

VIA AIR

SECRET

FBI-1202

To: Chief of Station, Phnom Penh Info: Chief, FE

From: Chief of Station, Viet Nam

General: Operational/FE HQ JCA

Subject: Specific: Information concerning Item A

ACTION REQUIRED: None

In answer to request of Gregory O. SARTAN, the following is a composite of information from WILLIAM P. ELLE (TUSPUB) (ITEM B) and VERALL M. ROBINSON (ITEM C) concerning Item A.

1. Description of subject: between 35 and 40 years old, about 6 feet tall, rather bald, small mustache, very strong and vigorous, fine white teeth, Jewish. Speaks quite good English. He is married and has one 9 or 10-year old daughter. He has a sister in New York who is a naturalized American citizen. WILLIAM says subject speaks well, loves fine music, has an impressive library, reads continuously and paints very well.

2. Early during the war he was deported as a Jew to a German concentration camp (detained prisoner's identification number on right fore-arm—9774), where he spent several horrible years and survived only by luck. Since 1945 he has spent most of his time in Indonesia and was apparently in intelligence or related fields most of the time. TUSPUB reports that (the first ITEM A rep in Hanoi 1951-2) was caught in by an officer from subject to mount combined operations and was shortly afterwards declared persona non grata by the French.

3. Subject took part as a civilian in the Atlantic Operation, and, according to one report, went in with vast sums of money to make propaganda, buy off the opposition, etc. WILLIAM (Item B) and WILLIAMS (Item E) considered Item A's accomplishment in Central Viet Nam among the few notable achievements in that area, particularly in respect to his contribution to the Vietnamese pacification program which he coordinated throughout the course of Operation Atlanta.

4. Subject is an old friend of (Col.) Jean Garbano, former chief of VIAI. He was for a time (June-August 1955) in the National Security Division, during which time he proposed to VILLIERS joint operations—pool resources and experience—(similar to Hanoi proposal, above) but VILLIERS refused, considered proposal provocative maneuver.

5. March-April 1954, subject approached Station and ORCID for military support for program to support nucleus of a people's militia (people militia) in the 2nd Trung area. Information and correspondence on this proposal will be sent upon request.

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6. In February-March 1951, subject was sent by the French as a special mission to Poland and East Germany to attend a conference.

7. Subject claims that while working for SMIL he organized an operation for [redacted], who later asked that he be removed from Belgium. Subject stated that [redacted] wanted to get rid of him for "political" reasons—approximately 15 December 1951.

8. At present Subject is Administrateur Adjoint to French High Commission at Prague, Czechoslovakia, as of 26 December 1951. He frequently travels to Belgium, was seen here last 17 May.

 James L. [redacted]

Enclosures

None, USA

20 June 1952

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