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DISPATCH

Chief of Station [redacted] 4-1

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27 June 1958

02 [redacted] - Miscellaneous [redacted] Reports from [redacted] 01

Re: For information only

02 [redacted] 415, 17 June 1958

1. At the same meeting at which we discussed the [redacted] case with [redacted], a number of miscellaneous items came up, which we will briefly list below:

2. [redacted] said that Gregory [redacted] had just called him and asked him to lunch, but also [redacted] was seeing the undersigned, he had to postpone the meeting with OCLUB. OCLUB had said on the phone that he was leaving for vacation (presumably in the Soviet Union) on the 21st of June. [redacted] was to meet OCLUB one hour after we left him, that is, at 1900 hours. [redacted] mentioned this, we suggested to him that he ask OCLUB about the expenditures in Hungary, but [redacted] replied that the question is a little bit too delicate for him to put to OCLUB. Although we asked [redacted] how long OCLUB would be gone, [redacted] said he did not know but would try to find out. In reference to your old concern regarding [redacted]'s relations with OCLUB (CFR-2348, 13 February 1958), we have occasionally suggested replies and comments designed to harass OCLUB, but almost without exception [redacted] has turned them down as inappropriate, just as he did on the above suggestion re Hungary. We would say that [redacted] is not quite the honest type that we have perhaps led Headquarters to believe in the past. He is deceiving in his apparent openness and frankness, but we have noticed that he is also capable of being quite clever and sly when the occasion demands. If we have given the impression that he is simple-minded, we would like to correct that impression. Any person that has managed to hold the job that he has for the second longest period of any man in the 41-year history of the [redacted] organization has to have more than a simple esp's grasp of the job. By the way, we learned from [redacted] that OCLUB is now and has been for some time an avowed Soviet agent. 01 01

3. Another topic which came up was mail operations. We asked [redacted] what the status of the surveillance apartment on Tehtashirtu was. He replied, contrary to his earlier optimistic version, that things were not going so smoothly. They had struck a last minute snag and were now having difficulty getting the present tenant to move out of the apartment. Of course, they can have the person evicted, but that would attract undue attention; so they are trying to work around the situation. [redacted] still has hopes that during the course of the summer, they will be able to get this apartment or if not this one, another one close by.

4. The subject of mail operations for [redacted] started as a short anecdote; namely, he expressed deep appreciation for the technical help which he was getting and cited a case which they are now having, involving an mail operation against a Finnish citizen suspected of working with the Soviets. Four men and one car are assigned to the operation which involves surveillance from early morning till late at night and which will probably go on for from two to four months. [redacted] explained that they had bugged the suspect's apartment by running the microphone in through one air duct and the microphone wires out through another air duct to the adjoining apartment where a man was constantly listening when anyone was at home. The man in the adjoining apartment was also in radio contact with the person standing by in the car so that the suspect could be followed whenever he left the apartment. [redacted] went on to say that this operation is, of course, very expensive in terms of men, money and equipment in view of their limited staff, but he does feel that it is better to concentrate on one target at a time for the best results.

5. Other items brought up were the following:

a. [redacted] asked [redacted] if he could provide us with additional pictures of [redacted] presently in [redacted]. [redacted] replied that the last batch of pictures had been all that they had at that time. He promised to get [redacted] if we could get [redacted] from the appropriate person in the Ministry of the Interior.

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b. [VA] ⁰¹ mailed to a half-page memo concerning the investigation which has been conducted on an Embassy level. My copy, Serial 1-1111. The net result of this investigation was that although [VA] was characterized as honest and unpolitical, he was not found to be involved in any circumstances that could be construed as detrimental to U.S. interests. He was labeled as a Communist, politically speaking. [VA] will be kept under surveillance, how since we do not know, perhaps merely spot surveillance.

c. [VA] ⁰¹ also mailed me a page and a half report on an investigation of [VA] [VA], also known as [VA]. [VA] is an immigrant visa applicant. Home address has been given as 1112 Easton, Seattle, c/o Reinius. The name had been referred to the Consulate from Gothenburg. The investigation in this case involved not only going through the [VA] files, but also through the files of the Immigrants' Section, plus an investigation by the local sheriff in Leno. We make a point of mentioning this merely to explain to you that frequently [VA] ⁰¹ men are used for this type of investigation which does not show in the production file for the [VA] project at Headquarters. There appears to be some doubt now as to the accuracy of the information furnished by [VA], but before anything is sent to the Consulate in Gothenburg, we intend to check the matter out carefully.

Richard S. Bralley

Distributions:

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- 2 - [VA]
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28 June 1953