

**SECRET**  
**PROJECT APPROVAL NOTIFICATION**

*my*

PROJECT <b>AEBARTH</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CA	<input type="checkbox"/> PROPRIETARY
		<input type="checkbox"/> FI/CI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUBSIDY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIRECT
ACTION		AREA	
	NEW PROJECT	DIVISION <b>RR</b>	
	AMENDMENT		
<b>XX</b>	RENEWAL <b>(FY 1961)</b>	BRANCH <b>2</b>	
	TERMINATION	DESK <b>Estonian</b>	
	EXTENSION	CASE OFFICER <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> EXTENSION <b>0545</b>	
	OTHER		
AUTHORIZATION			
APPROVING AUTHORITY <b>RRP/C-FB</b> <b>26 January 1961</b>		TOTAL AMOUNT APPROVED	FY
		\$ <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	196 <sup>1</sup>
PERIOD OF APPROVAL			196
FROM <b>1 July 1960</b> TO <b>30 June 1961</b>		FINANCIAL CODE SYMBOL	<b>1134-4008-8073</b>
CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL			
<p><b>Renewal approved in the amount of <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> for FY 1961.</b></p>			
SIGNATURE			DATE
DDP/PG <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>			<b>30 JAN 1961</b>
<b>JAN 6804</b> DISTRIBUTION			
1	FINANCE DIVISION	1	SSA-DD/S
1	BUDGET DIVISION	1	OPERATING DIVISION CHIEF OF SUPPORT
1	CASE OFFICER	2	DDP/PG

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B20  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

**SECRET**  
(When Filled In)

<b>PROJECT ACTION</b>				<b>PROJECT CRYPTONYM</b> <b>AEBASIN</b>	
	TYPE OF ACTION			FI/CI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CA
	NEW PROJECT APPROVAL	DIVISION <b>SR</b>			
	AMENDMENT NO.	FIELD STATION			
	RENEWAL FY 196 <b>1</b>	BRANCH <b>SR/2</b>	DESK <b>ESTONIAN</b>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXTENSION	CASE OFFICER			
TERMINATION	ROOM NO. <b>2609</b>	BUILDING <b>J</b>	EXTENSION <b>8545</b>		

**CONCURRENCES OF DIVISION**

ORGANIZATIONAL ELEMENT	TYPED NAME (And signature)	DATE	COPY NO.	MEMORANDUM ATTACHED		
				YES	NO	DATE
<b>CSR/2</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>SIGNED</b>					
<b>SR/COP/CA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>SIGNED</b>					
<b>SR/COP</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>SIGNED</b>					
<b>C/SR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>SIGNED</b>					

**CONCURRENCES OF OTHER COMPONENTS**

<b>DDP/PG</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>SIGNED</b>	<b>24 Jan</b>		

**APPROVAL**

	PERIOD		TOTAL AMOUNT	FY	AMOUNT	
	FROM <b>1 July 1960</b>	TO <b>30 June 1961</b>	\$ <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>196</b>	\$	
APPROVING AUTHORITY <b>DDP/C-PG</b>	SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/>			DATE <b>26 January 1961</b>		

SECRET

SR/2-B-60-238

9 December 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, DDP/PG

SUBJECT : Renewal of Projects AEPOLE, AEFLAG and AEBASIN

1. Projects AEPOLE, AEFLAG and AEBASIN, which cover CA activities directed into Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, are submitted herewith for renewal for the period 1 July 1960 to 30 June 1961.
2. The purpose of this covering memorandum is to indicate the interrelationship of the attached Projects which, although kept separate because of operational and organization considerations, are nevertheless part of an over-all Baltic CA program of growing significance.
3. During the past year the Baltic States have been receiving constantly increasing attention in the press of the Free World. This began early in 1960 when it became possible to travel to all three Baltic countries. Throughout 1960, world-wide interest and sympathy have been attracted by Free World Balts as they have observed by their protests the Twentieth Anniversary of the Communist takeover of their countries (Herbert Hoover heads a committee of prominent Americans who support this cause). Since September of this year the position of the Baltic States as victims of Soviet Colonialism has been stressed repeatedly by Free World leaders, especially in the United Nations. Another encouraging factor is the fact that after years of scanty information, SR/2 has received a steady flow of reports, since the summer of 1959, which point up the extensive, deep-rooted and openly pro-American and anti-Russian attitudes of Soviet Balts, both young and old. These reports emanated from the Balts who came in contact in large numbers with Americans at the U.S. Exhibit in Moscow in 1959, from individuals who have travelled to and from the Baltic States during the past year, and from individuals who have emigrated recently from the Baltic States to join relatives in the West.
4. The above factors plus other long-standing conditions make the Baltic States a unique issue for propaganda exploitation and probably the weakest link in the propaganda armor of the Soviet Union. Some of these other conditions are:

- a. The United States and other Free World countries have not recognized the Soviet aggression against and arbitrary annexation of the Baltic States but rather continue to recognize the independence of these three countries and maintain formal relations with their pre-World War II diplomatic missions.
- b. The Balts have a very strong feeling of identification with the culture and history of Western Europe and, in addition, have especially strong ties with and an admiration of America.
- c. The Baltic emigration in the Free World is numerically very large and the ties between these Balts and their countrymen in the Baltic States are very close. Furthermore the Free World Balts are doing much to maintain a free Baltic culture; they possess an extensive press and, in general, continue to maintain their identity as distinct communities.
- d. Not only are people from the West now able to travel to the Baltic States but the Soviets have in the past year begun to allow a substantial number of Balts to travel to the West where they can be contacted more easily.

