

SECRET

15 April 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, FI/PLANS
VIA : FI/PLANS & PROJECTS
FROM : SM/3 ML
SUBJECT : Renewal of AECARRETA Project

1. Renewal of the AECARRETA Project for the period 1 April 1955 through 31 March 1956 is submitted herewith for approval. The Project has been considerably revised from the original project outline submitted in October 1953. AECARRETA's successful development since the opening of the AECARRETA Office in May 1953 has made necessary corresponding organizational and budgetary changes.
2. AECARRETA was born of the desire to capitalize on the propaganda distribution of AEWIRGIL and carry over the activities of AEWIRGIL into the operational sphere. The AECARRETA Office in West Berlin is like a neon lit facade toward which people who have problems arising from contact with the Soviet occupation forces can turn for advice and guidance. The current activities of the AECARRETA Office, in terms of number of people debriefed, contacts with Soviet personnel, and intelligence produced on Soviet installations and personnel approaches that of the SIGMA-100 office in West Berlin at its prime.
3. There are some obvious advantages to the AECARRETA Office in comparison with the SIGMA-100 office. Unlike the SIGMA-100 take, the exploitation of leads and intelligence produced by AECARRETA is not shared with another intelligence service. Furthermore, the activities of AECARRETA are separate from AEWIRGIL's overt activities and are not shared with that group. Although AECARRETA is officially the Berlin office of AEWIRGIL, AECARRETA operational undertakings are not made known to the overt AEWIRGIL representatives. [redacted], who is overtly employed in the AECARRETA Office as a translator, debriefs and follows up on AECARRETA cases under the direction of his case officer.
4. To be sure, AECARRETA has been pinpointed by the Opposition, and in November 1954 the AECARRETA Office was the object of a burglary, in all probability engineered by either the SS or the RIS. Occasionally people have appeared in the AECARRETA Office who we suspected were provocation agents sent in by the Opposition. One such case, where the provocation agent admitted RIS affiliation, was turned over to the BOB LOCHHOVE section, where it is still being handled.

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5. Berlin Operations Base has great plans which revolve around ABERNETHY, which has become the mainstay of BOB's RECAP activity. In a few cases which originated outside of ABERNETHY, such as the [] and [] operations, ABERNETHY cover was used to make the final pitch, and resulted in successful recruitment in one case, and defection in the other.

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General is requested, per the attached project outline and the agreement, dated 1 June 1955 which inserts \$500,000 into the operation. The period of renewal is 1 April 1956 through 31 March 1956. Authority is requested to allocate \$12,277,000 for this period, from D/I-SH Division budget of the current and next fiscal years, assuring that sufficient funds are available in FY 1956 to carry the project through the renewal period.

Concur: [] [] 14 June 55
Date

Approved: [] [] 22 June 55
Date

Staff Coordination:

- For []/S - s/E []
- IC/SE/MS - s/E []
- CI/A - s/E []
- CI/I/RE - s/E []
- CI/ians r. - s/E []
- CI/S - CI/S/SD - s/E []