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The Director of Central Intelligence

15 August 1949

Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence

Report No. 1 on trip to FROCK and USFA, 22 June to 7 August 1949  
inclusive.

1. OBJECTIVES. Major objectives were: (a) to develop information on procedures used in Russian-controlled countries for obtaining "confessions" (Appendix A), and (b) to apply special methods of interrogation for the purpose of evaluation of Russian practices and capabilities in this area (Appendix B).

2. BACKGROUND. (1, a.). Since the notorious Moscow trials of 1937 and 1938, Russian-controlled judicial procedure has been noteworthy for the dramatic trials in which the defendants have exhibited anomalous behavior and confessions. Trials have often been staged affairs with rigid settings. Preliminary study of records of a number of trials, especially that of Cardinal Mindszenty, led to the inference that the style, content and manner of delivery of the "confessions" could only be explained on the basis of a reorientation of the minds of the confessees. There is adequate historical experience to establish that basic changes in the functional organization of the human mind cannot be brought about by psychological duress or physical torture alone. Investigation of the use of more subtle techniques was indicated. Recent reports of unusual and bold behavior among activist PWs returning from Antifa schools in the USSR suggested that special techniques for reorientation may have been applied to them as well.

3. CONCLUSIONS.

a. It is a reasonable certainty (though unproven) that "confessees" in high-level trials of political or propaganda significance in Russian-dominated areas are prepared by hypnosis. Hypnotic control is begun following a period of psychological duress and drugging, the re-education under hypnosis being reinforced with interim dialectical pressure.

b. There is no evidence that hypnosis is being employed by the USSR in the preparation of activist or espionage agents for routine missions.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS.

a. Consideration to be given to an operation for the escape of Cardinal Mindszenty.

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4. RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued)

b. An operational team of two men be trained by CIA in special methods of interrogation and sent to the European Theatres.

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APPENDIX A

Background and Procedures Used in the Preparation  
of Defendants For Confessions

Sources:

1. Reports of trials in Russia and satellite areas.
2. PASIKI, Frantisek, Brigadier General (Czech), witness of 1933 trials of ZEMOVIS, EUREANIN and MURKA.
3. SULNAR, Lasseo and Karna, nee FLORIAN-FISCHEOS, handwriting experts, and forgers for the political police during the Mindszenty trial.
4. KAPPANII, fru, Captain, Hungarian Army, in contact with KOVACH, Aladar, Hungarian author.
5. SZATMARI, Emil. Alienist and psychiatrist for the Hungarian People's Court.
6. Two senior lieutenants, MGB.
7. Captain, MGB.
8. SCHNEIDER, Colonel General, Reichswehr.
9. Sources with knowledge of Gestapo and SD methods.

The use of psychological duress, drugs and hypnosis, both for interrogation and preparation of defendants for trials was known to both the German and Hungarian political police, (AVO, BAH, and SD). A German Professor ORSCOS, Ferencz, living in Hungary during the Nazi occupation in 1944 cooperated with the Germans in these special operations. From them and his own experience he learned the use of a drug called "SCHE" (Scoopolamine-Ethotamine-Hukatal), which causes slow mental excitement and then depression and which had enjoyed use in the treatment of some mental disturbances. It came into extensive use in Hungary where the Gestapo applied it to reduce subjects to a highly suggestible mental state, after which hypnosis was induced and interrogations carried out, or preparations for trial made. Working with ORSCOS under Gestapo guidance were Dr. VOLGYESSY, Ferencz (the best hypnotist in Hungary), and two of VOLGYESSY's assistants, TAMASEA, Dr. Stefan and probably BALINT, Major Stefan, now a major in the RAI.

The first two known independent Hungarian uses of special methods for confessions were the HAZY trial and the ARANY trial. It will be remembered that during the ARANY trial in 1947 the defendant initially

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regudiated his personal history statement as presented by the police and stated before the court that he had been mistreated and hypnotized. The court was recessed, ARANY was returned to prison and the court reconvened on the third day, when ARANY acknowledged the statements in the original personal history and confessed guilt to all charges which were as usual presented in full, to be answered "Yes" or "No". During the ARANY trial, KLEEMAN, Dr. Androv, the court psychiatrist and a reputable physician, was not allowed to interview the defendant or to be in close proximity to him. KLEEMAN later stated that it was his impression that ARANY was in a state of hypnosis while on the stand.

