

S-E-C-R-E-T

SECURITY INFORMATION

DD/P Project Approval Sheet

Project Cryptonym AEQUOR Amendment No. _____

Sub-Project Cryptonym (PP PORTION ONLY)

Originating Division SR

Approved -- ~~Disapproved~~

[]
DD/P

22 May '53
Date

Comments:

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

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PROJECT OUTLINE CLEARANCE SHEET

Date

24 March 1953

Project Cryptonym AEQUOR

Amendment No.

Project No.

Sub-Project Cryptonym (where applicable)

Developed by: [Redacted]

Organization SR/3 Date

24 March 1953

Reviewed by: Foreign Branch Chief Date

Division Chief. Date

23 Mar 53

23 Apr 53

Concurrences

* (D/P-ADMIN, on Copy #2, see condition below, 27 Apr. '53)

Date

[Redacted] E/Plans Com 3/19/53
Date

[Redacted] Chief OC-O/SPB 3/27/53
Date

[Redacted] STC/SPB 24 Apr. 53
Date

[Redacted] PP/C/PAD 4 May '53
Date

[Redacted] DC/PY 6 May 1953
Date

**

[Redacted] OCPP

22 May 53

Approved subject to conditions below:

CHIEF,

Date

Conditions of approval:

* subject to submittal & approval of an Admin. Plan.
** on basis of assurance by SR that the extent to which the two publications criticize QKACTIVE or other individual emigre groups is not significant.

OPC Form No. 501 of 14 July 52

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FY 1953 Approval

PP Portion

Project AEQUOR

1. Authorization

USSR Fiscal 1953 Country Program, approved by DCI in principle on 30 January 1953.

2. Objective and Necessity

a. Objective: The purpose of the PP portion of Project AEQUOR is to provide for the exploitation of anti-Soviet Byelorussian emigre groups and for ultimate development of covert PP assets inside the Byelorussian S.S.R. Through agents supplied by these emigre groups it will be possible to expand the resistance efforts in the Byelorussian S.S.R.

b. Necessity: Currently C.I.A. is supporting the two publications, "The Fatherland", a weekly newspaper, and "The Hornet", a monthly satirical magazine. Both are published by the Byelorussian National Council (BNR), the largest and most influential Byelorussian emigre organization. These two publications bolster the prestige of the BNR as a political organization.

The functions of the two publications encompass the following three types of activities:

(1) Political and Psychological Warfare:

The BNR maintains contact with a large portion of Byelorussian emigres who are scattered throughout the world. Through the publications it influences public opinion among emigre Byelorussians and thus allows for their integration and mobilization into a more cohesive force. The BNR then attempts to mold this integrated body of opinion into a uniform anti-Soviet policy.

(2) Support of the Penetration Missions:

The BNR, through its editorial influence over emigre opinion, will be in a more favorable position to motivate and recruit agent personnel for current penetrations. As official organs of a leading Byelorussian emigre organization, the publications, through specially tailored articles, attract Byelorussian youth for various BNR tasks. Agent candidates thus become available to the BNR for hazardous operational missions. With a ready pool of agent personnel available, the BNR can expand its penetration operations, establish closer contact with, and provide greater support to the resistance efforts inside the Byelorussian S.S.R. Expanded penetration operations will permit recruitment of new members on the inside, thereby intensifying the resistance efforts.

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COPY 5 OF 5 Copies

ack 75
2/10/53

(3) Iron Curtain Distribution:

With certain modifications both "The Fatherland" and "The Hornet" can be used for dissemination behind the Iron Curtain. If infiltration routes and methods are established, distribution of both publications behind the Iron Curtain could be attempted when deemed practicable.

It is desired that C.I.A. influence over the Byelorussian emigre element, exercised through the subsidization of the two publications, be continued. The two publications are one of the means presently available to C.I.A. for exploiting and expanding the anti-Soviet Byelorussian resistance efforts. Through its financial support, the United States is afforded the opportunity of influencing the formation of BNR policies which direct and mold emigre opinion. Continued subsidization makes the BNR more susceptible to cooperation with C.I.A. in the performance of the above three functions and permits future exploitation for operations not yet envisioned.

3. Proposal

a. Statement of the Proposal: Pursuant to authority granted with approval of the USSR Fiscal 1953 Country Program, it is proposed that the sum of \$15,400 be authorized to continue subsidization of "The Fatherland" and "The Hornet" through FY 1953.

b. Background of the Project: The facilities of the BNR are being exploited by C.I.A. to develop U.S. political and psychological warfare capabilities for use against the USSR in general and against the Soviet regime in the Byelorussian S.S.R. in particular.

