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DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION

PROCESSING ACTION

TO-

Chief, SR

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MARKED FOR INDEXING

INFO.

Chief, WE

NO INDEXING REQUIRED
ONLY QUALIFIED DESK
CAN JUDGE INDEXING

FROM

Chief of Station, Ottawa

MICROFILM

SUBJECT

REDWOOD LCIMPROVE AEPETREL AEVALIANT
John A. ROE @ ROGALSKY

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

Ref: OCOA 6190, 15 February 1963 *att.*

- 201-2973
- Attached is a copy of the SMABOVE interview of John A. ROE @ ROGALSKY, together with reproductions of documents and correspondence obtained from ROE, and photographs of the ROE family. "AEVALIANT/1" should be understood wherever "FUZZY" occurs in the text.
 - The ROEs were interviewed simultaneously but separately in Toronto. Their recent application for Canadian citizenship provided a pretext for the interview.
 - ROE has explained his deposits to AEVALIANT/1's Peace River bank account in terms of a series of three-cornered transfers of funds for the support of ROE's mother-in-law, who was still in China at that time. The documents which ROE has supplied seem to substantiate his explanation of these transfers.
 - As noted in para 30 of the interview, SMABOVE is apparently convinced of the plausibility of ROE's story, but he and his wife have been asked to obtain more factual evidence from his bank and from his mother-in-law.
 - SMABOVE states that from the time ROE was contacted by phone to arrange for the interview, he was under surveillance, which continued for an unspecified period after the interview. SMABOVE states that his actions at that time appeared normal. ROE's encounter with his friend, Paul POLOTSKY (para 29) was observed, and his later admission of it is considered by SMABOVE as a sign of sincerity on his part.

Attachments:

- Interview report
- Copies of documents
- Photographs

CS COPY

Distribution:

- ✓ Orig & 1 - C/SR w/atts 1, 2 and 3 h/w
- 3 - C/WE w/o atts

201-2973

CROSS REFERENCE TO

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER

DATE

OCOA 8607

2 October 1964

CLASSIFICATION

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
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HQ'S FILE NUMBER

201-2973

8933

CONTINUATION OF
DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER

OCOA 8607

6. SMABOVE requests Headquarters comments on this interview. In addition to your comments on the interview itself, we would also appreciate your guidance as to the advisability of continuing the investigation of ROE and any other AEVALIANT/1 contacts.

Peter K. Winship
Peter K. Winship

CPR

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3. Jack Arthur ROGALSKY, now known as John ROE, born on April 27, 1905 at Melitopol, Crimea, then Russia, is the son of Abraham and Katherine ROGALSKY. ROGALSKY is of the Hebrew race, but does not practice his religion. ROGALSKY had four sisters and two brothers, most of whom are now residing in North America. Abraham ROGALSKY, his father, was a grain trader in Melitopol, U.S.S.R. and in 1907 or 1908 moved to Harbin in Manchuria, where business opportunities were better as a result of the Russo-Japanese War. Harbin had a large Russian population and the file subject was educated in Russian schools in the area. In 1920, the file subject moved to Shanghai, where he resided with two of his sisters and received further education at the Thomas Hambury School which specialized in English. In January, 1923, he was apprenticed in the import department of the Swiss firm of E. Huber & Company S.A. and the following year was promoted as Manager of the Import Department as a result

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of the then incumbent manager resigning over difficulties with the management. The firm specialized in the import of sundries and textiles. In 1933, the Swiss principals withdrew their interests and the control of the company was taken over by the Shanghai representatives. The firm continued in operation for approximately a year and then went into bankruptcy. In 1935, ROE, in company with his brother-in-law, one Paul KOMOR, took over operation of the company under the name of two firms, the China Import Co. and the China Export Co., with ROE handling the import and KOMOR handling the export. KOMOR had been the employee of the Huber Company and was an expert in the leather trade. One other additional trading company was formed under the name of Paul KOMOR Co. Ltd.

