

VIA: AIR POUCH

DISPATCH NO. WPHA-168

SECRET
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, WE

FROM : Chief of Station, Helsinki

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Chat with Soviet Diplomat

SPECIFIC—

DATE: 5 June 1952

MICROFILMED

OCT 31 1968

DOC. MICRO. SER.

201-340678

1. On 4 June 1952 Corwin attended a cocktail party given by the Argentinian Charge d'Affaires in honor of Peron's reelection to the presidency. The party was not too far along when Corwin encountered Fedor Alexelvitch GARANIN, a first secretary of the Soviet Legation. Corwin had met GARANIN once before at a cocktail party given by H. Bartlett Wells, American First Secretary. On this occasion (at the Argentinian party) Corwin greeted the Russian with "How do you do, Mr. Garanin." The latter replied and answered in turn, "How do you do, Mr. Corwin," using the latter's true name, of course. Garanin said, "You have a good memory," whereupon Corwin replied, "My memory is almost as good as yours." Garanin smiled and that ended the incident for the moment.

2. Later, in searching for his wife, Corwin found her engaged in conversation with Garanin. Corwin joined the group and chatted for a minute. Garanin then said that "we must have lunch one of these days." Corwin indicated his willingness to this. At that point he introduced Garanin to Lt. Col. Howard Van De Car, United States Air Attache. Garanin said that he knew Col. Van De Car but Van De Car later told Corwin that he could not recall ever having met Garanin before. Shortly after this Garanin excused himself but told Corwin that he would return to the subject later. It will be interesting to see whether he makes any further contact.

3. The next day it was learned that Garanin had also engaged Fred Hajjar, Assistant Attache in the commercial section of the U.S. Legation, in conversation and had indicated a desire to have lunch with him also.

CIT: USSR OCC: SECOND SECY FINLAND

4. Mr. Wells has had some previous social contact with Garanin and I. I. MARTCHOUK, a second secretary at the Soviet Legation in charge of consular affairs. Wells speaks Russian and has exchanged visits with these two individuals. Wells says that MARTCHOUK is a much more pleasant person than Garanin whom he describes as an unhappy and coarse character. Garanin has

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exhibited a short temper on occasions with Wells and reportedly lost his temper completely during a meeting with Mr. A.R. KELLAS, former British First Secretary. On this occasion Garanin had needled Kellas in a fairly rough fashion. Kellas had replied in kind, and Garanin had lost his temper and left.

5. Garanin speaks fairly good English. Martchouk does not speak English but, according to Wells, speaks French. It is not believed that Garanin's expressed desire to have lunch with Corwin has any special significance as such, particularly in light of his similar approach to Hajjar. It is interesting to note, however, that Garanin is currently appearing in such a friendly fashion despite the Soviet Union's dissatisfaction with our policy in Germany.


James R. Corwin

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