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RE: Air Pouch
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DISPATCH NO. KAPCK
EX-A-5343
22

KAPCK
CLASSIFICATION

DATE: 17 December 1951

TO : Chief, FDP 15-16
FROM :

SUBJECT: GENERAL- Operational
SPECIFIC- Ivan NIKOLOV
Reference- [EX-A-] 5413, 5465, 6065; [ATES B]-7629
22

Attached herewith is Subject's individual story on his role leading to the escape of the seven bodies mentioned in first reference. The report was prepared by REISEE.

RFB:jt
Attachment -
as described above

Lloyd K. Desmond

WASH-4
Ex A-1
Chron-1
Subj-1
FORM NO. 51-28
MAY 1951

KAPCK
CLASSIFICATION

Indicated from [unclear]

4/17

1. Ivan NIKOLOV escaped from Bulgaria and came to Greece on 21 June 1951. He was interrogated by GARAUSKA, ALACSA, DTC, NIKINEN, GASP, and CASP/S. NIKOLOV served from 1942 to 1945 as a telegraph operator in the Bulgarian Army.
2. On the urging of one Angel KRISTOV, NIKOLOV joined an underground organization in the Plovdiv area on 3 March 1951. His first task in the organization was to obtain ammunition from a soldier in the 9 Infantry Regiment in Plovdiv. NIKOLOV obtained a number of rifle cartridges and seven hand grenades of German manufacture. He delivered all of them to Angel KRISTOV, who in turn delivered the ammunition to Gorjani couriers who occasionally visited him.
3. NIKOLOV had heard of the existence of the illegal Gorjani group in the mountains, and he had also heard of the clashes that occurred between the Gorjani and the Militia at Kuklen on 14 May 1951 and at Ferdinandovo on 22 May 1951. He had never seen any of the rebels except one Ilija Giurov whom he met in connection with the Trudovak deserters. Giurov acted as courier between the Gorjani and Angel KRISTOV.
4. NIKOLOV heard that in June 1951 the Plovdiv police discovered a clandestine radio transmitter, made in the United States, hidden in the Plovdiv cemetery. Doctor Hans KOVACEV and some woman were arrested in connection with the incident. (WATEV, who also heard of the incident, stated that KOVACEV was released after a few weeks.)
5. On 12 May 1951 NIKOLOV was told by his brother Peter that at a place called Gola Mogila there were three Trudovak deserters in hiding, and that he (Ivan) should provide them with bread in the name of the underground organization. NIKOLOV had not known the Trudovaks before. NIKOLOV carried bread to the Trudovaks three times, but he stopped when the police began surveilling him.
6. On 16 May NIKOLOV was ordered by KRISTOV to locate one Ilija GIUROV, and to take him to the Trudovaks at Gola Mogila. From Gola Mogila GIUROV would take the Trudovaks to the Gorjani group in the Lestensko Mountains. Arrangements were made that the next day GIUROV would take the Trudovaks to the Gorjani. The next day GIUROV did not appear and later NIKOLOV learned that he had been arrested by the police.
7. On 22 May the Militia in Novo Selo (Plovdiv) arrested NIKOLOV. He was interrogated about the Trudovaks, but he denied everything and was released after 2 1/2 hours of detention. Following this, NIKOLOV decided to stop provisioning the Trudovaks.

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8. On 27 May Boris PELTEKOV, a brother of Trudovak Stefan PELTEKOV, arrived in Markovo and visited Ivan NIKOLOV. PELTEKOV asked NIKOLOV to continue carrying food to the Trudovaks, but NIKOLOV refused to do so because of police surveillance. On 28 May Boris PELTEKOV came again, and both agreed that it was too dangerous to carry food to Gola Mogila. Therefore, Boris suggested that the Trudovaks hide for a few days in Ivan's attic where it would be easier to feed them until a guide was found. By 7 June the Trudovaks had not come.
9. On 7 June, while at work, Ivan met his brother Petur NIKOLOV. Petur told Ivan that the police had arrested Vasil LAZAROV, a member of the underground organization and the brother-in-law of Stefan PELTEKOV, one of the Trudovaks. Petur stated that LAZAROV had revealed everything about the underground organization and the Trudovaks, and that he (Petur) had been arrested as a result of LAZAROV's confession. Petur said that he was beaten during interrogation, and that he had been forced to confess also. He had been released for two days on the condition that he would turn over the Trudovaks to the police. He had also promised to obtain from Ivan the recognition signals for meeting the Trudovaks. Petur asked Ivan to go immediately to warn HRISTOZOV and to tell him that the NIKOLOVS are going to escape to Greece and that everyone connected with Vasil LAZAROV should escape also.
10. The same evening the Trudovaks went to Ivan's house as had been arranged with Boris PELTEKOV. Ivan told them what had happened and advised them to spend the night somewhere in the vicinity and to return the next day to Gola Mogila where he would join them for the escape to Greece.
11. NIKOLOV told Angel HRISTOZOV of the danger they were in and advised him and all other compromised members of the organization to escape. HRISTOZOV refused because he was confident that he could save himself by putting all of the blame on the NIKOLOV brothers.
12. On 8 June Ivan and Petur joined the Trudovaks at Gola Mogila. There they waited until Boris and Petur PELTEKOV came, and on 11 June they left for Greece.
13. NIKOLOV suspects Vasil LAZAROV of being an agent provocateur, but he is not certain. He has not associated with LAZAROV since the latter joined the Army. During the flight to Greece he heard Petur and Boris PELTEKOV say that they would kill Vasil LAZAROV as a traitor if they ever went back to Bulgaria. In any case, Vasil LAZAROV deceived the Trudovaks and the PELTEKOV brothers by telling them that he wanted to help them to escape to Greece, when he actually wanted to send them to the Gorbani.
14. NIKOLOV is now at odds with the PELTEKOVs because of Vasil LAZAROV, but he states that he has known them before and that they have been and still are patriotic anti-Communists.

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