Russian writer in Rome.
- i) STREETER, Stephen E.: American of Hungarian origin; employee of Rome offices of IRO (see para. 19).
- j) SWIFT, Stephen K.: American of Hungarian origin; literary agent for McMillan.

39. Wilhelm MOHNEN, German.

A war-time acquaintance of Subject, MOHNEN contacted Subject's wife after his release from an Allied concentration or POW Camp. MOHNEN is a famous art expert for whom Subject established two important contacts to facilitate purchase of pictures for his United States buyers. MOHNEN left for the United States on 24 October 1948, after having canceled his business arrangements despite commitments made to Subject. Subject does not suspect MOHNEN of IS affiliation, but feels that his behavior requires explanation.

40. Subject's Enemies, Ill-Wishers.

a) KATONA, Jeno.

Editor-in-chief of the Hungarian daily "Hirlap", left-wing Deputy of the Smallholders Party, a crypto-Communist. Until 1945 was a Catholic politician, still professes to be a champion of freedom and democracy. Has sold out to the Communists, has denounced friends, and is the Communists' principal Catholic "asset" in Hungary. In 1931 Subject gave KATONA a physical beating; during

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1947 KATONA received two more similar beatings because of his generally vicious and treacherous nature.

b) LUTTER, Magr. Ferenc.

Former Hungarian envoy to the Holy See, and one-time Ecclesiastical Counselor to the Hungarian Legation to the Holy See. Until June 1944 relations between LUTTER and Subject were normal; the latter subsequently severed relations for a number of reasons, among them LUTTER's rabid anti-American attitude. Is now in Buenos Aires.

c) VAJTA, Ferenc.

Extreme Right-wing Hungarian journalist, one-time Hungarian Consul in Vienna. VAJTA spread a rumor to the effect that in 1945 in Salzburg Subject had caused the arrest of not only Hungarian war criminals, but of hundreds of innocent persons. VAJTA apparently later realized that Subject was not at the time concerned with Hungarian affairs or with war crimes matters in general. Is now at Ellis Island after an interesting Congressional investigation. His enmity towards Subject may no longer exist.

41. Most Profitably Exploitable Contacts.

Subject feels that he is in a position to exploit the following contacts to profitable ends:

- a) BOLDIZSAR, Ivan: Hungarian Undersecretary for Propaganda (see paras. 28, 34-D).
- b) DOBLHOFF, Lilly: Hungarian (see paras. 22, 23, 24).
- c) KOSA, George: Press Attache at Hungarian Legation, Rome (see para. 34-k).
- d) LIGETI, Prof. Lajos: Central Asian expert (see para. 34-m).
- e) LIEBER, Father Robert, S.J. Secretary to His Holiness (see paras. 4-f, 36-p).
- f) NOBILI, Dr.: Christian Democratic Party's office for foreign affairs, Rome (see paras. 13, 22, 35-1).

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- g) ROESCH, Father: Jesuit priest in Munich (see Para. 36-aa).
- h) WINKEN, Bishop: Munich (see para. 36-ff).

42. Miscellaneous.

Subject has no actual contact with the following individuals, but feels contact could easily be established were such a course desirable, and would not interfere with his principal undertaking of establishing his cover:

a) MORRIS, Frau.

United States citizen of Hungarian Jewish origin, converted to Catholicism. Apparently wealthy, he generously finances various branches of Italian Catholic Action, especially its youth activities. Subject's Hungarian friends frequently meet MORRIS; because he offers them money, help, etc., they feel he must be an IS operative.

b) STERN (or STEIN) Frau.

*See number this to Michael*

Allegedly an American who lives in a sumptuous villa on Rome's Monte Mario, no apparent source of income. Mentioned on several occasions by Hungarians who believe him to be an IS operative.

IV. Conclusion.

43. In submitting the above material Subject emphasizes that he firmly intends to return to the United States for the purpose of undertaking necessary steps to obtain United States citizenship. Mentioning his extreme gratitude for all that has been done for him in the past, he requests that he be given any aid possible in facilitating his naturalization procedure.

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44. It is recommended that this KAPOK be made available soonest to WASHG in view of their expressed interest in Subject.

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