The Clandestine Service
Historical Series

HUNGARY

VOLUME I

EO 12958 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs
(S)
engaged in no operations, performing instead some operational support tasks: the mailing of several letters, the purchase of some operational supplies, Headquarters enjoined him from becoming involved in operations and he was directed to concentrate on supporting in matters of security and on observing, to the extent practical, intelligence activities.

3. September 1950 – December 1953

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 He mailed letters, purchased stamps and stationery,

4. December 1953 – December 1957

No active operations were conducted During his tour, he participated in a considerable amount of operational support activity. Beginning in January 1964,
took observation missions whenever required to do so

5. The Hungarian Revolution

was the sole CIA representative when the revolt broke out on 23 October 1956. He was melded into the staff and found himself immediately overburdened. In addition to his regular duties, he was faced with a great increase in his official contacts and with interviewing the numerous visitors.

Communications were disrupted by a breakdown in TELEX service (commercial teletype). When American and British dependents were evacuated sent word that he was unable to keep in touch because of spasmodic communications. He advised that he did not have authority to use the transmitter available. When CIA communicator arrived TDY on 2 November, assisted him in setting up emergency communications.
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] and was hard pressed to take care of these [Redacted] received [Redacted] papers from the [Redacted] of the HWP and [Redacted] notebooks containing biographic and organizational data on the HWP [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
doing by the US policy of nonintervention.

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