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29 March 1954

29 MARCH 1954

TO : Chief, SR/3

FROM : SR/3/W2B

SUBJECT: Contact with AECAMBISTA 4 on 23-25 March 1954

1. The initial contact with AECAMBISTA 4 was effected at the Central YMCA located at 17th and G Street, Washington, DC on 23 March 1954 at 0900 hours. At the conclusion of this session, another meeting was arranged for Thursday, 25 March 1954, 0900 hours at the same address.

2. The meeting was conducted in an atmosphere of unanimity and AECAMBISTA 4 appeared in good spirits throughout the discussions. The plan for future collaboration with AECAMBISTA 1 as outlined by the attending Case Officer was accepted by AECAMBISTA 4, although he did state in the early phases of the discussion that he would need time to think over the proposals. The case officer informed him that such hesitancy and indecision were examples of the weak points of our past operational collaboration. AECAMBISTA 4 then withdrew his reservations and agreed to the Case Officer's outline.

3. The meeting began with a transferral of the letter received from MUNICH via pouch from AECAMBISTA 2 to AECAMBISTA 4. Noting the length of the document AECAMBISTA 4 stated that he thought it would be better to read it out loud in view of the fact that it contained some information concerning the case officer's friends. The letter was primarily a soul searching effort by AECAMBISTA 2 to explain why past collaboration had been difficult, namely the broken promises by KUBARK regarding the Cadre School and the inability of KUBARK to absorb agent candidates once they had been committed by AECAMBISTA 2 to agent training. As he read the letter, AECAMBISTA 4 would occasionally lift up his head, make some criticism of his own regarding the past performance. He seemed particularly amused at the incident reported

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by STONTWIST that, during last year's AKADEPIA commemorating the 35th Anniversary of the founding of the Byelorussian Republic, some priest gave a convocation and blessing for those behind the Iron Curtain who are struggling against communism. According to AECAMBISTA 2 STONTWIST stated that the priest was saying the prayer for [] (In his report of the 1953 meeting, STONTWIST does not state that the prayer was directed at the members of ABQUOR IRAN II, however, he does note that a prayer was offered for those fighting communism behind the Iron Curtain, which is standard order of procedure at such functions.)

4. When AECAMBISTA 4 finished reading the letter, the case officer took this opportunity to describe the security laxness at Louvain and the apparent inability of AECAMBISTA 2 to handle the Principal Agent position in a professional manner.

It was explained to AECAMBISTA 4 that the insecure method of handling agent candidates in the Louvain complex left much to be desired. He was told that AECAMBISTA 2 had informed members of the "INNER CIRCLE OF TWELVE" at Louvain about certain facets of ABQUOR ops. AECAMBISTA 4 seemed reluctant to accept this information and stated that the "INNER CIRCLE OF TWELVE" is no longer an effective body since its membership is scattered. He stated that perhaps AECAMBISTA 2 had informed [] of operational matters because [] was close to AECAMBISTA 2. The case officer noted that the issue was not to whom AECAMBISTA 2 had told operational details, but the fact that he did tell someone. As a result of this security breach, word may have reached pro-Soviet students at the University thereby jeopardizing our collaboration.

The case officer further informed AECAMBISTA 4 that it is generally conceded from information received by us, that AECAMBISTA 2 was unable to devote the time necessary to maintain his position as a Principal Agent. Therefore it would be best for all concerned if we release AECAMBISTA 2 and train a