4. KOMOR and ROE operated their companies all through the war and the Japanese occupation, and ROE did not liquidate his interests until it was quite apparent that the Communist Chinese would soon be taking over the area. ROE stated that trading opportunities were very slim during the war but he also stated that he could have made a considerable fortune if he had been willing to trade with Germany and he had had plenty of opportunities to do so through Chinese fronts, but had refrained from doing so on patriotic grounds. He further stated that he had reported through KOMOR to the Dutch Consulate in Shanghai of any Shanghai traders who were dealing with the German government.

5. ROE readily admitted that both he and his wife had been registered with the Shanghai-Russian Citizens' Association, but further stated that he had never been active in the organization, nor had he ever had any dealings with the official Russian representatives in that city. Prior to the Japanese occupation of Shanghai, ROE had been a corporal in the Shanghai Self-Defence Corps under Colonel Moore COSGRAVE, whose civilian occupation was Commercial Counsellor for Canada in China.

6. ROE advised that the only travels he had made whilst living in China were as follows. In 1935 he visited Hong Kong on business for the Huber Company. Some time prior to the war, he visited the city of Tientsin for one week's holiday, and in 1937 or 1938 he spent two weeks' vacation in the northern part of Korea at a well-known vacation resort called Yankovsky's.

7. On direct questioning, ROE denied any connection with the Soviet Citizens' Association in Shanghai, other than being registered with this group. The allegation that he was a Brigadier of the Seventh Brigade was met with incredulity. He reiterated that the only organization with which he had been connected was the Shanghai Self-Defence

Corps and this was disbanded on the occupation by the Japanese of the city in 1942. ROE denied any connection with the Paragon Book Store but indicated that he was aware of the purpose this organization served. By way of explanation, he stated that he had been connected as a partner with a firm called Paragon Men's Wear, which was located on the Avenue Joffre, Shanghai.

8. ROE explained that his brother-in-law, Paul KOMOR, had been an executive of an organization which was assisting refugees from Europe during the early years of the war. One of the persons he had assisted was Liza ALTURA from Austria. In 1942 at KOMOR's recommendation, ALTURA approached ROE to secure financing for a men's wear shop she was to set up. ROE loaned her the equivalent of a thousand dollars and was a non-active partner in the shop until it was liquidated in 1947. ALTURA is now married under the name of BEER and lives in Caracas, Venezuela.

9. After the war, the subject and his brother-in-law continued trading and among some of the firms dealt with were Davis Leather Co. Ltd. in Huntsville, head office 37 Front Street East, Toronto. When it was evident to him that the Chinese Communists would soon be taking over the country, he decided to leave.

10. He claims he made application to the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai for a visa for permanent residence in the U.S.A. Before the Chinese Communists entered Shanghai, the subject had disposed of his business interests and cleared all his debts. He and his family therefore had little difficulty in leaving Shanghai.

11. With the help of UNRRA, he was able to obtain passage on the U.S.S. "General Gordon" which was evacuating U.S. diplomatic personnel. In order to obtain a U.S. transit visa, he renounced his application for permanent residence in the U.S.A. ROE and his family arrived in San Francisco on October 13, 1949, destined for Brazil. ROE had plans to begin his import-export business again in Brazil. He spent some three weeks with his brother-in-law, Paul KOMOR, who managed to convince him that the government of Brazil was quite corrupt and he would be better to attempt to remain in the U.S.A. ROE decided to visit Canada to re-establish connections with the Davis Leather Co. and also Anglo-Canadian Leather Co. Ltd. in the event he did go to Brazil. They entered Canada on November 7, 1949 with a six months visitors' visa. ROE stated that they were so pleased with Canada they decided to stay and, in February, made application for permanent residence. Their application was turned down but later they were granted an extension, and, finally, landed status on March 26, 1959.

