

Bogdanffy, Eugene

000151

470

1944 JUL 14 PM 4 43

WU47 NL

LOS ANGELES CALIF JUL 14 1944

SECRETARY OF TREASURY MORGENTHAU

HEARD MR CORDELL HULLS RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT THAT JEWS IN HUNGARY FACE ANNIHILATION. I STRONGLY BELIEVE THEIR LIVES COULD BE SAVED. HAVE DEFINITE PLANS, WITH WHOM COULD I DISCUSS THEM?

EUGENE BOGDANFFY

8495 FOUNTAIN AVE LOS ANGELES CRESTVIEW 52911.

444P

P
H
T
R
E
A
S
U
R
Y
T
E
L
E
G
R
A
P
H
T
R
E
A
S
U
R
Y
T
E
L

000152

MR. MORGENTHAU'S OFFICE TO-

Mr. D. W. Bell	Mr. C. S. Bell
Mr. Gaston	Mr. Haas
Mr. Sullivan	Mr. Blough
Mr. O'Connell	Mr. Shaeffer
Mr. White	Mr. Smith
Mr. Gamble	

Mr. Bartelt	Mr. Mack
Mr. Birgfeld	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Broughton	Mr. Nunan
Mr. Coyne	Mr. Pehle
Miss Diamond	Mrs. Ross
Mr. Hall	Mr. Schmidt
Mr. Henna	Mr. Surrey
Mr. Julian	Mr. Upham
Mr. Kilby	Mr. Frank J. Wilson
Mr. Lynch	Mr. T. F. Wilson
	Mr. Woodson

000153

Jul 15 1944

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD, Emergency
Fund for the President, National Defense
(112/40006-18) 42-44

Mr. Eugene Bogdanffy,
8495 Fountain Avenue,
Los Angeles, California.

REURTEL SECRETARY MORGENTHAU JULY 14. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMUNICATION
OF YOUR PLAN FOR HUNGARIAN JEWS TO MR.

(Signed) J.W. Fahle

J. W. Fahle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board

LSLesser:tnh 7-15-44 L.S.L.

000154

4
WU9 NL

LOSANGELES CALIF JUL 16 1944

1944 JUL 17 AM 8 37

2881/2

J W PEHLE

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WAR REFUGEE BOARD

THANKS TELEGRAM THINK CONFERENCE MORE SATISFACTORY THAN

LETTERS LEAVING LOSANGELES BY PLANE 1030 MONDAY MORNING

RESERVATION ONLY UNTIL FTWORTH GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD ARRANGE

PRIORITY TO WASHINGTON FROM FTWORTH BY TELEGRAPHING AMERICAN

AIRLINES THERE WILL CONTACT YOU ON ARRIVAL

EUGENE BOGDANFFY.

Warren
handling
m.d. 2:45 P.M.
7/17

NAR
m.d. 7/17

T
R
E
A
S
U
R
Y
T
E
L
E
G
R
A
P
H
S
T
R
E
A
S
U
R
Y
T
E
L

000155

MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE

Room 282 Treasury Building
July 20, 1944 2:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Eugene Bogdanffy, Los Angeles, California, and Messrs. Pehle and Lesser.

Mr. Bogdanffy opened the conversation by asking whether we were familiar with his record in the State Department, the F.B.I., and elsewhere. He stated that Mr. Travers of the State Department would welcome any inquiry we might wish to make concerning him.

Mr. Bogdanffy stated that he was a native of Hungary, now residing at Los Angeles, and was engaged in no business. He said that he had been in this country since February, 1941. For a number of years prior coming to this country, Mr. Bogdanffy said that he was the head of a large cooperative engaged in the business of exporting foodstuffs to Germany. According to Mr. Bogdanffy, this business was handled for the Germans by one Otto Braun, a Nazi official who was said to have been personally involved in the Erzeberger assassination, among others. Braun, Mr. Bogdanffy said, was a native of Munich and an active Nazi since the early beer-hall days, who used his position as German economic representative to cloak his political activities. The latter consisted, according to Mr. Bogdanffy, of "picking up" dismissed Hungarian ministers and other officials who nursed grudges against the Hungarian regime and making them part of the Nazi entourage by means of subventions and otherwise. Mr. Bogdanffy mentioned inurely as among those that belonged to the Braun clique.

Mr. Bogdanffy described Braun as an extremely clever and versatile Nazi who could be "fixed". He stated that after the Jewish persecutions began in Germany, he was able, through Braun, to procure the release into Switzerland of certain friends and relatives of his Jewish friends and business associates. In this connection, Mr. Bogdanffy stated that he was not Jewish, but that a number of his associates in the cooperative and his partner in a department store business were Jews. Mr. Bogdanffy stated that these release operations on Braun's part required financial consideration, but that Braun's demands were not exorbitant. Furthermore, Braun apparently always met his commitments.

According to Mr. Bogdanffy, Weisemeyer, the present "German governor of Hungary" (whether *de facto* or *de jure* is not clear) was Braun's secretary during the period that Braun and Bogdanffy were exporting Hungarian foodstuffs to Germany. Mr. Bogdanffy is of the opinion, in view of Weisemeyer's position and the make-up of the present Hungarian Government, that Braun is the real

000151

"power behind the throne" in Hungary today, although a recent dispatch describes him merely as the chief of the Gestapo in Hungary. Mr. Bogdanffy pointed out that many of the members of the present Hungarian cabinet were among those that Braun "picked up" and "nursed along" when they were dismissed from previous cabinets.

Mr. Bogdanffy suggested that it may be possible to save a number of lives in Hungary by either bribing Braun or some how or other taking advantage of his deep affection for his wife and young child who now reside in the countryside outside of Vienna.

P. S. Leiner

COPY

CONTROL COPY

1. Eugene de Bogdanffy, originates from one of those Armenian families who settled centuries ago in Transylvania and were assimilated by the Hungarian ruling class. His family migrated due to the Turkish oppression. He was a banker in Budapest and especially did business with Germany. His connections with Nazi Germany were good. He bought participations, etc. in Jewish businesses to protect them against Nazis. My past experiences with him were favorable. He is a very able and honest man. In 1936, he negotiated and concluded certain deals between the Hungarian freezing and poultry feeding industry /an industry which was exclusively in Jewish hands/ and the Hungarian Government, the latter acting in its own name and for Germany. I advised certain Hungarian parties interested as sellers. Since 1941, Bogdanffy has been in the United States and is married to a British subject.