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replacement who will work on a full time basis. AECAMHISTA 4 was told such a person would receive complete training in all subjects connected with running clandestine operations. Such training, it was estimated, would take about one year during which time no operations into the Byelorussian SSR would be effected. AECAMHISTA 4 agreed to this plan, but stated that maybe some operations should be attempted for 1955. The Case Officer replied that this would mean reverting to the procedures which we have found unsatisfactory and therefore would be unacceptable to us. AECAMHISTA 4 nodded in assent and then asked if we had an individual in mind. The Case officer told him that [] seemed to be the most likely prospect. AECAMHISTA 4 acknowledged the suggestion, but replied that it would be best if we chose a man with a greater intellectual background; for an example he offered the name of [] AECAMHISTA 4 was told that, although we have nothing personal against [] and there is no question as to his qualifications, since he had been part of the Louvain complex, it would be best if we did not utilize him in the capacity of Principal Agent. Again the Case Officer brought up the name of [] suggesting his original argument for [] by noting that we have been working with him, know his ability, his awareness of the problems involved in clandestine undertakings, and the fact that he had been a confidant to AECAMHISTA 2. AECAMHISTA 4 stated that he would think about the suggestion when he returned to Europe and would then give an answer. He was told that any unnecessary delay in the selection of the Principal Agent would deter future KUPIRE operations and it would be in the best interests of AECAMHISTA 1 if AECAMHISTA 4 gave his answer during the present meeting. AECAMHISTA 4 hesitated and then reiterated his proposal for a greater intellectual. He said that he would give his answer of Thursday, 25 March 1954 meeting.

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At this point the Case Officer summed up his previous arguments concerning

[] and AECAMBISTA 4 recanted and agreed to []

He asked about the financial arrangement, and was told that it undoubtedly would be similar to the arrangement we had with AECAMBISTA 2, but nothing had been determined and therefore the Case Office could not give him a concrete answer. AECAMBISTA 4 informed the undersigned that [] had been hired by [] as a script writer. Although this action was contrary to our desired approach, i.e. keep [] available to avoid unnecessary complications when the time came for him to sever his relations with [] AECAMBISTA 4 added that he envisioned no problems. When we are ready for [] he can resign and suggest someone from the University as a replacement. AECAMBISTA 4 seemed concerned about where we would train [] He was told that at the moment it was still too early to select a location, but that it probably would be in PEPROME or Europe.

The need for a trained Principal Agent was outlined to AECAMBISTA 4. When trained, the Principal Agent will maintain his position on a full-time basis. He will be expected to assist in the recruiting, training and dispatch of agents plus continually aid in the appraisal of current operations.

5. AECAMBISTA 4 then brought up the subject of AECAMBISTA 2 now that he had been relieved of his responsibility. AECAMBISTA 4 was told that AECAMBISTA 2 would be retained as a consultant to assist with AECUOR TEAM II. He will not receive any regular compensation, but will be paid for any travel that he has to make for KUEARK when questions concerning TEAM II arises.

AECAMBISTA 4 was informed of the latest W/T messages received from AECUOR TEAM II in which the team notified us that the efforts of the Byelorussian emigration were unknown within the BSSR, but that the people

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suspected that something must be going on. AECAMBISTA 4 stated that he assumed this to be true, in view of the fact that news is not available to the Byelorussians in their native land. AECAMBISTA 4 inquired as to the health of [] and was informed that nothing had been mentioned. He suggested that perhaps we could send occasional news-type messages to the team. He was told that we had in the past and would continue to do so if the item warranted such transmission.

Finally from the KUPIRE side of the discussion, AECAMBISTA 4 was told that the matter of [] were being considered. [] had been hired by [] as a temporary translator, while we have heard nothing concerning the disposition of []

6. The KUGOWN phase of the discussion centered about IDENTITY A and the study which will be undertaken by [] During the past few months, AECAMBISTA 4, was told, the undersigned has been agitating for a merger of IDENTITY A and IDENTITY B. To date, nothing had been received on the merger, AECAMBISTA 2 had been against it and now AECAMBISTA 4 was being asked for his opinion.

Generally, AECAMBISTA 4 took the same stand as did AECAMBISTA 2. He stated that he did not believe that IDENTITY B would add anything to IDENTITY A, however, he did state that in his opinion IDENTITY A was too intellectual and did not have enough appeal to the general public. Upon his return to Europe he will undertake a reorganization of the publication. When informed that IDENTITY B was no longer being published, AECAMBISTA 4 stated that perhaps IDENTITY B type articles could be placed in IDENTITY A, but only as a short feature. He added that IDENTITY A, published 8 years was now enjoying a wide reputation as a representative voice of AECAMBISTA 1. He felt that too much humor would destroy that illusion and that it would lose its value.