12. Since his arrival in Canada, ROE has had the following employment:

- 1950 - 1955 - Frank Hacking Ltd., 44 Yonge St. Import and Export - Salesman of sundries and chinaware.
- 1955 - 1961 - Wentworth Trading Co., Hamilton - Manager: Importers of giftware, including Czechoslovakian and Hungarian glassware. (32 McNab St. S.)
- 1961 - 1962 - 9 months, Frank Hacking Ltd.
- 1962 to present - R.D. Travers Co., 1 Duke St., Hamilton. Agents for Wickware-Stackbin Ltd. of Perth, Ontario. ROE is a sub-agent of Travers Co. selling steel shop bins to various manufacturers in the Southern Ontario area.

In addition, ROE was considering starting his own import-export firm after leaving Frank Hacking Ltd., but he stated after writing for a number of samples of various lines, he felt it was too precarious a venture and decided on a position offering more security, and thus, the Travers job.

13. ROE is operating on a part-time basis as a manufacturers' agent representing the Swedish Cordage Co., Sweden, producers of plastic-coated clotheslines which ROE has marketed to Simpson's and Eaton's. He has imported approximately \$3,000 worth of goods from this firm. In addition, he represents the Evertex Wall Covering of Rochester, N.Y., having imported some \$1,000 worth of goods.

14. ROE advised that he has resided at the following addresses in Canada:

- 1949 - 1950 - 6 months, 1229 Yonge Street, Toronto
- 1950 - 1951 - 6 months, 309 Indian Road, Toronto
- 1951 - 1953 - 138 Glendale Avenue, Toronto
- 1953 - 1954 - 136 Government Road, Toronto
- 1954 - 1955 - 92 Haddon Av. South, Hamilton
- 1955 - Present - 129 Haddon Av. South, Hamilton.

15. At this stage, ROE was asked to provide the names of associates and friends living on this continent who were of Russian origin or those he had known in China. They were:

Paul POLOTSKY, 7461 Kingsley Rd., Ste. 704, Montreal, a Russian Jew who had worked for ROE in Shanghai, now a manufacturers' agent.

Arthur KUPITSKY, 430 Willowdale St., Apt. 7, Montreal, a Russian Jew who had been in the fur business in Shanghai. He presently operates a stocking factory in Montreal.

Alex KELEN, 5842 Plantagenet Pl., Montreal, Hungarian Jew, civil engineer whom source had known in China.

Alex GROSSMAN, Apt. 402, 4855 Cote de Luc Rd., Montreal, lawyer whom he met in Shanghai.

ROE also mentioned that he had met Eugene ELENSKY of Weston, an electrical engineer, who was a former resident of Harbin.

16. ROE then advised that he had the following relatives:

Miss Dorothy ROE, sister, Canadian citizen, employed as a nurse, 128 Glendale, Toronto.

Michael ROE, brother, deceased, Australia.

Nura (Mrs. Thomas) O'NEIL, 421 Poplar St., Santa Cruz, California. Sister.

Adele (Mrs. Paul) KOMOR, 115 Anthony St., Santa Cruz, California. Sister.

Riva (Mrs. Robert) HARPER, 129 Los Altos Ct., Santa Cruz, California. Sister.

Joseph ROGALSKY, Los Angeles (?), left China in 1914. Brother.

17. At this point ROE was given time to think over his answers and to consider carefully if he had been truthful and complete in his story. He indicated that he had. He was then questioned as to his feelings about the Soviet Union. ROE stated that he had spent most of his adult life in China in the company of Russian emigres who no longer wished to return to the U.S.S.R. and, in addition, he indicated that Paul KOMOR, who is anti-communist, had a strong influence on his life and, therefore, had no pan-Slavic feelings about the U.S.S.R. In an effort to prove his point, ROE stated that after the war the Soviet Consulate in Shanghai was issuing passports to all Russian citizens. However, the passports were of a restricted variety in that the holder

required a visa to enter the U.S.S.R. ROE and his wife did not obtain passports which would obligate them to the U.S.S.R., preferring to remain stateless. ROE's brother and sister, Michael and Dorothy, registered for Soviet passports and with the Shanghai Soviet Citizens' Association.