2. Otto Braun, a German, was involved in the murder of Erzberger. He escaped from Germany when the prosecution started. He came to Hungary and was hidden by the then Minister of War, Julius Gombos, who later became the Prime Minister. Braun was hidden on Gombos' private estate near Budapest. Due to German pressure, prosecution started. Braun was arrested and later released. At the request of the Hungarian Government, Messrs. Sam F. Goldberger, textile works in Budapest, engaged him as salesman. The head of the Goldberger concern, Mr. Leo de Buday-Goldberger, is a great friend of Horthy and one of the leaders of the Jewish community in Budapest. The Goldbergers were clients of mine. When the Nazis came to power in 1933, Braun got a very important position. He was delegated to Budapest to foster the German economic penetration in Hungary. He had his offices with the Hangya /ant/, a quasi public corporation. Bogdanffy was economic advisor of the Hangya. Braun was Germany's delegate to the Hangya. The Hangya bought, with German help, various Jewish interests in Hungary such as cooling plants, feeding plants, vinegar distilleries, etc.

Bogdanffy and Braun cooperated at the Hangya and Braun received participations from Bogdanffy's brokerages. Braun is now head of the Gestapo in Hungary.

3. Bogdanffy proposes: that Braun be invited to Lisbon, Portugal, and negotiations started between him and those interested to save the lives of Hungarian Jews.

000158

The idea is excellent, but only if Bogdanffy goes to Lisbon, invites Braun and negotiates the deal with him. Bogdanffy is absolutely confident that he can persuade Braun to come to Lisbon and make a deal with him. The present head of the Visa Division of the State Department, Mr. Travers, formerly United States Consul General in Budapest, knew Mr. Bogdanffy in Budapest and can give full information about him.

4. The danger in Hungary is imminent. Hungary, not the present one, but the pre-Trianon one, is part of the German "innere Festung" if the Russians will reach it and besiege it, the Germans will liquidate the rest of the Jews as they liquidated those who were in the war zone territories. The Jewish inteligentia, and the wealthy Jews should they be saved from the Germans, but remain in Hungary, will be liquidated by the Russians as a revenge for October 1919.

5. Financing. A group of Hungarian refugees in New York will contribute quite a considerable amount to save their friends and relatives. Further it is requested that the Treasury shall utilize certain deposits ect. of Hungarians with banks in the United States, even though the depositors are domiciled in Hungary and the deposits of limited liability companies could be utilized to save controlling shareholders and employees of the companies.

/s/ Erno Wittmann

COPY

CENTRAL COPY

THE UNIVERSITY CLUB
1 West 54th Street
New York City

55 Liberty Street, New York

July 24, 1944.

Honorable Henry Morgenthau, Jr.,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary -

Arthur Sulzberger telephoned you this afternoon about the urgent matter which several of my Hungarian Jewish friends believe may save the lives of a number, and possibly many, Jews in Hungary. He telephoned back to me that you would rather receive a telegram or letter than for me to explain the matter by telephone.

Meanwhile, this afternoon, Dr. Joy of the Unitarian Service Committee, has heartily approved our plan and states that his Committee will be glad to send Mr. Bogdanffy, the man described in the enclosed memorandum, to Lisbon as their special representative.

Dr. Erno Wittmann, who wrote the enclosed memorandum, is one of the leading lawyers of Hungary. I have known him and his wife intimately for fifteen years, having been referred to him in 1930 when I asked the advice

taken from Mr. [unclear] file

000160

of Sullivan and Cromwell as to the best lawyer in Budapest to represent my banking firm in some negotiations in Hungary. Dr. Wittmann is a lawyer of the highest ethical principles and I know that his judgment can be relied upon.

The War Refugee Board has already seen Mr. Bogdanffy and are seeing him again on Wednesday. Briefly, the plan is to have Bogdanffy go to Lisbon, as the special representative of the Unitarian Service Committee, and there to meet Braun, the head of the Gestapo in Hungary. Several of the leading Hungarian refugees in New York will contribute a considerable sum to save their friends and relatives. Further, it is requested that the Treasury shall utilize certain deposits in banks here of Hungarian companies for the purpose of saving employees and shareholders of those companies.

Bogdanffy is quite confident that he can make the arrangement with Braun whose motive is to get whatever money he can. Bogdanffy also believes that he may even be able to hold off wholesale liquidations, at least for a time, by making arrangements with Braun.

I am sure that your realistic sympathy for our Hungarian friends and their beleaguered relatives will cause you to do everything in your power to expedite

000161

- 3 -

this endeavor, which would be worth all the effort and
cost even if only one life were saved.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Chauncey L. Waddell

000162

COPY

CONTROL COPY

WU5 NL

NEW YORK NY JUL 24 1944

1944 JUL 25 AM 8 04

HENRY MORGENTHAU JR

ARTHUR SULZBERGER TELEPHONED YOU THIS AFTERNOON ABOUT THE URGENT PLAN WHICH SEVERAL PROMINENT HUNGARIAN JEWISH REFUGEES IN NEW YORK BELIEVE MAY SAVE LIVES OF SOME AND POSSIBLY MANY JEWS IN HUNGARY. I AM SENDING YOU SPECIAL DELIVERY LETTER TONIGHT WHICH I EARNESTLY URGE YOU TO READ ON RECEIPT TOMORROW. SINCE I TALKED WITH ARTHUR SULZBERGER THIS AFTERNOON THE UNITARIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE HAS ENDORSED OUR PLAN AND AGREED TO HAVE SUGGESTED EMISSARY GO AS THEIR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. EARNESTLY BESEECH YOU TO DO WHATEVER YOU CAN TO FACILITATE EXECUTION OF THIS PLAN.

CHAUNCEY L. WADDELL.

804A JUL 25.

Taken from Mr. Morgenthau's file

000163

Emer. Fund for the Pres., Natl.
Def., 1942-44, Allot. to War Ref.
BD

July 25, 1944

MR. CHAURCEY L. MADDELL
THE UNIVERSITY CLUB
1 WEST 54th STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER AND TELEGRAM OF JULY 24.
WAR REFUGEE BOARD OFFICIALS ARE DISCUSSING MATTER WITH
INTERESTED PERSONS TOGOREN. YOU MAY BE SURE THAT THIS
PROPOSAL WILL BE CAREFULLY AND SYMPATHETICALLY CONSIDERED.

