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6 January 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, FI
VIA : FI/OPS
SUBJECT : Project AEMANNER, Comments

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

1. Your memorandum for Chief of Operations, DD/P, dated 23 December 1957, on the Renewal of Project AEMANNER has been read and action has been initiated to comply with the recommendations made. It appears, however, that an incorrect impression has been obtained of the actual accomplishments and potential of this project. The principal objective of AEMANNER is to establish resident intelligence agents inside Soviet Lithuania through REDSKIN operations. Contacts with emigres and legal travellers are looked for and maintained only as long as they contribute to this objective. A second and certainly less important objective is the briefing and debriefing of legal travellers to Lithuania and the debriefing of escapees, defectors and repatriates.

2. During the past year we have tried under the project to establish agent assets inside Lithuania along three lines of attack. The first line was to recruit persons who have some pretext for requesting a Soviet tourist visa for Lithuania. Instead of giving such an agent freedom to recruit whom he pleases, inside the target area, we analyze the agent's contacts before his mission and select the most likely prospects. Such a planned recruitment was actually made this last August and contact later established by the resident agent using an S/W system in which he had been trained by the recruiter.

3. The second line of attack has been to use a friend or relative for contacting and recruiting a Soviet Lithuanian traveling in a delegation abroad. There were several attempts along this line during the past year, none of which was completely successful, although some show promise. In one case a Lithuanian tourist, [redacted], was contacted, but defected to us rather than accepting recruitment. In a second case, a delegation member, [redacted] agreed to collaborate and contact us during any trips outside the USSR but refused to use any clandestine communication channel. In another instance we planned and prepared an operational approach to a member of the Central Committee of the Lithuanian CP who was in the West

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at an international meeting. Although circumstances made it impossible to carry out the plan, we now have available for future operational use the godfather of this CP official's child. Because of his position it is very likely that this official will again travel in the West, and the prospects of exploiting him by use of AEMANNER assets are good.

4. The third line of attack has been to recruit a person repatriating to Lithuania. This approach has been tried and has proved to be largely unsuccessful to date because persons who want to repatriate are generally of poor quality. Recognizing this, we plan to recruit an agent for his qualifications for agent work and then introduce him into repatriation channels.

5. According to your memorandum, paragraph 4 c, Project AEMANNER procured only four reports during the period under review, while in our memorandum we stated that over fifty reports were received and fifteen disseminations made by SR reports. Another approximately 20 reports were turned over to OO/C for processing. This apparent discrepancy is accounted for by the fact that a number of reports based on debriefings by AEMANNER agents were prepared by the reports officer in Frankfurt as operational intelligence reports, which were then forwarded without crediting Project AEMANNER. This situation is being remedied so that in the future the FI Staff's records will correspond with our own.

6. We believe that this project, which has no connection with liaison, in relation to its rather difficult target has actually produced substantial results. With the opening of the first crack into the Baltic republics by permitting legal travel into Riga, and with evidence that the Soviets are more willing to grant visas for specific trips into the Baltic republics, the future possibilities should exceed past successes.

Chief, SR Division

cc: FI/OPS
FI/OPS/Projects Branch

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