18. ROE was asked point-blank how long he had been assisting the Russian Intelligence Service. He was astonished by this accusation and denied any connection in this respect. He was then asked about his knowledge of FUZZY and he emphatically denied knowing such a person. He was prompted that this person may have resided in Alberta at one time. His recollection of the person indicated was quite spontaneous then and he stated that he once sent money to a man in Peace River, Alberta, but could not recall his name. He explained that his wife's mother, Mrs. Maria SKOURIHINA, and her daughter were living in Harbin, Manchuria during the time the ROEs were in Shanghai. Jack ROE and his brother-in-law, Herman MUENSTER and his wife (Mrs. ROE's sister, Lucy) had been supporting Mrs. SKOURIHINA by sending parcels and money. After the ROEs left Shanghai for North America, Mrs. SKOURIHINA's support was carried on by MUENSTER and in part by Dorothy ROE, subject's sister. When MUENSTER and his family left for Germany in 1954, Mrs. SKOURIHINA had to locate additional avenues of support.

19. At this time there were a good number of people who were planning to leave or had left China and, due to strict currency controls, were using various methods to get their funds out of the country. Mrs. SKOURIHINA contacted a number of people who were willing to use their funds to support her in return for her relatives in Canada depositing equal amounts with persons they designated in Canada, the U.S.A., or other countries. ROE stated that he forwarded funds to some five or six people in Canada and the U.S.A. in this respect, but could not recall the names. The names of FUZZY and SIDOROFF did not mean anything to him, but the mention of Peace River brought to mind the transfer of funds. He believed that, in all, he forwarded some \$200.00 to the party in Peace River in 1955 or 1956. ROE stated that he never knew the name of the party who supplied the funds in China. Although he cannot recall the exact amounts, ROE stated that his mother-in-law was receiving between \$20.00 and \$25.00 per month from 1955 until leaving China in 1958. ROE assured the writer he would attempt to locate his old bank books and any other documentation which might corroborate and further clarify his submissions.

20. Mrs. ROE's story agreed with that of her husband with a few natural differences. She was later allowed to answer questions in the presence of her husband in connection with the money transfer. Her narration in this

regard tallied with that of her husband, but she could not shed any additional light on the names of the persons connected with the money transfers.

21. Mrs. ROE supplied the following background information on herself:

Nadejda (Nadine) ROE, nee BEKETOFF, born July 1, 1914, Handoletze, Manchuria. She moved to Harbin with her family when several years of age. She attended private schools and has obtained an educational equivalent of Grade 13. Mrs. ROE was married in Shanghai on August 10, 1944 and has one child, Catherine, born in Shanghai, November 13, 1946. She has been with her husband since marriage and has never been employed other than as a housewife.

22. In addition, Mrs. ROE related the names of the following persons who are former residents of China with whom they are acquainted in Canada:

Igor and Irene MASHEN, R.R. #1, Maple, Ontario. He is a self-employed architect whom they first met in Toronto. MASHEN was born in Harbin.

Soye BORODKIN, 419 - 42nd Ave., San Francisco, a single woman they both knew in Shanghai.

23. ROE produced a copy of a letter to one P.K. FAINITSKY in Wellesley, Mass. from Herman MUENSTER, which outlines the methods used to transfer money, also the address of the recipient, Mrs. SKOURIHINA. The letter is attached hereto. Also attached is a copy of an account statement prepared by MUENSTER for ROE, showing the names of some of the persons involved in the money transfer. You will note that SIDOROFF's and FUZZY's names are shown for March, 1956. In addition, the names of Miss WEISSMANN, to the account of RIVKIN, JAKOLEVA, Australia and account of KRUIKOVA in Australia. ROE stated that he has never met any of these people, nor is he aware of their whereabouts now. His only contact with them was in the transfer of funds and he can only remember their names by virtue of the account sheet. Also attached is a letter of thanks from J.M. LIFSHIZ of Los Angeles concerning a cheque for the \$25.00. This is in connection with the RIVKIN account.