/s/ Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

JWP

JWP:1hh 7/25/44

Order from Mr. Lammert

000164

JUL 27 1944

Secretary Morgenthau

J. W. Pehle

On July 14 Eugene Bogdanffy telegraphed from Los Angeles that he believed that he had a plan that would save the Jews in Hungary and asked with whom he should speak. I wired Bogdanffy to communicate his plan to me. Mr. Bogdanffy replied that he preferred to come to Washington, and requested that we secure him an air priority. This we did, and on July 20, a conference was held with Mr. Bogdanffy. The previous day, Dr. Erno Wittmann, a former Budapest lawyer with whom the Board has long been in contact, told Mr. Lesser that he had received a letter from a Hungarian refugee in Los Angeles proposing a plan for the rescue of Hungarian Jews. The writer was Mr. Bogdanffy. Briefly, the plan, according to Dr. Wittmann, was that Mr. Bogdanffy go to Lisbon and there arrange to meet and bribe Otto Braun, the chief of the Gestapo in Hungary. Dr. Wittmann said that in Hungary Mr. Bogdanffy had been an exporter of foodstuffs and as a consequence had become well acquainted with Braun who for some time had been charged by the German Government with importing Hungarian foodstuffs. As a result of this conversation, we were not surprised when, the next day, Mr. Bogdanffy told us of his plan.

Mr. Bogdanffy said he knew that Braun could be bribed and was in a position to keep any promises he might make. Mr. Bogdanffy, however, did not make any specific proposal as to how or by whom Braun should be contacted. Specifically, he did not propose that he himself go to Lisbon.

Thereafter, you received from Chauncey Waddell a telegram and letter, both dated July 24, the latter enclosing Dr. Wittmann's memorandum concerning Mr. Bogdanffy and the proposal to bribe Braun. Mr. Waddell is a son-in-law of former Chief Justice Hughes. Before receiving these communications, however, a further conference had been set with Mr. Bogdanffy for July 26, to discuss the possibility of acquiring some of Mr. Bogdanffy's peng assets.

000165

At this conference, Mr. Bogdanffy said that Dr. Wittmann and other Hungarian refugees in New York, knowing of his close relationship to Braun, were importuning him to go to Lisbon himself to contact Braun. Mr. Bogdanffy stated that he was most reluctant to leave this country, but that if he could get a re-entry permit, and if some member of the Board's staff would go with him so that there could be no question as to what he was doing, he would consider making the trip. Mr. Bogdanffy said that if he got to Portugal he would attempt to contact the manager of one of his Hungarian enterprises and get him to come to Lisbon. He said that he could entrust the manager with handling the matter with Braun in Hungary. As to the pengo transaction, Mr. Bogdanffy said that the Union Bank of Switzerland was his trustee and that if he could get a message through to a Mr. Schaeffer, a manager of that bank in Switzerland, discreet arrangements could undoubtedly be made for the transfer for as many pengos as might be needed. Mr. Bogdanffy did not think highly of our counter-proposal that a message be sent to Braun in his name and that discussions be held with Braun by some one in our confidence. Mr. Bogdanffy was told that we would think the matter over. He is returning today for further discussion.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

LSLesser:tmh 7-26-44

Z.S.L.

000166

Insert A ~~Secret~~

Cable to Minister Johnson at Stockholm
and Olsen

Insert B

Wallenberg showed talk to Szefermay
in a way that indicates that he
Wallenberg received the letter referred
to from a friend of his, that is
Wallenberg's.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000167

Please ask (3) urgently to communicate with (2) in person and tell him in substance as follows:

"A friend of mine who lives in Los Angeles has written to me that his very good friend, Eugene Bogdanffy, would like you to give me his ruby cuff links, his pocket watch, his wife's gold bracelet, and his wife's brooch with the green stones. I was also asked to tell you that Mr. Bogdanffy expects that you will be asked to go to Switzerland very shortly and suggests that you immediately ask for a Swiss visa. Mr. Bogdanffy asks that when you go to Switzerland you take his wife's fur coat with you. Mr. Bogdanffy wants you to be sure when you go to Switzerland to have at your fingertips the cash position of all the enterprises".

It should be impressed on (2) that the foregoing message from Bogdanffy is to be treated with the highest confidence.

LSLesser:tmh 7-27-44

000168

Immit A

Please ask (3) urgently to communicate with (2) in person and tell him in substance as follows:

"A friend of mine who lives in Los Angeles has written to me that his very good friend, Eugene Bogdanffy, ^{wants me} would like you to give me his ruby cuff links, his pocket watch, his wife's gold bracelet, and his wife's brooch with the green stones. I was also asked to tell you that Mr. Bogdanffy expects that you will be asked to go to Switzerland very shortly and suggests that you immediately ask for a Swiss visa. Mr. Bogdanffy asks that when you go to Switzerland you take his wife's fur coat with you. Mr. Bogdanffy wants you to be sure ^{that} when you go to Switzerland ^{you have} at your fingertips the cash position of all the enterprises".

SZENTIRMAY

It should be impressed on ^{that} that the foregoing message ~~from~~ ~~is~~ is to be treated with the highest confidence.

with you if convenient

Substitute (2) FELIX SZENTIRMAY

10 SZEMLÖHEGY UT, Budapest,

Tel. 358-598

Substitute (3) Wallenberg

→ Immit B Willard Hotel 225

000169

Secret

Insert (A)

Cable to Minister Harrison at Bern and
McClelland.

Please deliver the following message
from the War Refugee Board to
Schaeffer, manager of The Union
Bank of Switzerland.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP-27 1972

Insert B

~~Please request Saly Meyer to contact
Schaeffer after the above message is
delivered and advise him of its contents~~

Please advise Saly Meyer of the contents
of the above message after it has been
delivered and ask him to contact
Schaeffer and make enquiries concerning
pengos. If he needs pengos this may
afford avenue, but it should be borne
in mind that program involved has

000170

larger aspects depending on Szentirmai's
arrival in Switzerland.

000171

Insert A

QUOTE I have been considerably disturbed by the news of the persecutions in Hungary and I feel that I should do as much as I can to help.

