

SECRET

23 January 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: C/SR/2

VIA : SR/COP/PP

SUBJECT : Evaluation of AEBASIN Broadcasts

1. The undersigned has read in translation a large number of AEBASIN scripts dating from the inauguration of the broadcasts to 16 October. In general, they are more than adequate for the audience. It is believed that if they get through the jamming networks, the programs would fulfill an important function in maintaining the morale of whatever individuals and groups in Estonia are favorably disposed towards the West and which harbor anti-Communist resentments. All in all, their tone and character is surprisingly moderate and calm, considering the atmosphere of Radio NACIONAL.

geared to anti-Communist audience

2. The news items are selected to convey the impression of the Western strength and resolution against Communism. The writers slant the news properly, from the point of view of our interests and their identity, but without vitiating its content and endangering its credibility.

Reviewed and explained

3. (The daily feature items discuss the anti-Communist activities of emigres of all nationalities in the West, and occasionally religious messages with political implications--eg., the illegitimacy of tyranny--are included. Other scripts refute Soviet propaganda regarding the peaceful motivation of Soviet policies and point up matters like the exploitation of individuals in the concentration camps, factories, and on the collective farms. The scripts are singularly entirely free from anti-Russianism, as distinguished from anti-Soviet sentiments, and the theme of eventual liberation is mentioned, but is sensibly not over stressed. There is, however, a great deal of indiscriminate criticism of Soviet accomplishments which would hardly please members of the Soviet intelligentsia. Since, however, the broadcasts are in Estonian, and, since it would be foolish not to play on Estonian nationalism, there is no basic objection to the project's line.

4. It is necessary to state, however, that the approach used from Radio Madrid should not be considered the only useful FP line for Estonia. In the future, it may be necessary and desirable to consider a tactic which does not employ "the frontal assault" approach, and which

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

SECRET

SECRET

may be calculated to appeal to Estonians who have accomodated themselves or succumbed to the influence of Communism. The current AEBASIN line, however, acceptable and useful, need not rule out future black programs employing forms of deviation of the left or right.

ylc

[SR/PP]

Distribution:

- Orig & 1 - Addressee
- 1 - PP/OPS
- 1 - Chrono

SECRET