

Confidential.

Estonian Captain K. S. Diplom
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Thoughts after one year
in employ of the American Intelligence Service.

The difficulties which were connected with my engagement will get evident if we remember that it took over 8 months since the first approach to me, on 9 December, 1950, when I declared my readiness for co-operation, and nearly 7 months since my first contact with Mr. Davis on 13 February, 1951, when I repeatedly declared my readiness for co-operation, and that besides the oral parleys 11 letters and cables had to be exchanged before the contract was laid for signature on 5 September, 1951. And even after that it took nearly 2 months and the exchange of many more letters and cables and notes before it was clear on both sides that the High Employer, as well as the employee are both willing and allowed to co-operate. This happened under reciprocal understanding and assertions that the matter is of very urgent character.

Which were the reasons of these difficulties on my side? (These on the side of the Employer are unknown to me.)

My troubles were:

- 1) The inner fight between two senses of duty: towards my homeland, and towards my family, which seemed to interfere. Sacrificing myself for the work for my homeland I had to separate from my family, letting my wife together with one minor son alone in very bad time of DP-emigration, when every family did all to stay together so the family members could support each other.
- 2) The feeling that I was not fully trusted by my prospective employer, especially after I was rejected from immigration to the States under the DP Act.
- 3) The doubt whether the employer was solid enough and able to solve the heavy task for which my co-operation was asked, if he could not help to settle the immigration of my family and of myself to the States in a way which I found being the best in view of my beforestanding work and of which I was told that the employer was of the same mind (that this way would have been the best one).

I felt the grave responsibility for my family as well as for the men whom I had to convince for co-operation and for going to work in extremely dangerous situations, if co-operating with an only semi- or quasi-qualified authority (as I have never been told who really is my employer).

I understood that a good and successful co-operation between an alien group of which I was foreseen a leader and an American Authority of Intelligence Service is possible only if the mutual trust is complete. I, on my side did all I could to reach this. I debate my own suspicions and forced myself to trust the solidity and the ability of my employer. I convinced my family to immigrate to the States without me, suggesting to my wife that I surely will follow her with my employer's help after a reasonable delay, as was promised.

I did so despite the warnings received from many good friends advising me not to trust the oral promises of persons whom one does not know well enough. I did this because I thought having seen enough proofs to the fact that my employer is an official authority of the United States, and finding that I, as an officer of the Estonian Republic still recognized by the States, have to trust such an official employer, although not being much trust towards myself.

During the first months of my employment I worked partly in Munich, partly in Wentorf, where my family stood and fought for their immigration into the States. So far I did not have any direct orders as to the work besides settling the immigration of my family, I used every moment for collecting information about the situation in Estonia. Later, when working- and living-rooms were found for me in Munich, I stood and worked here. My family emigrated to the States in January, 1952. I think this was possible only thanks to the efficient help of my employer, for which I am grateful.

During this year I have:

- 1) written a) 16 items about the base of work, the tuition plans and my experiences, making some proposals for the future work 69 pages
 - b) 1 report about the characteristics and the possible use of the aspirants selected in Sweden, and about some other ways of collecting information about Estonia 20 pages
 - c) 3 reports about one person who came from Estonia and the information he gave 20 pages
 - d) 2 reports about the situation in Estonia (Districts of Saaremaa and Hiiumaa) 37 pages
 - e) ca 10 different information notes, reports and lists of possible candidates
 - f) ca 60 different letters and cables in connection with the work.
- 2) read all available to me Soviet-Estonian and Exile-Estonian newspapers, wrote, typed or cut out of them over 4,800 information notes (mostly in quadruplicate) concerning the situation in Estonia and systematized these into card- and ordinary files. (The two first reports mentioned under "d" here-above are worked out on hand of these files.)
 - 3) studied different problems in connection with the tuition and use of the agents and the communication to them.
 - 4) made 13 journeys in connection with finding and proofing the aspirants and collecting information, being on these occasions outside Munich for 53 days.

Am I satisfied with my work and with the results of it? I am not. I liked to do much more. I have not been lazy or idle. I have never limited my work to the official working hours. I did as much as I could and as well as I could. I think the results would have been better had I a fixed plan of work, could I see the way I had to go. This, sorry, was often missing. I suffered often under some uncertainty, never knowing which will be the next step

in my work, often in uneasy waiting for things to happen or orders to be given very soon, but not always coming in the scheduled time. In this uncertainty I felt often like a robot who has to run fast after a button was pressed upon, or like a man who grogs his eyes bound, and not as a trusted, acknowledged, competent, and responsible officer and co-operator. Therefore, I am sorry, we can not see better results. But I do not find this being somebody's, or especially my, guilt. Perhaps it was the situation as such.