In these efforts, however, I must rely heavily on you and I am sure that you will give all the assistance you can to this purely humanitarian project. You will ^{probably} be contacted by (1) in whom you can have the most complete confidence. He ^{may} want to purchase pengos available in Hungary to be used solely for humanitarian purposes. In spite of ^{all} difficulties, we must arrange with (2) to have pengos made available by my enterprises to whomsoever (1) may designate in Hungary against Swiss francs paid to you for my account. We realize that any such transaction must be carried out most discretely and confidentially.

Even before (1) contacts you, please try to arrange as soon as possible a meeting between you and (2) in Switzerland. Let me know by cable through the American Legation ^{at the War Refugee Branch} when (2) is expected to arrive in Switzerland because I have an urgent message that I want you to give him and which will be transmitted to you through the American Legation when (2) arrives in Switzerland. Until (2) arrives in Switzerland, he should not (repeat not) be informed of the reason for his trip or of this message. Eugene Bogdanoff. UNQUOTE

(1) substitute SALY MEYER

(2) " FELIX SLENTIRMAJ

→ Insert B

000172

I have been considerably disturbed by the news of the persecutions in Hungary and I feel that I should do as much as I can to help. In these efforts, however, I must rely heavily on you and I am sure that you will give all the assistance you can to this purely humanitarian project. You will be contacted by _____ (1) _____ in whom you can have the most complete confidence. He will want to purchase pengos available in Hungary to be used solely for humanitarian purposes. In spite of difficulties, we must arrange with _____ (2) _____ to have pengos made available by my enterprises to whomever _____ (1) _____ may designate in Hungary against Swiss francs paid to you for my account. We realize that any such transaction must be carried out most discretely and confidentially.

Even before _____ (1) _____ contacts you, please try to arrange as soon as possible a meeting between you and _____ (2) _____ in Switzerland. Let me know by cable through the American Legation when _____ (2) _____ is expected to arrive in Switzerland because I have an urgent message that I want you to give him and which will be transmitted to you through the American Legation when _____ (2) _____ arrives in Switzerland. Until _____ (2) _____ arrives in Switzerland, he should not (repeat not) be informed of the reason for his trip or of this message.

L.S.esser:tmh 7-27-44

000173

July 28, 1944.

Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Lesser,

At the end of our last conversation, you mentioned that perhaps we can change our plan, relying exclusively on the help of the Pope in the helping of the J. in Hungary. I have been thinking about this proposition since then, and my opinion is the following:

By sending the telegram to Switzerland, you can get two excellent connections. No. 1, Mr. Schaeffer, who is a reliable, excellent man who can be helpful in the future in any case concerning not only Hungary, but in any case that should come up in mid-Europe. No. 2, through Mr. Schubert, you get excellent connections with all the people who are important, if it should prove, later, that the help of the Pope is not sufficient. No. 3, it will take ten days or two weeks until Mr. Schubert will arrive in Zurich. During this time, the whole situation will get much clearer in Hungary, and if we decide not to take this help into consideration, I will order him home and nothing bad will happen. Mr. SENMIK MAY's trip to Switzerland won't cost the War Ref. B. anything, because I shall provide the expenses myself, and there is no obligation on the part of the War Ref. B. My general opinion is that, to a certain extent, the help of the Pope and the promises given to him will be helpful for the J. in Hungary. if the situation doesn't take a more serious turn. For this reason, I think it would be best to combine the promise we have on hand with the good will we want to buy. This good will could develop perhaps to the better handling of the Jews in Hungary. The further promise of a bonus at the end could provide security which we perhaps will need when the moment comes that the Serbian's will withdraw from Hungary.

The expenses connected with the whole case I wouldn't take into consideration at all.

(1) Because, in my opinion, they will be small, knowing the persons involved.

(2) I don't doubt that the Hungarian Jews will gladly repay all the expenses you have incurred after the war. As I told you, I am willing now myself to furnish up to an amount of \$5,000. in clothing, free, through my department store in Budapest if your man gets in contact with the Manager of my department store with my knowledge and, further, I am also willing to provide \$10,000, after the war, as my contribution to the expenses of the War Ref. B. in helping the Jews in Hungary.

It was a pleasure to me to make the acquaintance of you Mr. Lesser and in any case and any time you think I could be helpful to you, please just call on me.

Sincerely yours,

Eugene de Boydanoff

taken from Mr. Lesser's files

000174

CABLE AND RADIO ADDRESS
SAVOY PLAZA NEW YORK
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEER 3-2600



THE SAVOY PLAZA
FIFTH AVENUE 58th AND 59th STREETS
NEW YORK

July 30. 1944

Dear Mrs. Lasser,

I have forgotten in
my last letter to mention, that
if we need now or later
Bengö's in Hungary - we need
to have first Mr. SZ. - in
Zürich - as in our telegram -
- and instruct him. Later
your man can have any

John from Mrs. Lasser's files

000175

amount from him -
without further instructions,

Sincerely yours

Ernest de Lyda

000176

AUG 3 1944

Mr. Byron Price, Director
Office of Censorship
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Captain Creech, Chief Cable Censor

My dear Mr. Price:

It will be helpful to the War Refugee Board in its work if you will arrange for a "watch" to be placed on incoming and outgoing cable traffic with respect to Eugene "Jens" Bogdanffy, Los Angeles, California, and currently in New York at the Savoy Plaza Hotel and the Union Bank of Switzerland, for approximately the next ten or fifteen days.

It is my understanding that Mr. Rueffer, Liaison Officer for War Refugee Board with the Office of Censorship has already informally requested this service of Captain Creech. It was suggested by Mr. Rueffer that this request be confirmed in writing.

Thank you for this action.

Very truly yours,

Joseph B. Friedman
Acting Executive Director

P.M. L.S.L.
L.S.L.:PJMCGormack:ar

000177

*I want to see
Eckle*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: August 3, 1944
NUMBER: 2668

CONTROL COPY

FOR MCCLELLAND.