24. To substantiate his story in connection with the Paragon Men's Wear Shop, ROE produced the attached letterhead indicating the existence of this firm at 1291 Avenue Joffre. He could offer no explanation for the allegation that he was a Brigadier in the 7th Brigade of the Shanghai Soviet

Citizens' Club, except that the original source might have stated he was a bombardier, not a brigadier. ROE was a bombardier corporal with light gun battery of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps prior to the Japanese occupation. In addition, ROE stated that his brother, Michael, had been a member of the Shanghai Soviet Citizens' Association and was active in social, sports, and dramatic activities with the association. ROE contended that he was probably being confused with his brother.

25. With regard to identity documents used during his life, ROE explained up until the Japanese occupation he had used a certificate of identity obtained through registration with the Russian Emigrant Society and issued by the Shanghai City Government. ROE's certificate, No. 2376, is attached. During the war he and his wife used certificates of identity issued by the Shanghai Police (under control of the Japanese Military). After the war, the city government of Shanghai again issued certificates of identity and ROE was only able to produce his wife's, No. 16620, which is attached. You will note on the back cover the stamp of the Russian Emigrant Society dated February 5, 1945. This organization is not to be confused with the Soviet Citizens' Association. ROE stated that in 1948 (using a city directory) the Emigrant Society maintained offices at Lane 118, House 1, Mowming Rd., Shanghai. ROE states he has always been shown as a former Russian or stateless in all documentation.

26. After the war he allowed his membership in the Russian Emigrant Society to lapse, however, he turned to them for aid when it was apparent that the Chinese Communists would soon be taking over the country. The Russian Emigrant Society were planning to evacuate Russian emigrants to the island of Samar in the Philippines. ROE decided against this because of the unhealthy conditions for his daughter, but was required to pay all his back dues in the organization. He then requested them to attempt to obtain U.S. visas for him and his family. At this time he and his wife had obtained I.R.O. Travel Documents 00350 and 00351, which they used to enter Canada eventually. They are endorsed with Canadian and Brazilian visas and are attached hereto for examination.

27. When discussing his occupation as a manufacturers' agent, ROE mentioned that he had purchased some samples of hurricane lamps and ski poles from the firm of Universal, Foreign Trade Enterprise, Warsaw. ROE spoke to their representatives, Barbara KWIEK and Wanda BOROWSKA, in August, 1962 at their booth at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto regarding the import of camping and sporting goods. ROE subsequently corresponded with the firm and produced the invoices for the goods imported. The business cards of the above-mentioned persons are attached.

28. ROE and his wife are purchasing their home at 129 Haddon Avenue South, Hamilton and living with them is their daughter, Catherine, a student. They are members of St. Paul's Anglican Church at Haddon and King Streets in Hamilton. ROE and his wife are not members of any other association.

29. ROE has instituted an enquiry with his bank in an effort to unearth further corroborating evidence of his dealings with FUZZY and others. He also met with his friend, Paul POLOTSKY, after our initial interview and casually asked him about the Paragon Book Store and Ebel ROMAN of Roman's Book Store. Neither POLOTSKY nor the bank is aware of the reasons for his enquiry, other than general curiosity. Mrs. ROE will be corresponding with her mother shortly and will ask for a general rundown on the persons who supplied money to her in China, and also her knowledge of their agents outside of China. Mrs. ROE will not indicate the real reason for the enquiry. Mrs. SKOURIHINA is now residing at Sommerweg 42, Hamburg, Larup, Germany.

Comments on the Interview

30. In reviewing the results of the ROE interview, we find he has related a rather convincing personal account of his life which tends to indicate that his dealings with FUZZY were not of an R.I.S. nature. ROE's recollection that he forwarded a total of approximately \$200 for deposit in a bank account at Peace River, Alberta in 1955 or 1956 compares favourably with our information which indicates total deposits of \$228.50 for the period October 5, 1955 to May 1, 1956. The results of the bank inquiry instituted by ROE will be passed to you when received, as will the outcome of Mrs. ROE's inquiry to her mother in Germany.



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Chief, SR
Att to OCA 8607

Photos

Att 2