

November 9, 1956
Radio Free Europe Encrypted Telex MUN 157,
Richard Condon to W. J. Conerey Egan

Citation:

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Summary:

Richard Condon, Radio Free Europe (RFE) European Director reports on the border situation in late October and RFE staff who entered Hungary to report on the developing revolt there.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

MUN ONE THREE FIVE

NINE NOV FIVE SIX

TO EGAN

FM CONDON

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REUR NYC NINE THREE NOV EIGHT PD AS REPORTED IN MUN THREE ONE SIX OCT THREE ZERO WHEN REBELLION BEGAN IN HUNGARY WE DEPLOYED MOST OF THE AUSTRIAN BUREAU STAFFS AUGMENTED BY STAFF FROM MUNICH AND OTHER BUREAUS ALONG THE BORDER PD THE STAFF HAD STRICT INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO ATTEMPT TO ENTER HUNGARY CMA ALTHOUGH CORRESPONDENTS FROM OTHER NEWS AGENCIES WERE GOING IN AND ALTHOUGH OUR STAFF REPORTED THAT AT SOME BORDER CROSSING POINTS THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM OF ENTRY PD SOME HAD BEEN INVITED INTO THE COUNTRY BY HUNGARIANS PD

ON OCT THREE ONE THE SITUATION WAS THAT ALMOST ALL BORDER POINTS WERE COMPLETELY FREE PD AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS WERE ALLOWING ANYONE IN POSSESSION OF A PASSPORT OR TRAVEL DOCUMENT PLUS ACCREDITATION FROM A NEWS GATHERING AGENCY TO LEAVE AUSTRIA AND RETURN TO AUSTRIA WITH NO DIFFICULTIES PD HUNGARIAN BORDER GUARDS WERE ALSO COOPERATIVE PD WITH THE BORDER SITUATION AS IT WAS CMA AND ALL INDICATIONS AT THE TIME POINTING TO AN EVEN FREER ONE CMA I DECIDED AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH STAFF HERE TO ALLOW STAFF ENTER HUNGARY TO GATHER PROGRAMMING NEWS AND AUDIENCE ANALYSIS MATERIAL PD ALL WERE TOLD THAT NO ONE WAS TO MAKE A BREAK FOR BUDAPEST CMA AS SEVERAL HAD REQUESTED CMA AND THAT THEY WERE TO OPERATE ONLY IN CLEAR TERRITORY PD

THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES BY NATIONALITIES ENTERED HUNGARY AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER IN ADDITION TO HIER CMA TORMAY AND PONIKIEWSKI CLN

AMERICAN CITIZENS CLN DEAN KOCH CMA CARL KOCH CMA WILLIAM RADEMAEKERS CMA BERNARD CMA LEASON CMA VARICK STEELE PD FROM HUNGARIAN STAFF CLN ZOLTAN DE RIVO AND KALMAN KONKOLY CMA BOTH AUSTRIAN CITIZENS SCLN RESZOE PALASTHY CMA HOLDER OF GERMAN TRAVEL DOCUMENT PD FROM CZECHOSLOVAK STAFF CLN OTTO GRAF CMA HOLDER OF U PD S PD REENTRY PERMIT PD FROM RUMANIAN STAFF CLN ION POPA CMA HOLDER OF FRENCH TRAVEL DOCUMENT PD

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STAFF WAS THOROUGHLY AGREEABLE CMA EAGER AND ANXIOUS FOR ASSIGNMENT PD STAFF ON BORDER HAD WISHED TO ENTER HUNGARY PRIOR TO OCT THREE ONE BECAUSE OF FREEDOM AND EASE WITH WHICH OTHER REPORTERS WERE GOING INTO COUNTRY PD

OUR ACTION WAS SAME AS OTHER NEWS AGENCIES PD ANY OTHER COURSE UNDER CONDITIONS PREVAILING WOULD HAVE PUT US AT UNFAIR DISADVANTAGE CMA AND WOULD HAVE RAISED QUESTIONS AS TO WHY WE WERE NOT DOING WHAT OTHER NEWS AGENCIES WERE DOING PD

AMERICAN STAFF CMA LIKE OTHER AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS ENTERING HUNGARY CMA DID NOT CHECK WITH EMBASSY VIENNA TO ATTEMPT TO HAVE EMBASSY VALIDATE PASSPORTS FOR TRAVEL TO HUNGARY PD

MICHIE AND GEDYE WERE DIRECTING OPERATION FROM VIENNA PD

END MSG