Please contact Alfred Schaeffer, general manager Union Bank of Switzerland, Zurich, personally and tell him orally that Eugene Bogdanffy of Los Angeles has communicated with you through the War Refugee Board and states that he has been considerably disturbed by the news of the persecutions in Hungary, that he feels that he should do as much as he can to help the unfortunate victims of oppression, and that he relies heavily on Schaeffer to assist him. You should further tell Schaeffer that Bogdanffy says that he is confident that Schaeffer will give him all the assistance he can in this purely humanitarian cause. Bogdanffy wants Schaeffer to know that Saly Meyer will probably contact him and that he can have complete confidence in Saly Meyer who may want to purchase pengos available in Hungary against blocked francs or dollars. Such pengos will be used solely for humanitarian purposes and Bogdanffy urges Schaeffer, despite all difficulties, to arrange with Felix Szentirmay to have such pengos made available by Bogdanffy's enterprises to whomever Saly Meyer designates. Even before Saly Meyer contacts Schaeffer, Bogdanffy asks that Schaeffer arrange to have Szentirmay come to

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000178

come to Switzerland immediately to see Schaeffer ostensibly in connection with the affairs of Bogdanffy's enterprises. Schaeffer should advise Bogdanffy through you when Szentirmay is expected so that you can be advised of further matters that Schaeffer is to take up with him. Bogdanffy particularly desires Schaeffer not (repeat not) to indicate to Szentirmay until he arrives in Switzerland that Schaeffer has heard from Bogdanffy.

You should advise Saly Meyer of the foregoing and request him to contact Schaeffer after you have spoken to Schaeffer. Whether or not (repeat not) Saly Meyer needs any pengos at the present time, he should inquire of Schaeffer concerning the possibility of acquiring them against francs or dollars. Please keep the Board advised promptly with respect to the effectuation of each of the foregoing steps.

For your information, Bogdanffy is a Hungarian with substantial interests in several large enterprises in Hungary. Schaeffer or his institution acts as trustee of these interests, and Szentirmay is the manager of one or more of such enterprises. You may tell Saly Meyer and Schaeffer that Bogdanffy is cooperating with the Board but such information should not (repeat not) be conveyed to Szentirmay. Further for your information only, it is expected that if Szentirmay arrives in Switzerland, Schaeffer will be asked by you to request Szentirmay in Bogdanffy's name, to undertake certain action upon his return to Hungary calculated to alleviate the condition of persecuted peoples. Bogdanffy and Szentirmay are

000179

-3-

Szentirmay are not (repeat not) Jewish. If Saly Meyer should not (repeat not) wish for any reason to become involved, you may in your discretion substitute some other suitable person in his role. Furthermore, if the Legation or other American authorities have any reason to believe that Schaeffer is not a suitable person, do not (repeat not) contact him, advising the Board of the reason therefor.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 108.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

000180

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

August 3, 1944

LTC
Distribution of this
message only by special

CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AUG 3

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

AMLEGATION,

STOCKHOLM.
1550

The cable below for Olsen is WRB 63.

SECRET

Please ask Wallenberg personally to contact Felix Szentirmay, 10 Szabolcsey Ut., Budapest, telephone 358-598, and orally tell him that through a friend in Los Angeles, Wallenberg has heard from Eugene Bogdanffy whom Wallenberg does not (repeat not) know. As a means of verifying his statement as to the message, Wallenberg should refer to the following property held by Szentirmay: Bogdanffy's ruby cuff links and pocket watch, Mrs. Bogdanffy's fur coat, gold bracelet, and brooch with green stones. Wallenberg should also express Bogdanffy's concern for Miki's well-being. Wallenberg should tell Szentirmay that Bogdanffy expects that Szentirmay will be asked to go to Switzerland soon and suggests that he apply for a visa immediately. Bogdanffy wants Szentirmay to be sure that when he goes to Switzerland he has at his fingertips the cash position of all the enterprises. Szentirmay must, of course, treat this message with the highest confidence. Szentirmay should not (repeat not) be advised by Wallenberg of the reasons why he is being asked to go to Switzerland, referred to below, or of the Board's interest in the matter.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

For

000182

-2- #1560, August 3, 1944

For your information, Bogdanffy is a Hungarian residing in Los Angeles who has substantial interests in several large enterprises of which Szentirmay is manager. Union Bank of Switzerland acts as Bogdanffy's trustee and will ask Szentirmay to go to Switzerland to discuss business problems. The purposes of project are to secure adequate source of supply of pengos against blocked francs or dollars and to have Szentirmay undertake to secure cooperation of individual named in paragraph three of Department's 1426 of July 17, WRB's 55, and with whom Bogdanffy and Szentirmay are well acquainted.

If for any reason you do not (repeat not) believe that securing his or Szentirmay's cooperation is appropriate, advise the Board thereof and do not (repeat not) ask Wallenberg to contact Szentirmay until the Board has had an opportunity to consider such reason.

SEPT 1944
ACTING
(L)

WRB:MMV:KG
8/2/44

NOE

SE S/CR WE

WV

000183

not outside

CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AT STOCKHOLM AND OLSEN

Please ask Wallenberg personally to contact Felix Szentirmai, 10 Szrenlehegy Ut., Budapest, telephone 358-598, and orally tell him that through a friend in Los Angeles, Wallenberg has heard from Eugene Bogdanffy when Wallenberg does not (repeat not) know. As a means of verifying his statement as to the message, Wallenberg should refer to the following property held by Szentirmai: Bogdanffy's ruby cuff links and pocket watch, Mrs. Bogdanffy's fur coat, gold bracelet, and brooch with green stones. Wallenberg should also express Bogdanffy's concern for Miki's well-being. Wallenberg should tell Szentirmai that Bogdanffy expects that Szentirmai will be asked to go to Switzerland soon and suggests that he apply for a visa immediately. Bogdanffy wants Szentirmai to be sure that when he goes to Switzerland he has at his fingertips the cash position of all the enterprises. Szentirmai must, of course, treat this message with the highest confidence. Szentirmai should not (repeat not) be advised by Wallenberg of the reasons why he is being asked to go to Switzerland, referred to below, ~~except that~~ Board's interest in the matter.

For your information, Bogdanffy is a Hungarian residing in Los Angeles who has substantial interests in several large enterprises of which Szentirmai is manager. Union Bank of Switzerland acts as Bogdanffy's trustee and will ask Szentirmai to go to Switzerland to discuss business problems. The purposes of project are to secure adequate source of supply of penges against blocked francs or dollars and to have Szentirmai undertake to secure cooperation of individual named in paragraph three of Department's _____ of _____, WEB's 85, and with whom Bogdanffy and Szentirmai are well acquainted.