Would I like to continue?

Yes, supposed that

- 1) the employer likes it, and
- 2) some conditions will be changed.

It is possible that the employer finds my work not worth of better pay than the DM 700 and the promised additional \$ 50 as a support to my family in the States (which up to 19 August were not yet paid to my wife). I find that the time I am losing here costs me, now that my family is in the States and I myself, for work's sake, renounced to emigrate to some other country, much more than it costed when I entered into your service, when I and my family were still waiting for the possibility to emigrate to the States as DPs. At that time the 700 DM were a comparatively reasonable pay for my time, because I could afford my family for tis money to some extent bearable conditions of life in Germany.

As this sum of 700 DM was not asked by me but proposed by the employer, so I saw therein the good will of the employer to treat me in a honest and solide way, the more, because during the period when the immigration of my family to the States was finally cleared, I was promised the revision of the pay conditions, without having asked for this directly. But this revision has taken a little too long time, and felt out a little to low. The equivalent of DM 700 and \$ 50 is approximately \$ 217. My friends, Estonian officers and other functionaries in my age, who were luck, to immigrate to the States, do earn monthly round about \$ 400 and more, and this not working in their learned professions, but on very different occasional works. This means for me, and especially for my family in the States, a relative loss of at least \$ 183 every month. I am not envious of my friends. Being to some extent idealist and working not for money but for following my duty of an Estonian officer, I may bear the hardness coming from such underpayment, but I can not let my family suffer threefold: 1) under our separation, 2) under the special character of my work and employment so that my wife can answer to no question of her neighbors and acquaintances about my work, because she knows that this is secret, that she can not know much of it herself and is not allowed even to say the few she knows, and 3) under the very insufficient support I can give her in her American conditions of life. It is right that nobody, and especially not the employer, has forced my family to emigrate from Germany to the States. But it is right, too, that I had never consented to do this work with my family here exposed to all the danger connected with such a work, and without any efficient protection against it in their and mine status of Estonian DP-refugees. I found their immigration into the States absolutely needed for the work I was scheduled to do here.

Now there have happened many bad situations my wife had to undergo because of the unadequate support I have been able to give her. The people there seem to know that the families of the American officers, who are in Europe, receive a great percentage of the salary paid out in the States. Our friends know what kind of work I did during the peace time in Estonian Army and during the war time. They know that my work was generally appreciated. During the DP-emigration process I was told by my friends many times that "you will not be allowed to emigrate, you are needed here in Europe because of your special experiences". When it then really happened that I was not allowed to immigrate to the States and this was done by absolutely fictive reasons, and when my family despite this and the opposite regulations of the IRO, could immigrate as DPs, then it is quite normal that these friends, although having been told nothing of my real work either by me or by my wife, do suppose that I am working in my old field, in any case not as an occasional worker on an occasional job but as a qualified officer. And so they think my pay being better than their earnings are and do wondering why my wife is so short of money. They must think that Mr.K. is either so stingy or he does not care much of his family when he supports them so miserably, much worse than they support their families. So it comes that my my wife is still living, to the amazement of the other Estonian DP'Americans, in one room together with our 13 years old son, in an apartment of an Estonian super (house servant), being unable to rent a small apartment - she can't afford paying monthly \$ 80 to \$ 90.

Recently there was an opportunity to rent a small apartment of two rooms on reasonable pay, but under the condition that the furniture had to be bought from the store of the houseowner. My wife was not able to pay in cash the needed \$ 570 for the furniture and thought that she can do this paying by instalments, as had done other Estonian families living in the same house. But the owner did not agree to this. He inquired about the salary and the working place of my wife. Finding her salary not high enough as an assurance against his risk, he asked about my job and the support my wife is receiving from me. Having heard that I am working with the American Army and that her support is only \$ 150 per month (my wife told even more than she had received), this gentleman had turned very categorical and has told that to such people he can not pay on instalments because the States are defending these people and in case that my wife would not pay the instalments he would find no help against her. Unable to borrow from a bank, as therefore she would have needed a certificate showing my income, which she does not possess, my wife proposed to buy this time only the thing she needed very urgently and for which she could pay in cash. But even this proposal was not accepted and she was even refused as the tenant of this free apartment of 2 rooms.