5. In recognition of the great potential in the Baltic CA field, SR/2/Baltic is developing a unified program to begin by 1961 which will exploit the Baltic issue as fully as possible in both its political and operational aspects.

[ ]  
for Chief, SR Division

Attachments: h/w  
Projects AEPOLE, AEFLAG, and AEBASIN

SECRET

REQUEST FOR CA PROJECT RENEWAL

1. TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:
2. AMOUNT IN WHICH PROJECT WAS INCLUDED IN THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAM:
3. STATEMENT OF FUNDS APPROVED AND OBLIGATED BY FISCAL YEAR SINCE PROJECT INITIATION:

	<u>APPROVED</u>	<u>BY</u>	<u>OBLIGATED</u>
a. 1953 -	[REDACTED]	Operational Program	[REDACTED]
b. 1954 -		Operational Program	
c. 1955 -		DCI	
d. 1956 -		Operational Program	
e. 1957 -		GPP	
f. 1958 -		Operational Program	
g. 1959 -		GPP	
h. 1960 -		Chief, DDP/FG	

4. PROJECT DATA:

a. Current objectives.

(1) Project **AZBASIN** covers the following activities directed against the Estonian SSR: radio broadcasts, mailing operations, controlled correspondence operations, CA missions for mounted and "piggy-back" **REDSKIN** operations, **REDSKIN** contact operations in the West, development of operations through emigre organizations, publication or acquisition of propaganda literature for use in **REDSKIN** and mailing operations, exploitation of other media such as demonstrations which have CA potential, and conduct of special operations and campaigns as required. In operations conducted through these media the following objectives are being pursued:

- (a) To preserve the national identity of the Estonian people thereby helping them to resist assimilation into the Soviet society.
- (b) To maintain among the Estonian people an attitude of irreconcilability toward International Communism and the Soviet regime dominating Estonia today.

SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

- (c) To maintain and enhance the pro-Western and pro-American orientation of the Estonian people.
  - (d) To encourage revisionist tendencies among Estonian Communists.
  - (e) To foster evolutionary changes by encouraging the Estonian people to seek continuous concessions from the Soviet regime in Estonia.
  - (f) To contribute by all possible means to the growth of intellectual ferment among the Estonian people.
- (2) Operational mechanisms.
- (a) Estonian section at Radio Madrid (Radio Nacional de Espana).
  - (b) The Voice of Estonian Freedom (a cover organization in New York which sponsors the Estonian broadcasts from Radio Madrid and other activities to include mailing literature, contacting Soviet Estonian travelers, etc.).
  - (c) AERASIN/1 provides access to Vaba Eesti Sona, an Estonian newspaper in New York, of which he is an editor, and to the Estonian Central Committee, the major Estonian emigre organization in the United States, of which he is a ranking member.

(3) Targets.

The target of this project is the Estonian people in Estonia; however, the Russian people are also considered to be an additional target, for operations which can be directed at them through the Estonian people.

b. Changes in operational mechanism.

[ ] [ ] , a broadcaster at Radio Madrid, was dropped from employment in order to solve a personality clash between him and AERASIN/2. He has been replaced by AERASIN/6 and the result has been improved performance of the radio broadcasts. No contact is being maintained with [ ] [ ]

c. Intelligence production.

Intelligence obtained through Project AERASIN has been of value to REDSKIN operations and has included the acquisition of biographic and travel information as well as of REDSKIN leads themselves.

SECRET

# SECRET

- 3 -

## d. Analysis of effectiveness.

### (1) Significant operational events:

- (a) Radio broadcasts were continued from Radio Madrid with a 15 minute original broadcast and a 15 minute repeat per day.
- (b) A general guidance directive and special guidance on current issues were sent to Radio Madrid during the past year. As a result, considerable improvement in the radio broadcasts has been noted and their content is now considered to be satisfactory.
- (c) An Estonian song festival was held in New York City this past June featuring Estonian songs and music of the independent period and commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Soviet Takeover of Estonia. A parade and demonstrations were organized in coordination with the Latvians and Lithuanians in commemoration of this event. In addition, this occasion was publicized through the media of newspaper and radio.
- (d) CA questionnaires were prepared in the Estonian, German and English languages and forwarded to those Field stations in Western Europe whose jurisdiction extends over those areas where the majority of Estonians in exile have located. These questionnaires are intended for use in briefing Western travelers to the Estonian SSR and debriefing Soviet Estonian travelers to the West.

