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Mandatory Review

Case # NLJ/RAC 10-92 ISCAP appeal

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MEMORANDUM FOR: All Members, Interagency Defector Committee

SUBJECT: Soviet Physicist in Vienna

I. CIA/Vienna has reported the following:

a. Subject is Yuriy Stepanovich SAYASOV, born 9 April 1927 in Moscow, who arrived in Austria on 26 August as a member of the Soviet scientific delegation attending a conference on Phenomena in Ionized Gases currently in process in Vienna.

b. Subject appeared at the U.S. Embassy in the evening of 4 September 1967 in the company of an American citizen, Mrs. Alice Norvile Crownfield, whose husband is a physics teacher and a colleague of Subject, having met Subject at an international conference in 1965. He requested political asylum and resettlement in the United States. His motivation apparently was dissatisfaction with the regime, plus his hope to marry Mrs. Crownfield.

c. Brief background information on Subject:

(1) Subject is separated from his wife. He has a 12-year-old son. Both his parents are deceased.

(2) Subject was graduated from the Moscow State Pedagogical Institute imeni Lenina in 1948. He received his doctorate in theoretical physics. From 1946 to 1950 he worked and studied in the "Secret Institute" (Institute No. 9) in Moscow, which he alleges is the main institute involved in atomic research. He worked with two East German scientists there: One was

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Professor Robert Doepfel on radiation safeguards; and the other was Professor Fritz Lange with whom he worked on problems associated with isotope separation. He also studied with Soviet Professor (fnu) Kompaneyets (phonetic) described as one of the chief scientists in the Institute.

(3) From 1950 to date Subject was employed in the Institute of Chemical Physics of the Academy of Sciences where he worked on problems associated with linear acceleration, space research, and theory of "atomic scattering." He said he also did research on rocket re-entry problems, specifically those connected with the development of the rocket nose cones. He alleges he has some information on the military application of this research.

d. The factor which apparently precipitated Subject's decision to defect at this time was his sudden request to return to Moscow on 2 September. This order was completely unexpected, since Subject had every reason to remain until the end of the conference about 6 September. The only explanation given Subject for the above decision was the lack of sufficient tickets to attend various conference seminars, which Subject believes to be a patently phony excuse. He pointed out that one of the reasons he was permitted to attend this conference was his good knowledge of the German and English languages which made him a useful interpreter.

e. Subject readily signed an Asylum Request and appears to be willing to place himself in U.S. hands. The only concern he expressed was for the future of his son and the possibility of persuading the Soviets to permit his son to join him; however, Subject was informed that the chance of this happening was very slim. Subject is listed in the 1959 Soviet Men of Science, page 1155. He appears to be who he claims he is, and makes a good initial impression.

f. The DRC and the local Defector Committee were informed on the case, and agreed that Subject warranted defector status.

2. It was agreed that a quick evacuation from Austria was necessary and that Subject should be moved securely and "black" to the DRC immediately. Two specialists from CIA Headquarters were sent to DRC to

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expedite an early assessment of Subject's value and his bona fides, which is necessary in the event we are forced to move Subject to the United States as a result of Soviet or other political pressures. The DRC Panel agreed to accept Subject.

3. Subject arrived at the DRC on 3 September. When more information is known, you will be advised.



Robert K. Davis

Chairman

Interagency Defector Committee

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