Now I must blame myself for my modesty and long and too quiet and futile waiting for fulfilment of the promise given to me by my employer in this matter of adequate supporting of my family. I have done myself all what I could for helping my family, leaving for myself often less than 100 DM per month. I have been living like an ascetic, in hope that this will not last for long, that the matter will be settled soon and to the satisfaction of both sides. I was astonished and thought this being an error, when I was told on 30 June, 1952, that the support for my family has been fixed for \$50 per month. I told that I find this being

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unsatisfactory. I was told that this support will be paid retroactively and I was asked to wait until September, when a new contract could be agreed upon. We are in September now.

This is not a notice. I have told that I should like to go on working with the American Intelligence Service, like I was asked by the high Estonian personality who till now has some reason to feel himself in the highest leading position of the first representative of the Estonian Republic this side the Iron Curtain, who brought me in contact with your Service and recommended me to you. I should do this despite the abovementioned difficulties and some disillusion I and my family have had, because I understand that misunderstandings may happen everywhere, especially when the contractors do not know the habits of each other well enough. I should like to do this because I still hope some help from this my co-operation to my country, as I still hope for future help of the United States for Estonia against the communists.

But doing so I can not neglect my family. Therefore I must ask, in case that my co-operation is still wanted, to grant my family and myself a reasonable pay. I do not know what are paid the American officers, but I think that a qualified officer of intelligence service, especially when forced to live separately from his family, is paid a little better than a usual good worker (I think of my friends in the States whom I mentioned above).

I do not tell any fixed sums. I do not ask hundreds of dollars for myself here, as I am not an American officer, although I do not find myself less qualified or less worth only because of being an officer of a small and occupied country. But I dare ask for my family a support which corresponds to that received by your officers' families when these officers are in such an exposed service and separated from their families.

Furthermore I must be able to inform my family whether and when they can surely count with my immigration to the States and joining them, so they will not need suffer under the uncertainty and the suspicions uttered by so many friends in the States, who think to know the American life and ways better than I do and who, therefore, fear that I shall not be helped over, although this has been promised.

I should like to know myself more exactly my position when working with your Service, and my family needs an official certificate showing my legal position and situation when working with your Service (be the employing authority called therein the American Army or what else will be found right) so she (my wife, especially) suffering under the fact of being a soldier's or officer's wife and family, could feel also some security of this status, and will not be forlorn when on one good day there may happen something to me.

And then I should like to enjoy myself of a little more trust, so I could be informed of what is really going on and so I could give a real hand and had not to grope in the darkness of ignorance of the situation like a blind man who, despite his best will, can not render a full work of a seeing one.

Sorry, I have to trouble you with such questions. But I have no other way to help myself and my family, as I have no Estonian superiors here who could care for me and my family, and I even am not allowed and I am not in the position to contact the

Estonian official Representative in the States in this matter.

I do not beg for alms. I hope still being able to support my family, like my co-refugees are in the States and in other emigration countries. But I am 48 and thus I have no time to waste. I must earn my own and my family's living and I must care for the coming years of old age.

If I am not the man you really need, what you could have understood during this one year, or if you can not grant me and my family the conditions I need for my work, or if you still can not trust me enough, then, please, inform me accordingly. If you, additionally to this, can not help me over to the States, then, please, tell me this, too, the sooner the better, so I could see how I could help my family and me myself.

To your information:

I am Estonian Captain (Kapten K.S.diplom) which means something equal to American Captain, General Staff. This grade I possess since February, 1934. Since 1935 I worked as Deputy, and later as Chief of Section in the II Department of General Staff, a post foreseen usually for a Lt-Colonel, and I was paid accordingly.

Although having my 5 years in Captain's grade in 1939 I was not promoted Major because of the special policy in use in the Estonian Army at that time. According to this policy the younger officers on well paid advanced posts had to wait with promotion for the benefit of the very old and good captains who could not be given such outstanding posts with good, fixed pay. So they were promoted and got a little better pay on their old posts, whereas the younger captains on their good posts had to satisfy themselves with the honor of doing colonels' work and receiving appropriate pay, as the promotion quota did not allow to promote all the captains who had served their 5 years.

During the war I was paid by the Germans according to my Estonian grade of Captain, on the same base with the German Hauptmann's, as it was the ruling in the German Army that not the post and the work, but the grade of an officer fixed the pay-group.