In the trial of CHORNIKY, Victor (son-in-law of the first President of Hungary), a similar procedure was followed. CHORNIKY was tried in mid-1948 for selling a Hungarian secret code to the United States. The CHORNIKY case was followed closely by a number of people because he was the first Jew to be tried for treason and it was of special interest to source, who knew CHORNIKY and family well and was also Jewish. Source also was in close contact with SOLYOM-FERENCZI, Wilkos, who was a prisoner at Andrassy Street 60 with CHORNIKY and spoke with him daily. Source states that in the first few days in prison CHORNIKY denied all charges, but after three to four days stated that he had been receiving daily interrogations from Professor VOELGYESSY. Following this observation, SOLYOM-FERENCZI noted daily changes in personality of CHORNIKY and gradual alteration in statements made after interrogation. After ten days of treatment CHORNIKY was proclaiming his guilt to his fellow prisoners, several of whom by that time had become reguiciated with the application of hypnosis and were of the opinion that CHORNIKY had been hypnotized repeatedly. Prior to the trial CHORNIKY was interviewed by KLEEMAN who, according to source, (at that time an agent of the political police), said that CHORNIKY was definitely in a state of hypnosis during his trial. Source, who witnessed trial, stated that CHORNIKY's delivery was that of a hypnotized individual and that contrary to his usual rapid speech, he spoke very slowly as if reading from a text. Source talked with CHORNIKY in an anteroom prior to trial and noted that CHORNIKY did not seem normal and was astonished at prisoner's statement, "I admit my guilt and I am sure I will not be sentenced to death." Defendant also did not recognize source, although they were old friends and in brief conversation was detached and exhibited obvious gaps in memory for events both had witnessed. As usual, the defense attorney did not carry out a direct or cross examination. Further evidence of a hypnotic trance is given by the behavior of the defendant during the trial, in which source twice passed CHORNIKY's line of vision to the latter's complete indifference. To source and others working in the laboratory of the EAH, there was general acceptance and comment as to CHORNIKY's being hypnotized, although no open statements were made.

The preparation of Cardinal HRDSZENYI followed the same general pattern but was perhaps better planned and executed, with the advice and assistance of a Russian delegation.

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Within about three or four weeks in the autumn of 1948, the decision to weaken or discredit the position of the Catholic Church in Hungary was forced upon the Hungarian Politburo by a series of events: (a) the fortifying meeting of the Communist County leaders who were working in an unfavorable milieu which was about 70% Catholic, (b) the beginning of the Communist peace offensive, (c) the beginning of the Party purge, and (d) NAYARADI's defection. At this time a secret meeting was called to decide upon tactics. Present were SZAKASITS, Arpad; RAKOSY, Matias; MAROSAI; GEROC; FRISCH; RAJK; NAVY, Julius, and others. RAJK recommended the BASH method and wanted to foster an anti-Communist demonstration and have a mass slaughter including NIMDSZEMTY. As an alternate method RAKOSY wanted to deal with NIMDSZEMTY by luring him from the country and preventing his return. In the absence of agreement GEROC and FRISCH (both Moscow-trained), insisted that a group should go to Moscow to get overall policy in light of future requirements in Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Bulgaria. GEROC and RAKOSY, RAJK, PEBAY and VAS went and returned in four weeks. RAJK, who was not in agreement with the Moscow decision, was kept for two additional weeks, in which time he was relieved of the Ministry of the Interior and appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs. His place as overall head being taken by a reliable Moscow-trained man, KADAR, Jon.

After their return the old AVO (secret police) were reorganized and purged, and in three weeks a separate military office created, the BAH (secret police of the Ministry of Interior), made up of tried, screened Communists and GABOR, Peter was made head. GABOR was not under the control of the head of the Hungarian state, but received all orders through GEROC and FRISCH.\*

On or about November 1948, a Russian delegation arrived in Budapest. It was headed by TISCOV (now Russian Ambassador to Budapest), and five or six others who were attached to the BAH. It is not known whether SAVELIEV, KANTAROFF or KREVINSKY were in this group, although other reports have identified the latter two as being in Budapest at this time. On or about 5 December there also appeared fifteen or twenty MVD officers of Hungarian origin. About this time TISCOV and PUSCHKIN ordered President SZAKASITS to take action to separate the Church within four weeks.