### (2) Consonance with National Security Council Directives.

Activities under AEBASIN are in line with NSC 5412/2, Covert Operations, NSC 5906/1.

## e. Cover, control and security.

The Voice of Estonian Freedom continues to supply adequate cover for the Estonian broadcasts. Control has been strengthened by establishing more rigid requirements with respect to broadcast content. The potential security problem resulting from a personality clash between AEBASIN/2 and [ ] has been eliminated by the termination of GIRTIN. The replacement for [ ] AEBASIN/6, has not presented any security problems in this respect.

## f. Assessment of indigenous agents.

There is no individual who could be considered a principal agent for this project. The only indigenous agent is AEBASIN/2. He has no direct contact with any case officer. Pay and guidance are handled through the Voice of Estonian Freedom. His effectiveness is good; his

SECRET

**SECRET**

- 4 -

motivation appears to be adequate. Control is based on his dependance on us for his salary and on the fact that he plans eventually to immigrate permanently to the United States.

**g. American project personnel.\***

**(1) Headquarters**

2 case officers  
1 career agent  
4 contract agents\*\*

**(2) Field**

None

\*All case officers and the career agent spend from 1/3 to 1/4 of their time on Project AERASIN.

\*\*Of the contract agents, two are without compensation, one is a part-time employee, and one a full-time employee.

**h. Liaison with intelligence services.**

There has been no liaison with any intelligence services.

**i. Interagency coordination.**

No interagency coordination has been required.

**j. Plans for the ensuing year.**

**(1) It is expected that there will be an increase in travel to and from Estonia in the coming year over the past year. This presumption is based on the following:**

**(a) Construction of tourist facilities in Estonia continues. A new hotel of 200 rooms is under construction in Tallinn and will be completed next year in time to accommodate the summer tourists.**

**(b) Four excursions of Soviet Estonians to the West were scheduled for this past summer. Three have already been conducted. This is a considerable increase over last year's travel.**

**(c) The number of persons traveling from the West to Estonia increased appreciably over last year. Although this increase was due largely to the Soviet Estonian invitation**

**SECRET**

SECRET

- 5 -

to exiled Estonians to visit their homeland on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Soviet Estonian Republic, it resulted in about 200 persons traveling to Estonia. This reestablishment of family ties, it is presumed, will encourage closer contact with Soviet Estonians.

- (d) It is now possible for Estonians who fled the Estonian SSR after the Soviet occupation to renounce their Soviet citizenship. This has eliminated the fear on the part of many Estonian exiles to visit their homeland.

Because of these facts which promise an even greater increase in REDSKIN operations over last year, the SR/2 Baltic Section is continuing to place major emphasis on U. support of REDSKIN operations.

- (2) REDSKIN operations.

These operations are handled in close cooperation with the FI personnel of the Estonian desk. Operations will continue to be mounted from the United States, Europe, and, in addition, wherever concentrations of Estonians are found in such areas as in Sweden and West Germany.

- (3) Radio operations.

It is expected that the quality of the broadcasts will continue to improve based on the continued cooperation of AKBASIN/2, the good performance of AKBASIN/6, and the support furnished the radio broadcasts through Headquarters guidance directives. A general guidance directive in the Estonian language was sent to the Estonian section at the beginning of FI 1960. Special guidances were sent to the station whenever current issues warranted such action. A proposal has been received from AKBASIN/2 that he be commissioned to seek the establishment of Estonian language broadcasts over Radio Rome. This proposal is now under study.

- (4) Emigre organization activities.

It is planned to continue using our contacts in Estonian relief organizations and religious circles for specific operations to include REDSKIN spotting, REDSKIN contact operations, mailing operations, etc. In addition to the Estonian Central Committee and the Estonian Relief Committee which have been used for such purposes, it is planned to develop existing contacts and recruit new contacts in the Estonian Students Fund, the World Association of Estonians and the Estonian Veterans Organization.

SECRET



SECRET

- 7 -

- (2) Supplies, material and equipment
  - (a) Radio scripts and translations
  - (b) Books and periodicals
  - (c) Office rent and expenses
    - New York
    - Madrid
  - (d) Printing of propaganda booklets, pamphlets, etc.
- (3) Other operational expenses
  - (a) Purchase of services and information
  - (b) Area travel for Field agents
  - (c) Field case officer travel
  - (d) Domestic travel for Headquarters case officers, contract agents and covert associates
  - (e) Mailing operations
  - (f) Special campaign on the Twentieth Anniversary of the Communist Takeover of Estonia
  - (g) Special campaign exploiting the Colonialism issue
  - (h) Entertainment of covert associates
- (4) Payments made to Estonian organizations for specific operations to include contacting legal travelers, special radio campaigns, demonstrations, political action by emigre leaders, etc.

TOTAL

1. Field direction.

No Field case officer is presently handling the Field direction of AEBASIN Project, although  may be expected to give some support to Headquarters-directed activities.

5. D&FO ACTIVITIES:

None.

SECRET