

4B 2619

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1-20-1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Commercial Staff

SUBJECT: (1) Ferminex - World Trade Center

(2)

1. Dr. Ferenc Nagy, former prime minister of Hungary, presently resident in the United States, and a covert associate of IOB is President of Ferminex, a Swiss corporation with principal offices in Rome and representatives in various parts of the world. The World Trade Center, in which Nagy is also interested is associated with Ferminex. Brochures describing these organizations are attached.

2. Nagy has asked a representative of IOB if CIA would be interested in:

- a) Placing an American businessman on the Board of Ferminex.
- b) Placing a CIA agent on the staff of Ferminex.
- c) Purchasing some shares in Ferminex through the above representative on the Board in order to have a voice in the management of it. (Nagy emphasizes that the firm is well financed and that this is not a pitch for funds).

3. The advantages which in Nagy's judgment Ferminex offers to CIA include opportunity to develop information on and contacts in many developing countries of Asia and Africa; cover; and the possibility of influencing the economies of these countries to some extent. (Ferminex is reported to have representatives reaching 52 countries, including the Bloc and several countries of Africa and Asia.

4. Ferminex has just opened its offices and exhibit halls in Rome and expects to be in full operation in the spring of 1960.

5. Before pursuing this further, IOB would appreciate CM Staff's judgment on the following:

- a) Financial condition of Ferminex and the World Trade Center. Dr. Nagy says that Banca Del Lavoro, Rome, Italy can supply full details on such matters.
- b) Business potential of Ferminex in the exhibit and international trade field; its competition; etc.

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c) Any comments CI might make on the background business careers and potential of D. M. [redacted] Managing Director of Permindex; Carit. G. DiGallo, President of the World Trade Center; (S) [redacted] Managing Director of the World Trade Center.

6. Anything CI Staff might furnish on the above would be very much appreciated. We understand that Embassy Rome, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and ICA have favorably reported on the possibilities of this organization.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

CARD LEGER, JR.
Chief

International Organizations Division

Attachment:
Brochure describing Permindex

IO/1/FBB:ek (6 November 1959)
Distribution:
2 - Addressee
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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: MARTELLO, Georges

1. In substance, the files contain the following information concerning Subject who was born Baruh MARDEL on 11 December 1901, in the Bucovina-Transylvania region of East Central Europe, possibly in the village of Lechinta (47° 01' N 24° 21' E) in what is now Romania. In June or July 1942, Subject took up permanent residence in Switzerland, and has resided in Geneva almost continuously since that time.

2. Generally described as being dishonest, unscrupulous and untrustworthy, Subject has firmly established an unsavory business reputation in the transactions he has conducted over the last twenty years. In late 1943 or early 1944, Subject spent a brief time, one source reported that it was two weeks, in a Swiss jail for illegal gold transactions. A usually reliable source with wide knowledge of the European business community once refused to invest in a firm with which Subject was associated because he would have nothing to do with such a "louché" character.

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3. Subject's one determinable loyalty is to his Jewish co-religionists. Beginning in at least September 1944, and perhaps starting a few months earlier, Subject supplied Jews trapped in Hungary with false documentation which enabled them to flee Hungary. Subject was able to provide this documentation by virtue of his position as El Salvadorian consular representative (his exact consular title was not made clear) in Geneva during the latter part of World War II. It has been reported that Subject assisted persons not in favor with the Nazi's to escape from Germany during World War II. The files indicate that Subject performed most of these services without remuneration, however, at least three un-evaluated reports state or indicate that he sold the false documentation he was able to provide.

4. Subject has been frequently mentioned in cases of false documentation. In a report dated 16 November 1948, an official French source stated that one Eugene VEKICLEF had fraudulently obtained French passports for Subject, his wife Irene, and their son Enrique. When questioned about these passports by the French authorities, Subject stated that VEKICLEF had been entrusted with the task of procuring French citizenship for Subject and his family, that VEKICLEF was to prove he had secured French citizenship by giving Subject and his family French passports, and that Subject had never used the French passports VEKICLEF had given them because he suspected that they had been obtained irregularly. Subject's most recent known involvement with illegal documentation was reported in February 1952, when Subject was in serious trouble because an El Salvadorian passport he issued was found in the possession of an Italian Communist arrested for counterfeiting

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by the police of Milan, Italy. This report further states that the "regular" El Salvadorian Consul in Geneva had recently received a bill for several El Salvadorian stamps and seals, which were "obviously ordered by Subject." The Consul had reportedly referred the matter to the Swiss police.

5. In 1951, two well-placed sources one of known reliability reported that Subject was closely connected with the Israeli Intelligence Service (IIS). One of these sources, who was of unknown reliability stated that the IIS had separated Subject from their service; no reason was given for this alleged separation. In October 1951 Subject was a partner in the "Banque Four Le Commerce Suisse-Amerique Centrale" of Geneva, which supplied cover employment for IIS agents. Subject's partner in the bank, Jack FAURA, was closely and actively associated with IIS work.

6. In a report dated 16 June 1946, a fairly reliable source reported that a Rumanian agent who was also a representative of the Yugoslav Intelligence Service, was in contact with Subject and with one Josef MARUL, who is probably identical with Subject's brother. In 1944 and 1946, unvaluated sources reported that Subject had been an agent of the Gestapo.

7. According to a report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a "source of known reliability" had supplied the Bureau with a "list" (Black Book) used by officials of the Yugoslav diplomatic and consular services. Persons who applied for Yugoslav visas were checked against the list and, if their names appeared therein, it was necessary to seek prior approval of the Federal Secretariat of Foreign Affairs or the Federal Secretariat of Internal Affairs. The basis upon which the list was compiled and the source of the information on the list were unknown to the Bureau's source. On page 111 of the list, under the heading "Israel", appeared an entry for MARCELLO-MARUL, George, (one of Subject's aliases) born 12/11/01, Loschnitz.

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