The problem was discussed in the presence of source at a justice session meeting of the Communist party. Present were SZEMETI, NAVY, FEY and the Minister of Justice, et al. The point at issue was how to produce sufficient evidence against NIMDSZEMTY to publicly discredit him and the Church. The Russians brought with them hundreds of documents collected by their agents and the BAH had an additional large quantity on hand. The great problem was how to organize the material for public exhibition and present a credible case. Very few of the documents were original, most being photostats, intercepts and agent reports. Photostats and transcripts or originals could not be used without revealing

\* "BOGVA" reports Peter GABOR's suicide in Budapest on 4 August 1949.

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source and methods of operation. The solution of ELEPHANTY, Irvin, Chief of the Economic Section, BAH, was adopted. This method was SOP in this section of the BAH and is usually carried out as follows: Intercepts were compared with catalogued letters in files and author-ship or original identified or verified. A literal copy of photostat or intercept was forged and placed in house of defendant, which would then be searched and forgery found. In the KINDSZENTY case photostats were available of correspondence between KINDSZENTY, CHAPIN, SCHROEFELD and others. In the case of BARNY original letters were not available for copy so words from numerous other letters were pieced together to get words for the original. In the trial of Baron (Mrs) ERAY, it was noted that there were no intercepts since 1947 because all correspondence was delivered by courier and, on insistence of KINDSZENTY turned after reading.

The arrest of KINDSZENTY was made on 26 December. On 28 December public reaction was so great that Moscow ordered immediate publication of derogatory documents. In the rush of preparation, confusion and disagreement arose between the Minister of Economics and the Minister of Foreign Affairs as to scope and extent of publicity. The police, (QABOR, Peter), stepped in and decided to publish CHAPIN, SCHROEFELD and KONTIGLY letters which had been forged either from photostatic copies or by synthesis of words from a number of letters. After forgeries were created, copies were given to the Budapest newspapers. One paper, "VILAG", of the radical democratic group, refused to publish and went on record as stating letters were forgeries. The editor, SZANKA, Geza, was jailed. The SULNARs were called in by police to substantiate forgeries. Hanna SULNAR went to the American Legation and additional information from this point on the forgeries may be obtained from the Department of State. A notable error was made by BAH in that the original forgery which appeared in the Budapest papers on the 4th of January was dissimilar in format from the second forgery prepared by SULNAR and which was published in the Yellow Book. Photostats of both forgeries were presumably turned over to CLARK, Philip, Second Secretary of the American Legation.

Two weeks were occupied in preparing documentary material for the trial. In this period about 200 other individuals associated with KINDSZENTY were also arrested since the staging called for KINDSZENTY to be principal defendant and to select from the 200 a few who could be used to testify against him. ZAKAR was disclosed to source by police as being very important. He was inclined to be fanatic, wanted to be a martyr, and had been picked as target by police because of his great singleness of purpose which made it very easy to deal with him by dialectical means.

In the first two weeks period of preparation the usual police methods were applied to the Cardinal. There was first a physical search which was highly impersonal and carried out by guards who neither spoke nor revealed any sign of human interest. The prisoner was then placed

