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ABSTRACT

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FILE NUMBER (PRIMARY CODE) 201-287527

DATE MICROFILMED 19 Apr 1963

DOCUMENT DATE

DOCUMENT NUMBER OELA 38399

SECRET

Chief/FIOB

30 September 1965

J. P. Meredith

X SLOBODA, Vladimir
#350565

201-287527 ✓

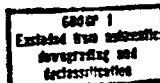
1. At the request of the Deputy Chief, SRS, a summary has been prepared concerning Vladimir SLOBODA, Polish-born United States Army enlisted man who defected on 2 August 1960 and was granted political asylum by the USSR.

BACKGROUND

2. The following background information concerning SLOBODA was obtained from Army Chief of Staff Intelligence (ACSI).

SLOBODA was born in Podkamien, Poland, on 7 January 1927 where he attended elementary and high school until 1943. He was employed in the office of the mayor in Podkamien from January 1943 to September 1943. At this time the German Army occupied Poland and SLOBODA was sent to Germany as a forced laborer for the period September 1943 to May 1945. When the war in Europe ended in June 1945 SLOBODA returned to his home in Podkamien and was apprehended by the Russians. SLOBODA stated he was interrogated and forced to work for the NKVD in Brandenburg, Germany, as a Russian and German interpreter/translator until May 1946. He escaped in May 1946 and went to Western Germany where he was placed in a DP camp in Kassell, Germany. SLOBODA remained in the DP camp until February 1948 when he emigrated to England under the sponsorship of the Agricultural Committee, Isle of Wight, England. He returned to Germany in July 1952 to obtain information relative to alien enlistment in the U.S. Regular Army and was accepted for enlistment under this program in April 1953. SLOBODA entered the United States as an alien enlistee soldier in November 1953 and was assigned to Fort Dix, New Jersey, for basic training. Upon completion of his basic training he was assigned to the 525th MI Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His duties with the unit was that of a language instructor in German and Russian plus being an interpreter/translator in the same languages. SLOBODA became a naturalized citizen on 14 August 1953 and the same month was assigned to the 513th MI Group with duty station at Frankfurt, Germany. This was his place of assignment when he defected.

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3. According to ACSI, SLOBODA was investigated in 1952, 1954, 1956, 1957 and 1958 with favorable results. As part of each investigation a polygraph examination was given. The only deception on SLOBODA's part revealed by investigation and polygraph was established in 1954 by his admission that he had married in England on 12 February 1953 prior to his enlistment in the U.S. Army under the alien program. After becoming a U.S. citizen on 14 August 1957 SLOBODA was granted a final type SECRET clearance on 21 August 1958.

4. Investigation by the Army revealed that:

a. SLOBODA telephoned his wife on 2 August 1960, stating he might not return home, and on 4 August he sent his wife 2000 West German Marks (about \$500.00). On 9 August he sent his wife a post card postmarked Berlin stating "take care of yourself and children--go home to mother, I'll try to help you in England." An interview with his wife revealed he was depressed over gambling losses estimated to be about \$1000.00.

b. SLOBODA had purchased a round trip plane ticket to Berlin from Cologne on 2 August, PAA Flight 642/43.

c. Members of SLOBODA's unit revealed that his gambling and indebtedness were reported to his superior in March or April 1960 and that SLOBODA was counselled and directed to get his personal affairs in order. He borrowed \$300.00 from the American Express Company and appeared to be complying with the instructions of his superior.

d. SLOBODA performed clerical duties in the Publications Procurement Section of the Collection and Dissemination Battalion of the 513th MI Group.

ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE RESULTING FROM DEFECTION OF SLOBODA

5. In August 1960 Col. Franz ROSS, Chief of the 513th MI Group, made the following summary concerning SLOBODA:

a. Access to classified information limited to priority III collection of publications.

b. Duties confined to classifying, filing and listing of publications collected overtly. Did not contact sources for material. Did some translating of documents. His duty was least sensitive in unit.