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The undersigned mentioned that in his opinion IDENTITY A was not devoting enough coverage to anti-Soviet articles, but was delving too deeply into internal Byelorussian politics. AECAMBISTA 4 noted that the new change in editorial policy will eliminate that condition and requested some ideas for sources. He was told that we had undertaken a service which supplies IDENTITY A with monitored Soviet news broadcasts and clippings from various PEPRIME publications. He stated that he was unaware of this and thought that it would provide material for the type of articles the undersigned had suggested. He was further informed that we had received the approval of the field Case Officer concerning the material.

As an afterthought, AECAMBISTA 4 reflected that news material which could not be used on the broadcasts might be made available to IDENTITY A.

7. With the transfer of KNFIRE activities, AECAMBISTA 4 was asked whether it would be advisable to transfer our support from IDENTITY A to IDENTITY C. In this connection it was noted that, since Europe was slowly depleting as a Byelorussian emigre center, it might be better to support IDENTITY C which is now in the midst of a growing emigration. AECAMBISTA 4 replied in the negative, stating that IDENTITY A was still the voice of AECAMBISTA 1 wherever it may be, while IDENTITY C had assumed a PEPRIME character and would be open to criticism. This explanation was accepted by the Case Officer and the request for a reorganization of IDENTITY A to incorporate a lighter format with anti-Soviet articles was repeated.

It seemed very strange to the Case Officer that AECAMBISTA 4 never questioned why we had stopped the publication of IDENTITY B.

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8. The problem of recruiting in the Western Hemisphere and the availability of eligible agent candidates was discussed next. When making his suggestions, AECAMHISTA 4 was told that he should bear in mind that the same conditions do not exist in the Western Hemisphere as did in Europe. Most of the young people had applied for citizenship, were indoctrinated to the standards of living and were generally grouped in the same area. The problem of finding candidates was, therefore, doubly difficult. AECAMHISTA 4 repeated his statements that young Byelorussians who had served in the PEPRIME army were available and that Canada held promise but he was not specific. When asked about Latin America, AECAMHISTA 4 stated that he had never been there so he could not make definite statements, but he believed there would be some candidates. He cautioned, however, that the Soviet Union had been concentrating on this area and many of the young people there are agents of the RIS and provocateurs. Generally, he could not give definite numbers on the people available.

He was asked about recent defectors that were still in Europe and the possibility of using them as agent candidates. AECAMHISTA 4 was emphatic when he stated that he or his organization did not contemplate any individual as a agent candidate unless they have known him from childhood.

9. The final topic under consideration was the study to be undertaken by [] [] The undersigned told AECAMHISTA 4 that nothing definite had been heard, but we could assume that everything was well and that we would receive permission to utilize [] [] AECAMHISTA 4 suprised the Case Officer when he smilingly said that he knew there would be a delay because they were still checking on [] [] He then proceeded to tell the undersigned about his presence at the home of one of the individuals listed by [] [] as a reference. A man who had introduced himself as a [] [] had asked questions of AECAMHISTA 10's wife concerning [] []

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He noted that he was not included in the conversation, but was aware of the topic. He, jokingly, terminated his little discourse.

10. AECAMBISTA 4 then stated that he was leaving PEPRIE for Europe on 8 April 1954 from New York City, and wondered if the undersigned could arrange for the transfer of about \$500.00 to him which he could use to consolidate AECAMBISTA 1 groups in Europe. The undersigned informed AECAMBISTA 4 that the budgeting did not provide for contingency funds of this nature and therefore he could not aid him.