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in a cell or room where people wandered in and out for a day or two, ignoring the prisoner completely. Impersonal treatment continued, but he now began to receive food and a private cell. On or about the 5th day the prisoner was given pen and paper and instructed to prepare a personal history report. The Cardinal wrote one of twenty lines. This was sent to BAH where it was given careful study and made a basis for dialectical attack. This is an important part of the preparation of a prisoner. Each point in the personal history is argued about endlessly, "You say you are a peasant,—well wasn't your father, etc.", and going from this into semantic and political issues. This may go on for days until the prisoner, who has been cut off from human contact and not allowed to speak on the issue for which he was arrested, begins to doubt his own ability to think and express himself. Six full days' interrogation and dialectic argument were expended on the 20-line personal history statement of NINDSZENTY. NINDSZENTY's confidence was considerably shaken at the end of this time, but he refused to sign the statement of police to the effect that he had lied in his personal history statement. After this, administration of "GEM" was begun on 4 January by special permission of BISSOM and processing by VOLIGYESSY and RAJHANA initiated. On the 6th of January, VOLIGYESSY dictated to NINDSZENTY (while under hypnosis) a two to three page life history. GABOR, Peter showed this to SULNAR who immediately identified the document as one executed while NINDSZENTY was in an abnormal condition, probably under hypnosis, (which GABOR readily admitted). Since this document was useless for publication and NINDSZENTY was proving difficult, another conference was held in the police laboratory, responsibility for forgeries and handling of trial procedure having in the interim been consolidated in the BAH and the crime laboratory, for both criminal and political trials. At the time of this meeting ASZTALOS, Colonel George, and CSZKO, Colonel Gyula, Party Commissars in the Ministry of Interior, stated to source that they were as yet unable to get a satisfactory compromise or damaging statement from NINDSZENTY and it would, therefore, be necessary to continue processing. They were perturbed because the Russian experts headed by BISSOF were impatient and a meeting was called with the Russians to decide whether (a) to turn the whole matter over to the Russian experts or (b) to continue with Hungarian facilities. The Hungarians were willing to continue because of experience and familiarity with the language but the thought of failure was a deterrent. The Russians were prepared to go ahead but they also did not want to risk the consequences of failure. The matter was referred to Moscow and decision was made that the operation was to be Hungarian, but under Russian guidance. This meeting was called on or about 10 or 11 January 1949. From this point on NINDSZENTY was left to the psychologists. He was permitted to write letters and had a special call at Andrassy Street 60 which was segregated from the remainder of the prison and provided with special passage to interrogation rooms. From this time on he was not seen by other prisoners or any but his special guards until the day of the trial.

On January 26 and 27 the prosecutor, AJAFY, Julius, in accord with law, went to the prison to advise NINDSZENTY that the latter was now in

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custody of the court and to inquire if the prisoner had any new statements to make. ALAMY later stated to CSOMBA, Bela, the official court news correspondent, that at no time had he seen anyone as apathetic, unemotional and detached as the prisoner.

On 2nd February HINDSZIGYI was taken to the court prison. The usual court guards were relieved by BAI guards and for the first time in the history of the court both court psychiatrist KOLITIAN and the psychologist, BALASSA, Vlaslos, were excluded from the building for the duration of the trial and prohibited from speaking to the prisoner. It was further ordered that no photographs be taken at the trial except of designated areas.\* The details of the remainder of the trial may be gotten from published material.

The entire procedure described by sources, the staging of the trial and the behavior of the defendants are all consistent with hypnotic control, both in the preparation and in the courtroom behavior.

\* The prohibited areas for photography were those occupied by the experts and the police section. Source on 4 February, in search of the Chief Prosecutor, entered logo and saw in the section for police and experts a large number of Russian officials and military.

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APPENDIX B

Possible Russian Application of Special Methods

The possible application of special methods to activist PWs and agents was investigated by two means, (a) straight interrogation of some 300 to 400 PWs and (b) straight and special interrogation of 10 or 12 suspected agents.

Many of the PWs were returning from a number of Antifa schools, including Mga, Tiflis and Krasnogorsk. There was no evidence that any of the PWs had received special treatment. The Antifa courses, which usually extended for from three to eight months, were of the conventional pattern already reported. The PWs were 90% disaffected from the Antifa training by the time they reached the border and of the remaining all but 1% of the original became disaffected later.

Among the agents processed by one method or another were two HSB officers, three double Russian agents, a Czech and several doubtful low-level confusion agents. An additional number of Russians were interrogated and reviewed psychologically for evidence of special processing. The results in all cases were negative, there being no evidence of preparation by special methods and indeed there was no knowledge on the part of any agents of the application of special methods of interrogation by the Russians as applied to prisoners or suspected agents. Details of methods of processing and recommended techniques will be made the subject of a separate report.

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