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In reply refer to Initials and No.

Op-16-B-7(G)

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

May 20, 1942

RECEIVED SC FILES  
MAY 30 1942  
ROUTE TO - File  
Op File No. (SC) A8-5/22  
Doc. No.  
Copy No. 1  
PRN

MEMORANDUM for File

Subject: GAZDA, Antoine  
Providence Biltmore Hotel,  
Providence, Rhode Island.

1. On May 20, 1942 information was received to the effect that SUBJECT would leave Providence, Rhode Island by train at 0007 May 21, 1942, for Washington, D.C., having as object a visit to the Secretary of the Navy.

2. SUBJECT originally arrived in the United States from Japan in 1936 on his way to Paris, France, and reported to have sold his invention of a bomb release for military planes to the Japanese. He was at one time an Austrian war flyer, and in 1936 reported to be a technical expert on aviation problems assigned to the Japanese Government.

3. SUBJECT returned to the United States on May 26, 1940, claiming that he intended to demonstrate to the United States Government the Oerlikon 20 mm cannon which was manufactured in Zurich by the Oerlikon-Buehrle & Co., and reported to be one of the most efficient cannon of its type. SUBJECT arrived with full powers as representative of the above mentioned Company and proceeded to organize the American Oerlikon Gazda Corporation which interested the British Purchasing Commission in a contract for the production of the Oerlikon cannon.

4. On August 9, 1941, under the Lease-Lend Act, the United States Navy took over the entire British Purchasing Commission contract (L.L. Contract No. 90588 - in the sum of \$17,750,000) on the specific condition that SUBJECT was to be removed from the A.O.G. Corporation before the Navy took over.

5. SUBJECT's legal adviser pleaded that discrimination was being used against his client, and that this was especially unfortunate after GAZDA and his invention had been so beneficial to the Allies. The Bureau of Ordnance specifically denied that any discrimination was present and that while the A.O.G. was

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GU A8 5/22

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definitely beneficial to the prosecution of the war effort, GAZDA himself was not. Furthermore, no influence by the Navy had been used or would be used to aid GAZDA's efforts to prolong his legal stay in the United States.

6. Since his arrival in the United States SUBJECT had not only maintained close contact with the Navy Department and the British Purchasing Commission but with the Treasury and War Departments, as well as Douglas Aircraft Corporation. During this time, SUBJECT stopped at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City, and is known to have associated with a well-known German-Italian female agent, one Lisette de KAPRI.

7. On December 11, 1941 SUBJECT was taken into Federal custody as an alien German, and has remained in custody ever since although he has made one previous trip to Washington in the hope that the Navy Department would aid in his release from such detention. On the occasion of this earlier visit, at the end of January, 1942, both the Bureau of Ordnance and the Bureau of Aeronautics stated that they had no further interest in SUBJECT.

8. It appears that more recently SUBJECT has developed a boat called the "SEA SKIMMER", and it is believed that SUBJECT's present visit to the Navy Department is partially with a view toward obtaining permission to operate this boat in Narragansett Bay in connection with developing the new invention.

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