If for any reason you do not (repeat not) believe that securing his or Szentirmai's cooperation is appropriate, advise the Board thereof and do not (repeat not) ask Wallenberg to contact Szentirmai until the Board has had an opportunity to consider such reason.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO STOCKHOLM NO. 85

August 2, 1944
10:20 a.m.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamsón, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

LS Lesser:tmh 8-1-44 *R.S.K.*

discussed with Juf and cleared in principle 7-28-44

000184

APT. 2E - 8495 FOUNTAIN AVENUE - LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA

CRESTVIEW 5-2911

5th August, 1944

Dear Mr. Lesser,

In spite of no priority, I arrived on schedule without any difficulties. My wife met me at the airport, astonished to see me at last, because she thought I would only be gone for 4 or 5 days, and I stayed nearly 3 weeks!

I wanted to thank you for your kindness and help while we were working together in Washington, and also for everything you have done and will do for the Jews in Hungary. I hope that when we have saved these people through our work and the war is over, you will be able to come to Hungary to visit us, when you will be received in a way you will never forget.

It is always a pleasure to work with someone who grasps the situation so quickly, - and has all the answers!

I hope you enjoy your well-earned vacation, and I will find you at our next meeting in Washington in good health.

Sincerely yours,

Eugene de Boddanffy
Eugene de Boddanffy

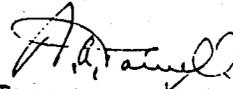
000185

Mr. Lawrence Lesser

8/7/44

There is no indication that this Otto BRAUN is now chief of the Gestapo in Hungary. According to two independent reports of April and May, 1944, a Major HUGO is Gestapo chief in Budapest. Since Budapest is the German headquarters in Hungary, it can be assumed that this HUGO is chief of the Gestapo for Hungary. There is a BRAUN (first name not stated) listed in the Biographical Records files as a Gestapo chief on the Greek island of Chios. This man is undoubtedly identical with the Oberleutnant BERNARD, alias BRAUN, who appears in the same capacity in our files. It is possible that this man has been confused with the Otto BRAUN in Hungary.

We have no record of a HERTZBERGER in our files and there is no information on any Otto BRAUN being involved in a murder.



Bernard A. Towell
I-2 Branch

874063-2

000186

██████████
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

X-2 Branch

File
11/20/44

LA-8082

August 7, 1944

Memorandum for: War Refugee Board
Attention: Mr. Lawrence Lesser
Subject: Otto BRAUN

DECLASSIFIED
Authority MAN 874003
By 11247/122 NARA, Date 7/25/88

The following is all information available in our files on above subject. This is transmitted in reply to your verbal request of Monday, July 31.

A/ A reliable source reported in July and August 1942 that subject *[C.H. ...]* is a well-known Nazi commercial agent, directly responsible to a certain SCHWARTZ who is Hitler's personal financial director. Subject worked closely with Eugene BOGDANFFY, representative of the largest Hungarian cooperative, "Hangya" in trading foodstuffs and ammunitions with the Germans. These commodities had been brought into Hungary by the fleeing Polish army. BRAUN and BOGDANFFY worked on a fifty-fifty basis in dividing the spoils.

Eugene BOGDANFFY is now in Hollywood with his English mistress. He is a Hungarian of Armenian ancestry, 45 years old, and an intimate friend of Tibor ECKHARDT. As former representative of Hungary at the League of Nations, he has entree with many diplomats and it is said that he has tried to work with the British. Source believes his mistress brought large amounts of his money into the United States and it is likely that he has accounts here under several names. */A*

According to a Censorship intercept (USNC BERFIN 18209/42) addressed to BOGDANFFY at the Berkshire Hotel, New York City, he is dealing with the Union de Banques Suisse, Zurich through the Irving Trust Company, New York. It is noted that he is the director of several enemy companies.

B/ According to the Sankt Galler Tageblatt, Switzerland, June 27, 1944, Otto BRAUN is a powerful figure in Hungary who has much influence on the political arrests of those members of Parliament who oppose the new collaboration government. He is chiefly responsible for determining who will be interned and who will be sent to Germany. He is a friend of Prime Minister SZTOJAY and was very close to the late Prime Minister GOEMBOES, who is most responsible for Hungary's collaboration with Germany. */B.*

██████████

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE 12 JUN 1988

874003-1

000187

~~SECRET~~

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D. C.

X-2 Branch

File "Procedurally"

LL-8082

August 7, 1944

Memorandum for: War Refugee Board
Attention: Mr. Lawrence Lesser
Subject: Otto BRAUN

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 874003
By HRM/PRD NARA, Date 7/25/88

The following is all information available in our files on above subject. This is transmitted in reply to your verbal request of Monday, July 31.

A/ A reliable source reported in July and August 1942 that subject [Otto Braun] is a well-known Nazi commercial agent, directly responsible to a certain SCHWARTZ who is Hitler's personal financial director. Subject worked closely with Eugene BOGDANFFY, representative of the largest Hungarian cooperative, "Hangya" in trading foodstuffs and ammunitions with the Germans. These commodities had been brought into Hungary by the fleeing Polish army. BRAUN and BOGDANFFY worked on a fifty-fifty basis in dividing the spoils.

Eugene BOGDANFFY is now in Hollywood with his English mistress. He is a Hungarian of Armenian ancestry, 45 years old, and an intimate friend of Tibor ECKHARDT. As former representative of Hungary at the League of Nations, he has entree with many diplomats and it is said that he has tried to work with the British. Source believes his mistress brought large amounts of his money into the United States and it is likely that he has accounts here under several names. *A*

According to a Censorship intercept (USNC BERFIN 18209/42) addressed to BOGDANFFY at the Berkshire Hotel, New York City, he is dealing with the Union de Banques Suisse, Zurich through the Irving Trust Company, New York. It is noted that he is the director of several enemy companies.

B/ According to the Sankt Galler Tageblatt, Switzerland, June 27, 1944, Otto BRAUN is a powerful figure in Hungary who has much influence on the political arrests of those members of Parliament who oppose the new collaboration government. He is chiefly responsible for determining who will be interned and who will be sent to Germany. He is a friend of Prime Minister SZTOJAY and was very close to the late Prime Minister GOEMBOES, who is most responsible for Hungary's collaboration with Germany. *B*

~~SECRET~~

000188

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP
WASHINGTON - 25

August 10, 1944.