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c. Can give nothing of value to Soviets except personality data re Camp King personnel, which data in Col. ROSS's opinion they get anyway from people they place in Camp King--Warrenfelde Stream.

d. Duties did not bring him in contact with Collection and CE personnel.

6. Col. ROSS reported a discussion with a Capt. MELNIKOFF, G-2, V Corps, wherein MELNIKOFF indicated that SLOBODA was an officer in Polish Intelligence prior to defecting from Poland, adding that this was common knowledge at Fort Bragg where SLOBODA was stationed from 1954 to 1958.

(NOTE: This allegation appears to lack any factual basis, judging by the results of five background investigations of SLOBODA and five polygraph interviews by the Army between 1952 and 1953. Other sources indicated no record of SLOBODA's being connected with Polish Intelligence.)

7. One Captain Jack MANNING, U.S. Army, stated in Frankfurt on 2 September 1960 that he knew SLOBODA well as a member of his (MANNING's) Section 525 MI Group at Fort Meade, Maryland, in 1953 and that SLOBODA then had access to considerable personality information concerning Army Intelligence.

SLOBODA's KNOWLEDGE OF CIA PERSONNEL

No 8. ^{D3, D8} George W. FINNEY, #37796, CIA staff employee assigned to the German Station from 1956 to 1962, stated in October 1960 that as early as March 1960 SLOBODA knew him by his true name. FINNEY saw SLOBODA about three times in the latter's office concerning the acquisition of basic intelligence materials such as East German telephone books, city plans, etc. FINNEY questioned other CIA employees concerning their knowledge of SLOBODA. None had any personal contact with him but all felt that they had seen him at the Camp King coffee bar. FINNEY ^{D3} thought it conceivable that SLOBODA could have learned the true names of CIA employees at Camp King.

POSSIBLE RECRUITMENT ATTEMPT BY SLOBODA

9. The following information was extracted from U.S. Army Counter-Intelligence Summary, dated 15 February 1961, concerning two approach operations against USAREUR personnel by Soviet Intelligence Services (SIS).

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The two most recent SIS recruitment operations were directed against a warrant officer and a Department of the Army Civilian assigned to USAREUR intelligence in West Berlin. Both approaches were made with letters delivered outside normal postal channels and were preceded by telephone calls stating that the letters had been delivered. The letters invited the USAREUR personnel to attend meetings in East Berlin with Soviet representatives. Both were promised substantial payments if they agreed to cooperate. If the offers were refused, alleged operational errors committed by both individuals would be reported to USAREUR intelligence authorities. The method of authentication employed in both cases involved songs broadcast at a certain time over the Group of Soviet Forces, Germany (GSFG) radio facilities. The phraseology and contents indicated that the letters had been prepared by the same agency and possibly written by the same person. The similarity to earlier approach letters, tentatively identified as having been written by the Committee for State Security (KGB), suggests that the KGB was also involved in these operations.

The lead on the civilian employee apparently was provided by USAREUR intelligence defector Vladimir SLOBODA, who deserted in August 1960 and sought asylum in the USSR. The initial telephone call advising that the letter had been delivered is also believed to have been made by SLOBODA. The lead on the warrant officer was probably obtained by the SIS from Polish intelligence which succeeded in neutralizing several sources handled by the warrant officer. The information was presumably forwarded to the KGB by Soviet intelligence advisors working with the Polish services.

CONCLUSION

10. It is not known whether SLOBODA is affiliated with the Soviet Intelligence Services at this time. According to a Foreign Service Dispatch, dated 19 December 1962, from the American Embassy, Moscow, Mrs. Mary SCHULTZ DUTKANICZ, wife of American defector Joseph DUTKANICZ (reportedly now deceased), stated during an interview at the Embassy that she had frequent contact with "Walter" (probably Vladimir) SLOBODA and his British wife who resided in Lvov. According to Mrs. DUTKANICZ, SLOBODA was disillusioned and was attempting to leave the Soviet Union but had been unable to obtain exit visas.

John F. Meredith

JFM:kod

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