

DISPATCH

Chief, W2

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Chief of Station, Helsinki

02 [VACCINE/Operations - VACCINE/1 Comments on the VAPID-Torreyson Case]

01
None, for information only

OFA-3526, 9 September 1958

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OFA-3526
22-6-14/1
23
12 September 1958

1. On the evening of 10 September VACCINE/1 and his wife were at Branley's home for dinner. It was supposed to be purely a social evening, and very little business was discussed. However, VACCINE/1, who has been back from his five-week summer vacation for only one week, could not resist the urge to bring up the VAPID-Torreyson case. He said that he had read the interrogation report which had been prepared by one of his men and had subsequently talked to COLEB on COLEB's initiative. COLEB had called him and invited him to lunch, and they had met last Thursday. From VACCINE/1's account it appeared that COLEB had described the incident at the airport quite factually, but VACCINE/1 placed very little credence in the accuracy of the account. He said that in view of the fact that the six American athletes were left behind to await visas, he could well understand that Torreyson had needed VAPID to the point of desperation. He does not believe that anything further will come of the case. Certainly the Ministry of Interior plans to forget about it unless a new protest comes from the Soviet Ambassador.

2. Incidentally, COLEB told VACCINE/1 that VAPID had behaved stupidly in the whole affair and has been recalled to the Soviet Union. (VACCINE/1 says he has already departed.) COLEB also remarked that VAPID is a worried and upset man. Apparently the Soviets, or at least COLEB, do not believe VAPID's full story, according to VACCINE/1. The reason for this doubtfulness is that when the sniping incident occurred, VAPID had been speaking English to Torreyson. This report was evidently confirmed by the baggage leader who witnessed the sniping. COLEB thought it strange that VAPID, who speaks Finnish well, should not use that language in speaking to Torreyson, who also has a fair command of Finnish.

Roland S. Branley

11 September 1958

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