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SYR 460

129202

11(3) 3902, 509

CD/CO Case 42961
14 May 1954

A3567

Subject: ⁰⁶ Background and Assessment Information on Professor ⁰⁸ (Jean Jacques Demorest), (Cornell) University

FILE: Morris Bishop ⁰⁸ ~~SYR 460~~ ⁰⁸ David I Grossvogel (Joint); (Cornell) University ⁰⁸ 75

1. One of our cleared sources at (Cornell) University has recently confirmed our understanding of Professor (Demorest)'s family and professional background and his evident quality of interests in the US and France. We presume that most or all of the important basic biographic data on ⁰⁶ (Demorest) is available to DODS. For that reason, we will not attempt to supply any great amount of this except as it will provide a better setting for this assessment.
2. Our normal source description for ⁰⁶ (Demorest) represents a capsule summary of his background. The following additional points developed by our source seem to be relevant.
 - a) ⁰⁶ (Demorest) was born in ¹⁰ (Lille), France. His father is a US citizen. His mother was French at the time of his birth, but may since have been naturalized in this country. ⁰⁶ (Demorest) spent his youth alternately in France or the US and grew up to be completely bilingual in these two languages. He speaks French with no foreign accent.
 - b) After attending ⁰⁸ (Ohio State) University, he took graduate work in French at ⁰⁸ (Princeton). ⁰⁸ During this latter period, in 1941 he joined the Free French Forces, was commissioned a Lieutenant therein and served in Africa under General LeClair in the campaign from Lake Chad to Tunisia. Later he was wounded in Italy, nearly losing his ⁰⁸ (right arm as a result). ⁰⁸ He spent about two years in a hospital recovering and was awarded the ⁰⁸ (French Legion of Honor). ⁰⁸
 - c) After the war, ⁰⁶ he completed his graduate work and took a position at ⁰⁶ (Duke) University and distinguished himself in the performance of his duties there. He was hired from ⁰⁸ (Duke) by ⁰⁸ (Cornell) University and has been at the latter ever since. ⁰⁸ Our source's close association with ⁰⁶ (Demorest) began at this particular period. ⁰⁶
 - d) Somewhere along the line, ⁰⁶ (Demorest) was converted to Catholicism and our source describes him as a devout Catholic. He married a ⁰⁶ (French girl) from whom he has been separated in recent years. ⁰⁶
 - e) ⁰⁶ (Demorest) is a great admirer of President DeGaulle and knows him personally. He has a strong and continuing interest in French politics and while our source does not know much of

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⁰⁶(Demorest's) own personal, political feeling, he guesses that it lies in the Center-Right.

- f) Because he has an interest in DeGaulle and the Gaullists, has many friends in French government and army circles and keeps informed via the French press and his own correspondence on current conditions in France, ⁰⁶(Demorest) is frequently called upon at ⁰⁶(Cornell) events and before ⁰⁶(Cornell) alumni groups to lecture on conditions in France. ⁰⁶He is extremely well informed and does this particular job in a superior manner. In addition, he feels an obligation to explain DeGaulle's and Gaullist views in this country when he is asked to do so.
- g) Our source described ⁰⁶(Demorest) as being an idealist and an enthusiast, who is inclined to put these feelings into action, as for example when he joined the Free French at a time when the US was not actively fighting the Germans.
- h) At present, ⁰⁶(Demorest) is in France on a grant which allows him to work on the manuscripts of the late French author, ⁰⁶(Barnanes). According to our source, his selection for this grant represents an honor among scholars.
3. In addition to the above ⁰⁶points, our source confirmed our existing overall impressions about ⁰⁶(Demorest) which have been included in NIFs and memos about him forwarded over the past six years. In the circumstances of his family and cultural heritage, it is quite natural that ⁰⁶(Demorest) would develop an active interest in France and matters French. ⁰⁶His public explanations of present conditions in France reflect his continuing close association with his friends and associates there, many of whom are in politics, government or the military. Our source agrees with us, however, that this is not a case of divided loyalty between the US and France. He feels that ⁰⁶(Demorest) is a loyal American who has a long standing and legitimate ⁰⁶interest in France. From our own contacts with ⁰⁶(Demorest), we can not disagree with this.
4. ⁰⁶(Demorest's) access to people in French government and army circles is best expressed in the series of reports submitted from him under Cases 40413, 37605 and 35133. A review of this material will provide clear evidence of the range of his personal associations in France from President DeGaulle on down.
5. During the years of our continuing contact with ⁰⁶(Demorest), we have never had reason to question his discretion or personal conduct. His appreciation of Agency requirements that we have discussed with him has been clear and complete. If anything, he has become more aware of our needs as his experience with us has increased. ⁰⁶(Demorest) is a bright, alert,

personable individual who has a wide range of interests. Our source agrees with us, incidentally, that his impact on (Cornell) alumni groups must be both considerable and favorable. 08

6. While our experience with (Demorest) has been both positive and productive, we would emphasize one point. The demands made on him in our collection of FPI and the assistance he has provided are entirely different from those that would prevail under a relationship with the DD/P. Our relationship has been able to complement (Demorest)'s ability to explain the Gaullist view in a way that will serve his own government and which will not damage his personal and professional contacts and associations in France. In other words, the collection of FPI - which in this instance has been substantial - is a form of cooperation under which (Demorest) is protected. The needs and operations of the DD/P, on the other hand, introduce a strong and continuing element of risk for him. We have been asked to assess (Demorest)'s possible performance in an actual 'approach' and 'recruitment' situation. The potential in 'approach' and 'recruitment' situations is to us quite formidable. It takes no stretch of the imagination to foresee the ruin of (Demorest)'s professional career in France (and possibly here as well) or loss of his long-standing friendships there if an operation involving him were to go sour. There is no reason to believe that he will not recognize this potential immediately if operational matters are discussed with him. Frankly, we can not predict his reaction to this sort of thing, but we doubt that he is naive, let alone naive enough to put himself voluntarily under the guillotine.
7. As we have indicated earlier, (Demorest)'s travel plans in West Europe are for the most part little known by his associates at (Cornell). This is by design to give (Demorest) the widest freedom of movement while he is abroad. He is due back in the US for a few days in early June, but will not be in (Ithaca, New York). Following this, he will return briefly to France and will spend the summer traveling, probably in other countries of West Europe. Before he left (Ithaca) in (Jun) 63, he told us that he would like to drive through the Scandinavian countries during this coming summer, but we have no way of confirming this now. Thus, it would appear that (Demorest) will spend very little time in France from here on out - very little time at any one place in West Europe for that matter.
8. A second cleared source at (Cornell) obtained the above brief travel plan from a friend of (Demorest)'s who visited (Ithaca) last weekend. Believing that we might wish to speak with him while he is in the US, our source arranged through this mutual friend for Mr (Ross) of this office to have an appointment with (Demorest) on 3 Jun 64 at 5:30 PM in New York City. In the event that a DD/P representative would wish to meet (Demorest) at that time, (Ross) could keep this appointment in his company. 06

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9. This appears to be the only opportunity to meet with ⁰⁶ Demarest during his brief period in the US next month. Our Cornell source can break the appointment if there is no desire in DONS to keep it. Our cancellations will have to be done by mail in the form of a letter from our source. For this reason sufficient time will have to be allowed for the mails. Please advise us whether or not this appointment should be kept at the earliest possible moment, certainly by 29 May.

-end-

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