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CIA HISTORICAL STAFF

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: MAR 2005

# The Clandestine Service Historical Series

HUNGARY  
VOLUME I



EO 12958 3.3(b)(1) >25Yrs  
(S)

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~~CS HP 323  
Controlled by: SB  
May 1972  
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[redacted]

[redacted] engaged in no operations, performing instead some operational support tasks: the mailing of several letters, the purchase of some operational supplies, [redacted]<sup>81/</sup> Headquarters enjoined him from becoming involved in operations and he was directed to concentrate on supporting [redacted] in matters of security and on observing, to the extent practical, [redacted] intelligence activities.

3. September 1950 - December 1953

[redacted] spent the greater part of his time (95 percent) on cover duties. He did not engage in any active operations, but did carry out various support tasks [redacted] He mailed letters,<sup>83/</sup> purchased stamps and stationery, [redacted]

[redacted]

4. December 1953 - December 1957

No active operations were conducted [redacted]

[redacted] During his tour, he participated in a considerable amount of operational support activity. Beginning in January 1964, [redacted]

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took observation missions whenever required to do

so [redacted]

#### 5. The Hungarian Revolution

[redacted] was the sole CIA representative [redacted]

[redacted] when the revolt broke out on 23 October

1956. He was melded into the staff [redacted]

and found himself immediately overburdened. In ad-

dition to his regular duties, he was faced with a

great increase in his official contacts [redacted]

[redacted] and with interviewing

the numerous visitors [redacted]

Communications [redacted]

[redacted] were disrupted by a breakdown in TELEX

service (commercial teletype). When American and

British dependents were evacuated [redacted]

sent word [redacted] that he was unable to

keep in touch [redacted] because of spasmodic

[redacted] communications. He advised [redacted]

that he did not have authority [redacted] to

use the [redacted] transmitter available. When CIA

communicator [redacted] arrived TDY [redacted]

on 2 November, [redacted] assisted him in setting up

emergency communications [redacted]

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Reintervention by the Soviet Army on 4 November resulted in Cardinal Mindszenty's taking refuge in the Legation and the assignment of [redacted] Minister Edward T. Wailes to the task of attending to the Cardinal. A curfew was imposed on the people in the city and it became hazardous to travel about after dark. As a result, [redacted] was unable to report on the size and types of Soviet troop units moving at night in the Budapest area.

Because of his fluency in the language, [redacted] found himself handling most public contacts [redacted] [redacted] and was hard pressed to take care of these

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] received [redacted] papers from the [redacted] of the HWP and [redacted] [redacted] notebooks containing biographic and organizational data on the HWP [redacted]

[redacted] in late October. Whatever information he obtained on the fighting taking place in the city was turned over directly [redacted] He had no time to engage in operational activity and was constrained from so

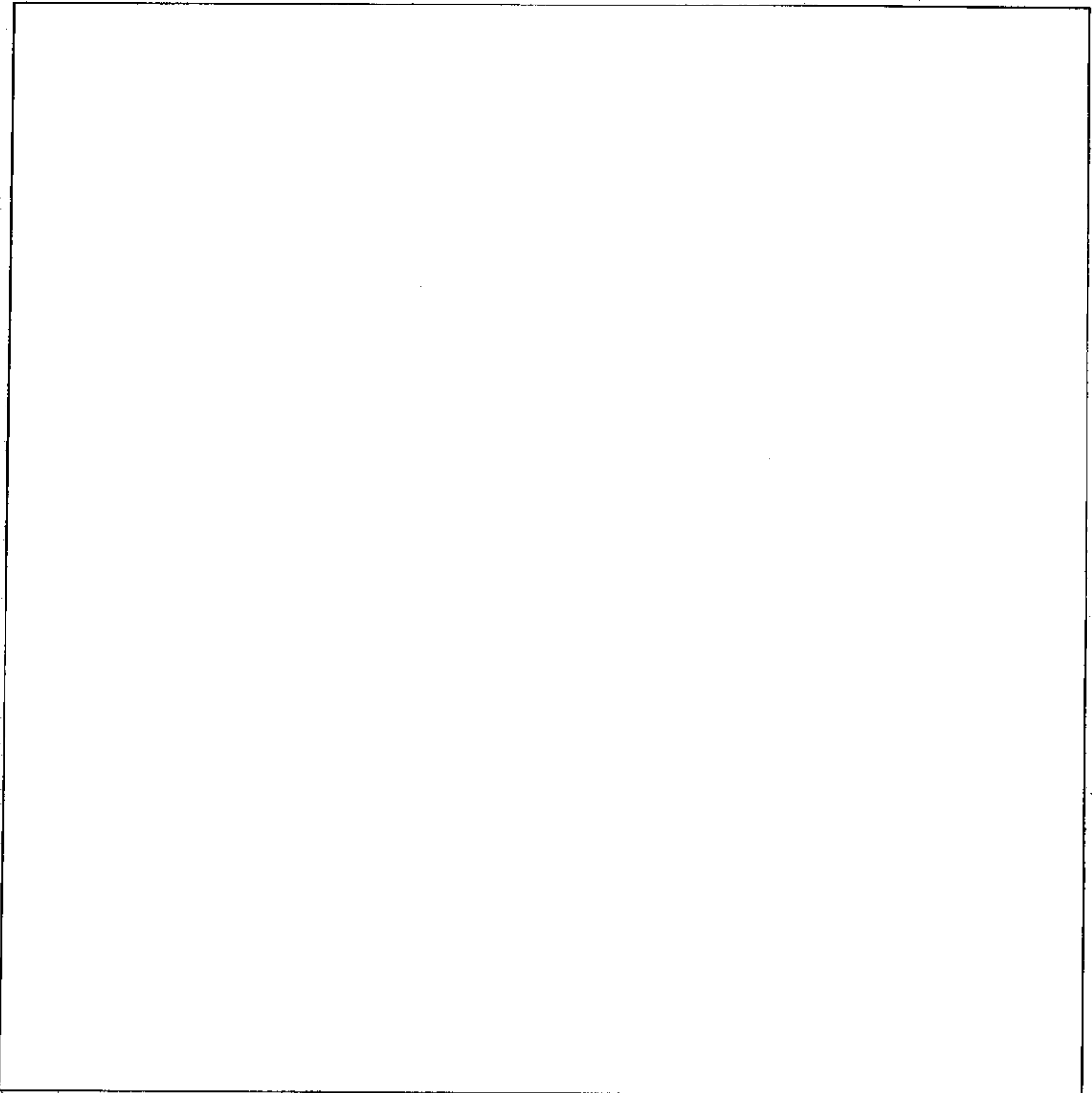
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doing by the US policy of nonintervention.

After he returned to Headquarters, [redacted] was decorated by the DCI for his humanitarian work during the Revolution.



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That [ ] was able to function as well as it did is praiseworthy and indicative of the caliber of the people [ ] [ ] role during the Hungarian Revolution may appear to have been slighted. In reality, [ ] could not have done any more than he did at that time, which was to give all possible direct support [ ] [ ] He could not conduct any activities independent of the overall [ ] program and was unable to do things [ ] which might have involved [ ] There was little [ ] could do other than serve as the [ ] eyes and ears. /

[ ]

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