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VIA AIR
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DISPATCH NO. 10754-1411

SECRET

TO Chief, ME

DATE 30 July 1956

FROM Chief of Station, 14-1

INFO: Chief of Station, Room 715-9
Chief of Station, 14-6
Chief of Station, 14-6

SUBJECT GENERAL REDCAP/LCIMP/PROV, WSSIREN
SPECIFIC Statement by Soviet Diplomat re Finnish Communists

REFERENCES: A. OPHA 1792, 23 July 1956 (to Headquarters only)
B. OPRN 1282, 15 June 1956 (to 14-1 only)

1. A few days after writing reference A, it suddenly occurred to the undersigned that it was rather extraordinary for a Soviet diplomat to tell an American professor that he, the Soviet, considered the Finnish Communists to be traitors to their country. The American professor, Arthur J. LORMATER, is now on his way back to the University of Michigan, where he teaches mathematics. If he is willing to be interviewed by correspondents at the University of Helsinki and tell the press what he told the American Cultural Attaché at Helsinki, Dr. Lester Ott, we ought to have an excellent WSSIREN item, which might be entitled "Soviet Diplomat Tells American Professor that Finnish Communists are Traitors to Their Country", or something like that. The best time for publication of such an article in Finland, at least, would be two weeks before the municipal elections in September 1956. It could not appear in the Finnish press first, but would have to be picked up from the press of other countries.

2. For the benefit of the Stations to which this dispatch is being sent, the following will serve as background information:

- A. LORMATER has been in Finland for the past nine months under a Fulbright grant in higher mathematics.
- B. In connection with obtaining a visa in order to give lectures in the Soviet Union, he became acquainted with several Soviet diplomats, all of whom, with the exception of COLUB (fma) are known to be SIS officers under diplomatic cover.

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- C. The Soviets began to hob-nob with [LOHWATER] socially after he applied for his visa.
- D. ^{Ob} [LOHWATER] speaks Russian.
- E. On one occasion, ^{Ob} [LOHWATER] invited two of the Soviets and a Finnish Communist, one RANKE (fna), over to his apartment for an after-dinner drink. The two Soviets appeared, but the Finnish Communist did not. Asked why the Soviets had not brought their Finnish friend, one of the Soviets replied, "We do not like to associate with these Finnish Communists. Many of these Communists who would betray their own country would also betray the Soviet Union too. You can't trust them."
- F. The above information came from the American Cultural Attache and is devoid of many important details, which Helsinki has asked Headquarters to get from [LOHWATER] since it was impossible to debrief him before he left Finland. ^{Ob}
- G. To date, ^{Ob} [LOHWATER] has not given his motive for associating with these Soviets. However, we would guess that he wanted to become persona grata with them to ensure receiving his visa to the USSR. The Soviets in Helsinki have been quite eager to associate with non-official Americans, such as Fulbright students and tourists who speak Russian. Presumably this is the pattern in other countries too. In fact, one might even say that an American, Russian-speaking scholar applying for a Soviet visa in any Western capital will be automatically cultivated by the Soviets, if the two cases here in Helsinki are a valid indication.
- H. The other case, which we will not take the ^{Ob} trouble to describe to the addressee stations, was very similar to the [LOHWATER] affair, in that it involved a young Fulbrighter, who had majored in Soviet studies at Dartmouth. In the case of the latter, he was told by the Soviets here that they would give his name to some of their "friends" in Soviet official representation in New York.
- I. As soon as Headquarters has [LOHWATER]'s permission to publish such a newspaper article, the [redacted] will provide the names and addresses of Finnish editors to Oslo, Copenhagen and Bonn, so that if the article has been inserted in the Norwegian, Danish or Italian press, it can be mailed immediately to the Finnish editors in question.

30 July 1956

Malvin H. Fenderson

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