BY MESSENGER

Mr. Joseph B. Friedman,
Acting Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Friedman:

We have placed the name of Eugene "Jeno" Bogdanffy, Los Angeles, California or Savoy Plaza Hotel, New York City, on the watch list pursuant to your letter of August 3 to Mr. Price. Allocations of material on this name will be made until August 23.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore F. Koop
Theodore F. Koop,
Assistant to the Director.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 874003
By EK, Date 130687

000189

82

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE August 15, 1944

TO Mr. Pehle

FROM Mr. Lesser

O.S.S. and Olsen confirm Bogdanffy's story of his relationship to Braun and Braun's importance.

In a memo to us dated August 7, O.S.S. states:

"A reliable source reported in July and August, 1942, that subject (Otto Braun) is a well-known Nazi commercial agent, directly responsible to a certain SCHWARTZ who is Hitler's personal financial director. Subject worked closely with Eugene BOGDANFFY, representative of the largest Hungarian cooperative, "Hangya" in trading foodstuffs and ammunitions with the Germans. These commodities had been brought into Hungary by the fleeing Polish army. BRAUN and BOGDANFFY worked on a fifty-fifty basis in dividing the spoils.

Eugene BOGDANFFY is now in Hollywood with his English mistress. He is a Hungarian of Armenian ancestry, 45 years old, and an intimate friend of Tibor ECKHARDT. As former representative of Hungary at the League of Nations, he has entree with many diplomats and it is said that he has tried to work with the British. Source believes his mistress brought large amounts of his money into the United States and it is likely that he has accounts here under several names."

* * * *

"According to the Sankt Galler Tageblatt, Switzerland, June 27, 1944, Otto BRAUN is a powerful figure in Hungary who has much influence on the political arrests of those members of Parliament who oppose the new collaboration government. He is chiefly responsible for determining who will be interned and who will be sent to Germany. He is a friend of Prime Minister SZTOJAY and was very close to the late Prime Minister GOEMBOES, who is most responsible for Hungary's collaboration with Germany."

Sankt Galler Tageblatt

000190

In a report dated July 11, Olsen submits a translation of an article which appeared in the ~~Dagens Nyheter~~ on June 29, as follows:

"Otto Braun, one of Erzberger's murderers, has, according to Sit Galler Tageblatt, had the decisive word about all the political arrests in Hungary. It depends first of all on him who is going to be interned, and who is going to be sent to Germany. Otto Braun is a relative of the now dead President of the Council, Gombös, who more than anybody else is responsible for Hungary's present position."



000191

1944 Aug 14 PM 8:44

WESTERN UNION CABLEGRAM

CABLE NBJ 301 9 IMP CTF 58 CPR SYDNEY 9 NPT RP \$5.08 ERNEST WITTMAN

125 East 50 St. NYK

REFUGEES ASSOCIATION RECEIVED CABLE FROM WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
NEW YORK 1834 BROADWAY THAT US GOVERNMENT ISSUES COLLECTIVE VISAS
FOR GREAT NUMBERS OF REFUGEES VALID UNTIL REASONABLE PERIOD AFTER
WAR STOP PLEASE CONTACT SECRETARIAT OF JEWISH CONGRESS AND INFORM
US ABOUT PARTICULARS HOW TO HELP OUR PERSECUTED PEOPLE MANY THANKS

JULIUS SLEZINGER

000192

August 17, 1944

Mr. Pehle

Lawrence S. Lesser

Attached is a copy of a cable from Australia left with
me yesterday by Dr. Wittmann. Do you think it worthwhile investi-
gating to determine whether W.J.C. sent such a message and, if so,
who was responsible for it?

*File
JWP*

LSLesser:tmh 8-17-44

*10
...
...*

000193

AUG 18 1944

Dear Mr. D'Andrea:

I return herewith the telegram from Julius Slezinger
to Dr. Wittman, which you left with me on your last visit.

Very truly yours,

LS/ Lawrence S. Lesser

Lawrence S. Lesser,
Assistant Executive Director.

Mr. Ralph D'Andrea,
Hotel Commodore,
New York, 17, New York.

LSLesser:tmh 8-18-44

000194

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

LC - 180
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.
()

For security reasons the
text of Stockholm must
be classified
Dated August 19, 1944

Rec'd 2:45 p.m.

W. H. ...
...

Secretary of State,
Washington.

AUG 23 1944

Files

3182, August 19, 3 p.m.

FOR WRB No. 74

The message contained in WRB 65 (Department's 1550
of August 3, 7 p.m.) will be delivered personally to
Wallenberg by First Secretary of Swedish Legation
Budapest who is temporarily here and will return to
Budapest in about a week. It was not considered
advisable to request Swedish Foreign Office to transmit
message of this nature.

JOHNSON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000195

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

LC - 180
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.
(~~SECRET~~ W)

Stockholm

Dated August 19, 1944

Rec'd 2:45 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

3182, August 19, 3 p.m.

FOR WRB No. 74

The message contained in WRB 65 (Department's 1550 of August 3, 7 p.m.) will be delivered personally to Wallenberg by First Secretary of Swedish Legation Budapest who is temporarily here and will return to Budapest in about a week. It was not considered advisable to request Swedish Foreign Office to transmit message of this nature.

JOHNSON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000195

~~SECRET~~

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.
X-2 Branch

W. J. ...

14-8082-2

August 22, 1944

Memorandum for: War Refugee Board
Attention: Mr. Lawrence Lesser
Subject: Otto BRAUN
Reference: OSS memo 14-8082 dated 8/7/44 subject "Otto BRAUN"

1. At the time of your request for information on the above subject, you indicated that Otto Braun was reported to be the present Chief of the Gestapo in Hungary. In above reference report which we sent you, we indicated that there was no information in our files to the effect that Otto Braun was Chief of the Gestapo in Hungary.

2. We have just received a report dated July 26, 1944 from a source believed to be reliable to the effect that Otto Braun is a section leader of the Budapest Gestapo. His headquarters are either at the Hotel Astoria, Budapest or at Mount Svab which is approximately one hour's drive outside the city of Budapest.

B. A. Towell

Bernard A. Towell
X-2 Branch

DECLASSIFIED
By CIA 006687
By SR MAR 3 1975

~~SECRET~~

000197

1
REPRODUCTION OF TELETYPE RECEIVED

I was left off file

file
CONTROL COPY

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 23, 1944
NUMBER: 5519
X

McGlelland sends the following for WKB.

