

DISPATCH

TO Chief, SR

FROM Chief, SR

Chief of Station, [Helsinki]

02 VALINK Operations - Alleged REDFOX Operation or Provocation

None, for information only.

[CPHA-4257, 4 December 1959]

11 December 1959

1. Here is a sequel to the information given in the reference. On Wednesday morning, 9 December, about 0830 hours, VALINK/B called Roodine at Roodine's home and said that he would like to see us on an urgent matter. We met him half an hour later, and he told us the following story. Originally Ye GULEB had reported to VALINK/A that a western agent had been arrested in the Soviet Union near Tatra, but on the Soviet side of the border. GULEB had said that the agent had been recruited in Switzerland and dispatched across the border on 18 May of this year. The agent had come to Helsinki on 17 May and had been met by a man described as between 55 and 58 years old, about 180 cm. tall; the man smoked a pipe, spoke good English and passable Finnish. This man had driven the agent to the Finnish border in a Dodge automobile, bearing the license plate EF-158, on the 16th of May.

2. When VALINK/B began the investigation of this report, he found that the Dodge car was owned by VADANP/A's firm and thought therefore that we might be involved. Since he wanted to warn us, he took it upon himself to call Roodine to tip Roodine off in case it might be necessary to get the driver of the car out of the country before the investigation closed in around him. Roodine thanked VALINK/B for his tip and said he would check into the matter to find out if there was any substance to it. Roodine promised to call VALINK/B by 1630 hours that afternoon.

3. Accordingly, we checked with our three military attaches' offices with negative results and then decided to go to VADANP/A himself to find out if he had even loaned his car for any such trips or was somehow involved indirectly. The answer with him was also negative, and it now appears likely that this whole story is a provocation, concocted by the Soviets and set afoot through GULEB to serve as a counter-balance to recent revelations of Soviet espionage in Finland. (See the Embassy's Joint Week for 11 December 1959.) It is interesting that the Communist newspaper Kansan Voima carried an editorial on the 10th of December accusing the Security Police of not investigating cases of western espionage. The editorial makes pointed reference to a trip made by the assistant American naval attaché last summer, which was written up in the Communist press and reported at the time to Washington via Embassy channels. A copy of the Kansan Voima editorial is attached.

Martin K. Roodine

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