

**November 8, 1956**  
**Department of State, Outgoing Telegram to Moscow  
Embassy**

**Citation:**

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**Summary:**

The State Department requests that the embassy find out the status of an American citizen who works for Radio Free Europe who was detained in Hungary by Soviet military authorities.

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

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Authority NND 969003

**OUTGOING TELEGRAM**

INDICATE:  COLLECT  
 CHARGE TO

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ALL 2641122 name*

Department of State

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1956 NOV 8 PM 6 5  
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VERBATIM TEXT *2641122*

SENT TO: Amembassy MOSCOW NIACT 562  
Amembassy LONDON 3348  
Amembassy VIENNA 1438  
RPT INFO: Amcongen MUNICH (info) 224  
" " Amlegation BUDAPEST (info) 213

Origin  
Info

Embassy Moscow requested at earliest possible time deliver following note at level Foreign Office Ambassador considers appropriate:

QUOTE Embassy of USA presents compliments Ministry Foreign Affairs USSR and has the honor state that US Govt informed that on or about November 5 Frederick Lorenz Hier, bearer US passport 671 issued Salzburg Austria May 8, 1955 was arrested and confined by Soviet military authorities at Gyor, Hungary. Since that date no information on Mr. Hier's whereabouts or condition has been received. ~~Mr. Hier is journalist employed Radio Free Europe.~~

QUOTE US Government urgently requests Government of USSR to investigate circumstances of Mr. Hier's detention and to take measures necessary for his immediate release and repatriation. QUOTE

Embassy should orally inform Foreign Office that this info was supplied by Soviet representatives to members of Austrian Caritas and Red Cross convoy which reached Vienna from Budapest November 6. This report subsequently confirmed by journalists and other persons leaving Hungary.

Embassy Moscow is also requested to furnish copy of note when delivered to British and Austrian missions in Moscow with following additional info:

~~According to BEE Munich~~ Hier was accompanied by GABOR (GABRIEL) TORMAY, ~~an~~ employe

Dist. Desired (Offices Only)

Drafted by: *MD*  
EUR:EE:NDavis:gm:dnl

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: *Robert C. Blake*

Clearances:  
SCA - Mr. Chase *MC*  
P - Mr. Wilkinson *BW*  
S/S - Donaldson - *Clear*  
*over phone in substance JDH*

S/S - *RK*  
L - *Yingling*  
S/S - *CR*

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11-8-56  
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of telegram to

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~~employee~~ born October 27, 1921 Budapest, bearer Austrian passport IV 87245 PA/52 Vienna issued December 23, 1952 expires December 22, 1957. Tormay carries Manchester Guardian press card issued to Eric Gedye RFE Vienna Chief with letter in German stating Gedye gave Tormay permission string for Guardian in <sup>Gedye's</sup> ~~place~~ place.

Third man, according RFE, JERZY GUSTAW PONIKIEWSKI, born Sept 19, 1906 at Przewodowo, Poland. He is reported to have British travel document which included US reentry permit 3266 issued New York Sept 2, 1953 and believed renewed subsequently.

In furnishing British and Austrian missions copy of note and supplementary info, Embassy Moscow may indicate US would welcome any parallel actions they may consider appropriate. Amembassy London and Vienna may in their discretion inform respective foreign ministries of action envisaged. Dept has notified British and Austrian Embassies in Washington of foregoing.

FYI Dept is endeavoring to avoid publicity as long as possible in hopes that such action may improve chances Soviets will release Hier before it becomes prestige matter. It is highly unlikely, however, publicity can be avoided long. Dept. has no evidence Hier obtained passport validation travel Hungary. Hier is employee Radio Free Europe as are Tormay and Ponikiewski.

Hoover, Acting  
(CRMB)

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