With reference to Department's cable of August 3, No. 2668, preliminary investigation indicates that Alfred Schaeffer is acceptable to Legation and is reliable person to contact. Unfortunately, Schaeffer is absent until September 12 from Zurich on military service but if possible, will attempt to contact him earlier.

HARRISON

DOR:GFW

bow
8-25-44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000198

SEP 4 1944

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is the letter from Mrs. Terry A. Herman that Dr. Wittman left with me when he was last in Washington. I take it that Dr. Wittman has advised Mrs. Herman of such action as she may take in connection with her father.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence S. Lesser
Lawrence S. Lesser,
Assistant Executive Director.

Mr. Ralph D'Andrea,
Hotel Commodore,
New York, New York.

LSLesser:tmh 9-4-44

000194

Extract from a letter

Los Angeles, Cal.
July 12, 1944.

Dear friend,

What depresses me most is the lot of the Jews in Hungary for as I can see from the papers the Imredy regime's sadism exceeds even mediaval brutality and hastens the extermination of the entire Jewish community among whom I have so many dear friends.

In yesterday's issue of the Hungarian daily SZABADSAG published at Cleveland I read that Otto BRAUN whom the German Government had delegated to the HANGYA Cooperative in 1935 to supervise German-Hungarian export trade, is today the head of the GESTAPO assigned to Hungary, thus the fate of people is in his hands. Between 1935 and 1940 I had had to buy this man a good many times, and on several occasions for Jewish interests. Very likely to-day he still is just as ready to accept money, particularly U.S. dollars when he must know that a German collapse cannot be far off. As early as 1940 Imredy, Ratz, Rajniss were wholly dependant on Braun, and today when the Germans keep the country occupied, it is Braun who dictates what they must do. He is not an expensive man, it is not hard to talk shop with him, and if it is in his interest, he can be relied upon delivering the goods. More than a million lives are in the balance and they all could be saved if Braun could be secured for the cause which I, knowing him as well as my palm, is absolutely possible.

The Jewish Committee ought to send two delegates to Lisbon and meanwhile make arrangements for Braun also to go there and I am sure that within 24 hours a platform could be found that must be safe and cannot be circumvented, such as for instance daily rations etc.

The Hungarian atrocities are not perpetrated on the German pattern, and don't even closely follow those in Slovakia or Romania; these men in Hungary want to outdo everybody in being totally merciless.

As far as I know BRAUN, the only thing one should aim at would be to save the lives of the Jews; he could hardly make concessions to give them more comfort, better food, or allow them to get out of the concentration camps for he would be afraid to show any sign of weakness in issuing orders that might be construed as a betrayal on his part. But if the lives of these unfortunate people can be saved until Germany collapses, that I think is the paramount object.

Addressed to Mr. Wittman
by Bogdanffy left to the
L.S. by addressee.

000200

SEP 19 1944

Dear Mr. de Bogdanffy:

I have not communicated with you with respect to the progress of the project which the Board has undertaken with your assistance for the reason that there have been no developments to report. Mr. Schaeffer is reported to be away from the city on military duty and inaccessible. No word has been received as yet as to whether your other message has been delivered.

My Foreign Funds colleagues tell me that they have been giving consideration to your case. They are seriously troubled, however, by the fact that you have apparently failed to file a report on Form 37A-800 with respect to the property owned by you in Switzerland and Hungary. I suggest, at their request, that you immediately communicate with the Los Angeles office of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and make arrangements to file such report promptly.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence S. Lesser

Lawrence S. Lesser,
Assistant Executive Director.

Mr. Eugene de Bogdanffy,
Apartment 24,
8405 Fountain Avenue,
Los Angeles, 46, California.

LAB. L.S.L.
LSLesser:tmh 9-15-44 ga.

Cleared with JWP-9-18-44.

000201

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN FOR McCLELLAND

In view of critical situation evidenced by your 6093 of September 15 and other reports, please endeavor to carry out instructions given in Department's 2668 of August 3, WRS's 198.

Referring to your 5519 of August 23, it is assumed that period of military service has been completed. Please report progress promptly.

THIS IS WRS BERN CABLE NO. 186

4:00 p.m.
September 25, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman,
Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

LSLesser:tmh 9-21-44 *L.S.L.*

000202

TO: Secretary of State, Washington
FROM: American Legation, Bern
DATE: September 26, 1944
SUBJECT: 3313X

CONTROL COPY

for Cleveland.

In view of critical situation evidenced by your 8093 of September 15 and other reports, please endeavor to carry out instructions given in Department's 2668 of August 2, 1944, and 108.

Referring to your 5519 of August 23, it is assumed that period of military service has been completed. Please report progress promptly.

180

BULL

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000203

OCT 6 1944

Dear Mr. de Bogdanffy:

I have your letter of September 25, 1944, the ultimate paragraph of which I called to the attention of my Foreign Funds Control colleagues. This caused a further search to be made and I was advised this morning that your report on Form TFR-500 has been located.

There are no new developments in the matter in which you are collaborating with the Board.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence S. Lesser

Lawrence S. Lesser,
Assistant Executive Director.

Mr. Eugene de Bogdanffy,
Apartment 2E,
8496 Fountain Avenue,
Los Angeles, 46, California.

LSLesser:tmh 10-5-44

000204



The Berkshire
TWENTY-ONE EAST FIFTY-SECOND STREET
NEW YORK

10th Nov. 1944

Dear Mr. Lesser,

I am now in New York with my wife,
& we will come on Tuesday morning to
Washington, to visit you.

If we get an early train I will call
you during the afternoon; should we arrive
later I will get in touch with you Wednesday
morning.

Hoping to find you in good health,
with best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Eugene de Bogdanoff
Eugene de Bogdanoff

000205



The Berkshire

TWENTY-ONE EAST FIFTY-SECOND STREET
NEW YORK

Mr. Lawrence Lesser,
Treasury Dept.
Washington, D.C.

11th February, 1945.

Dear Mr. Lesser,

I have heard that Mr. Ratz from the Treasury Department is going soon to Hungary.

As you know, I have Jewish partners and an interest in many businesses, and I would like to meet him.

For this reason I am coming to Washington this week, as soon as I can get hotel accommodation, in order to see him.

I should be very grateful to you if you would be kind enough to talk with him about me, as I do not know him personally,

000206