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DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION

PROCESSING ACTION

Chief, Soviet Bloc Division

Chief, European Division

Chief of Station, ¹⁵⁻⁴ *ovr*

MARKED FOR INDEXING

NO INDEXING REQUIRED

ONLY QUALIFIED DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING

NO INDEXING

REDTOP/AEREGATTA/2 1. AEREGATTA/2 Further Contact with owner of Restaurant frequented by Soviets and his report on Tightening Controls on intellectuals in the USSR. 2. Lead to Anti-Soviet Bulgarian First Secretary.

REFERENCE: ²² (OPPA) 88716, 2 December 1968

1. As mentioned in the referenced dispatch, Identity continues to have contact with Soviets and apparently as indicated in AEREGATTA/2's report, forwarded under separate cover, with SOVBLOC officials as well.

2. Identity's report on repression of intellectuals in the USSR and a recent tightening of the screws as he quoted an Investia correspondent is also of interest. In this report please note AEREGATTA/2's report on a recent traveler to the USSR described in (OPPA) 89081.

231-226313 ²² 3. Since there are three First Secretaries in the Bulgarian Embassy we could not identify the official. It could very well be MESWAP but Station cannot confirm this since AEREGATTA/2 indicated Identity did not volunteer the name, and as experienced in the past with FAINBERG, will not give our names. The Station will try again through AEREGATTA/2.

<AEREGATTA/2 report on possible anti-Soviet attitude with Bulgarian 1st Sec, possibly iden/w MESWAP.

G.R. SIDMAN

Attachment: Report U.S.C.

Dist: 3 - C/SB w/att u.s.c. ^{1/10 ATT'D BY RE/AM} 4 Feb 69
3 - C/EUR w/att ub.c.

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| CLASSIFICATION | DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER | DATE |
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U.S.C. asst. to

OFPA-89082

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January 14, 69.

Meeting with Lev Adolphovich ARONSON / Mr. DOMINIQUE /, owner
 of the russian restaurant "Dominique", 19 rue Brés, Paris 6.
 Tel : 326-63-92. Also a well-know theatrical critic.

Usually discreet about his/frequent/meetings with Soviet visitors to France, Aronson told me today quite a number of things on his latest encounters with them. So first he said he spent an evening with Mrs Biasheva - a theatrical critic from Leningrad. It is not the first time he met her, so she told him "that for the moment in Leningrad is quite a difficult oppressive atmosphere," "that the intellectuals have more difficulties than ever" and once, talking about the Tchechoslovaquia events Mrs B. told Aronson : "please do not attribute to us the opinions expressed by Literatournaya Gazeta - we the intellectuals of Leningrad were dead opposed to it/the invasion/".

From other meetings Aronson had lately with Soviet visitors, namely one correspondent of "Izvestia", he got also impression of a particulary tight "zajim"/turn of the screw/which is felt presently in USSR, especially in both capitals. Then, he said, he got the impression that in USSR the intellectuals find themselves more and more isolated from ordinary people which, under the action of new directives given by the authorities becomes "hostile toward them". What are these new instructions given by the sov. authorities ? - "To spy each other and particulary the intellectuals/whom one cannot trust to fight foreign influence and manners, to be proud of their great comm. party, to become true proletarians". "Apparently - said Aronson - the party turn now toward the "base", toward the lower layers of the population in order to find there support against the upper circles of the population who are fed up with the régime". The new directives, Aronson told, bore fruit particulary in Moscow, where according to all his interlocutors population became lately hostile toward the foreigners and toward their own intellectuals. Also people in the street, in the shop became particulary rough and unpleasant. Everyone uses "unprintable" expressions, which spread also among the youth and in the schools.

Aronson related also about the evening he spent recently with the First Secretary of the Bulgarian Embassy, who with his wife were guests of Aronson in his restaurant. "Contrary to what I expected - said Aronson - it turned out that this Bulgarian diplomat is definitely anti-communist minded, and is set against the Soviet Union". "It surprised me so more, as usually Bulgaria is considered the most friendly satellite of USSR and also because in the embassies of these countries, the First Secretary is a particulary trusted and powerful figure". I asked Mr. Aronson if this attitude of the Bulgarian

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Secretary was not intended in some provocative purpose. So Aronson replied that he did not think so : because the Bulgarian diplomat had no reason to provoke him. Aronson noticed also that the Bulgarian diplomat expressed admiration for all of those theatrical authors which usually are particularly hated by the communists. When Aronson asked him about the theatre in Sophia and if they could produce there such plays as they wanted, the bulg. diplomat replied that thank God in that sphere they were in Bulgaria still fairly independent and that so far Moscow did not put its nose into it.

My comments : Two points in the statements of Aronson call attention : First about the "new instructions and directives" given in USSR and Second : about the anti-communist dispositions of the First Secretary of the Bulgarian Embassy in Paris. /If the later is true, it could be quite a "possibility"/.

Appendix A.

Lev Adolphovich ARONSON /often called Mr. Dominique/, owner of the russian rest. "Dominique" 19, rue Bréa, Paris 6, tel : 326-63-92.

Personal data & character. Mr. Aronson is a curious figure. A very prosperous business man, he is rich. He possesses a unique collection of russian antiques. He is also the best theatrical critic in Paris. He contributes regularly to the russian magazine "Vozrojdenie". He has also some relatives in USSR where he went many times. Of Jewish origine he however is devoted toward old Russia. In his restaurant he entertains continually Soviet visitors and he probably is in Paris the man who meets the most Soviet citizens. He is well acquainted to several members of the USSR embassy.

He is no doubt very intelligent. He is also pleasant, has good manners and like to entertain people in his restaurant. As to his political opinions judging from what he always says and always writes, he is an avowed anti-communist.

We know him since many years and we are with him in excellent terms, though we never became friends. He has a high consideration for Z and now writes also for RM.

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