11. The final contact with AECAMBISTA 4 was held on 25 March 1954. The session was arranged to recap the decisions reached on the 23 March 1954 meeting and to afford AECAMBISTA 4 every opportunity to express himself on KUPIRE and KUGOWN problems. The undersigned felt such a session would be warranted to preclude any future AECAMBISTA allegations that KUBARK was not honoring the early conclusions set forth at the 23 March meeting. Therefore, at the opening of the 25 March discussions, AECAMBISTA 4 was asked if he had any other problems outstanding which he felt might have a bearing on our future relationship. AECAMBISTA 4 answered that in his opinion, IDENTITY A should receive an additional appropriation of approximately \$300 more per month. He felt that this request was justified in view of our curtailment of IDENTITY B. He noted that now IDENTITY A would have to carry the KUGOWN burden alone and he indicated that IDENTITY D was overworked and needed another journalist to assist with the publication. He was told that the request would be relayed to higher authorities, but no commitment was made.

AECAMBISTA 4 also brought up the matter of the study which is to be undertaken by [] He asked if the undersigned could arrange to have some money appropriated, about \$300.00 on a monthly basis, which would be available to him in order to offset the costs which are certain to

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arise in photostating the information which [] would need from the Paris archives. The undersigned informed AECAMELISTA 4 that the request seemed reasonable, but no action would be taken until the actual study was underway. If then, [] needed that information, appropriate action would be taken.

12. When AECAMELISTA 4 noted that he could not think of anything else, the undersigned took the opportunity to recap the two-day session. The program for Fiscal Year 1955 as agreed by REGARDIE and AECAMELISTA 4 would be as follows:

a. The publication of IDENTITY A would be continued, providing the changes in format and editorial policy discussed at the earlier meeting were fulfilled. KUBARK would continue to send support material for use by the publication staff.

b. The KUFIRE activity would be limited to the selection and training of one Principal Agent, [] This training would probably begin circa 1 July 1954 at a place designated by KUBARK and would continue for a period of about one (1) year. At the expiration of the training period, the Principal Agent and representatives of KUBARK would discuss the feasibility of recruiting, training and dispatching agents into the BSSR. The Principal Agent would act as a coordinator between KUBARK and AECAMELISTA 1.

c. AECAMELISTA 2 will be retained, on a non-salary basis, as a consultant on problems which may arise from the AECJUR TEAM II contact. He will not be used in any other capacity.

d. As far as KUBARK is concerned, the Louvain complex is no longer considered as a source of potential agent recruits.

e. A study is to be undertaken of the Byelorussian emigration

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by [] [] The information he gathers in PPRIME will be augmented from the archives by factual documents now in the possession of AECAMBISTA 4 and stored in Paris, France.

13. AECAMBISTA 4 took a parting shot at QACTIVE. He related to the undersigned the political machinations which eventually evolved in the creation of the Paris Eloc. He noted that the Eloc itself did not include any Russian elements. At the suggestion of the Munich representatives of QACTIVE, the Paris Eloc met with certain Russian elements and produced IDENTITY B. AECAMBISTA 4 reiterated his previous claim that IDENTITY B was never "solidified" as an effective unit and for all intents and purposes, dissolved. Recently, he noted, PRAFFIRM has drawn up a new set of conditions for collaboration with the Russian elements. However, he noted, that should these documents favor the Russian clique, he did not think they would be ratified by the Paris Eloc. AECAMBISTA 4 said his next step will be to meet with the members of the Paris Eloc living in Paris on an informal basis. He will relate to them the discussions which had been held in PPRIME with PRAFFIRM. A general meeting will be called at a later date. He seemed pessimistic about the results.

14. AECAMBISTA 4 stated that he would like to communicate with the undersigned. He was told that the best arrangement would be for AECAMBISTA 4 to deliver the letter to AECAMBISTA 2 who in turn would relay it to

[] [] , for transmittal to PPRIME via pouch.

FYI: [] [] has been meeting with AECAMBISTA 4 under the name of [] []

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IDENTITY A THE FATHERLAND
IDENTITY B THE HORNET
IDENTITY C EYELORUS
IDENTITY D S. STANKLEVICZ
IDENTITY E MARTS