The BNR claims to be the legal government of the independent republic of Byelorussia. Under the leadership of Nikolai ABRAMCHIK, it consists of approximately 150 official members residing in Western Europe, the United States, and South America. It is considered to be the most unified and most disciplined of all the Byelorussian political organizations.

As the most powerful Byelorussian political emigre organization, the BNR wields great influence over emigre opinion. Continued control over the Byelorussian emigration would make a direct contribution toward achieving SR Division objectives. It is hoped that these objectives with regard to the Byelorussian emigration will be achieved through the dissemination of "The Fatherland" and "The Hornet".

"The Fatherland" first appeared in print approximately five years ago, but until C.I.A. financial backing was granted in June 1951, it was published at irregular intervals. It appeared only whenever the BNR was able to accumulate sufficient funds for the subsequent issue. Since receipt of

subsidization it has been published weekly. The paper maintains high journalistic standards and, according to various reports emanating from Byelorussian circles, is very favorably regarded.

"The Hornet" was established as an adjunct of "The Fatherland" and originally subsidized on a trial basis. The first issue of the satirical magazine appeared in August 1952. Because of its popular style and format it is well suited for behind-Curtain distribution.

c. Current Status of the Project: The circulation of the two publications is approximately 3,000 and 2,000 respectively. Approximately one-half of the total circulation of "The Fatherland" is now being distributed among emigre groups in Germany, with the other half being disseminated in France, Belgium, England, Canada, South America, Australia, and the United States. Distribution of "The Hornet", which continues to be published on a trial basis, is to date confined principally to Byelorussian groups in Europe.

The two publications have been subsidized from developmental and FI funds since 1951. It is now necessary to formalize the subsidies under the PP portion of the joint project. The FI portion of project AEQUOR was renewed for the first half of fiscal year 1953 on 4 December 1952; request for the second half of fiscal year 1953 was submitted on 19 February 1953.

d. Relation of Other Projects: AEQUOR is the sole USSR project implementing the Byelorussian operational program which is a portion of the USSR FY 1953 Country Program.

4. Operational Outline

a. Area of Operations: Both publications are printed in Munich, Germany, under the supervision of the field case officer.

b. Duration of the Project: It is contemplated that "The Fatherland" and "The Hornet" will be subsidized indefinitely providing results desired by C.I.A. are forthcoming.

c. Cover and Security: The two publications appear as official organs of the BNR. There is no reason to believe that the Byelorussian emigration suspects the publications to be anything but organs of the BNR. The employees of the publications are unwitting of C.I.A. interest and are therefore in no position to compromise the subsidization. Funds granted by C.I.A. to the BNR for the printing of "The Fatherland" and "The Hornet" are explained to the Byelorussian emigration as emanating from normal contributions received from people interested in the realization of Byelorussian independence. The case officer delivers monthly subsidies to a

cutout, who has full operational clearance, for transmittal to the publication staff. Attempt will be made to obtain clearances on members of the publication staff.

d. Risks Involved: Three members of the BNR are aware of the fact that C.I.A. is supplying funds for the two publications. To date there have been no indications of security violations.

e. Operational Control: Operational control is maintained by C.I.A. through the field case officer who transmits funds to a representative of the BNR at specified intervals and receives financial accountings of expenditures. C.I.A. controls the publications by supplying approximately 90% of the total operating funds. The BNR, when granted subsidization for the publications, agreed to accept C.I.A. suggestions concerning editorial policies, thereby enhancing the achievement of C.I.A.'s desired ends among the Byelorussian emigre groups. To date both publications have been responsive to suggestions offered. Their editorial policies have been, more or less, consonant with our desires.

f. Personnel:

SR Division:

(1) Chief, SR : []
(2) Chief, SR/3 : []
(3) Chief, SR/3-W2 : []
(4) Case Officer : []

Field:

Case Officer: []
Editor : (Name withheld)
Man. Editor : " "
Secretary : " "
Typist : " "
Wrapper : " "
Cutout : " "

g. Support Plan: None required.

h. Communications Plans: No requirements.

i. Evaluation: The activities undertaken under Project AEQUOR will be continuously reviewed and appraised by Headquarters and Field PP and FI case officers to insure the continued accomplishment of project objectives.

Effectiveness of the project will be determined from the number and quality of agent candidates which the BNR will be able to supply C.I.A. in the future.

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j. Intelligence By-Product: The PP portion of AEGUOR yields no positive or operational intelligence by-product. Intelligence exploitation is carried out under the FI portion of the project.

5. Budget Data: A breakdown of the cost of continuing the PP portion of the project during fiscal year 1953 is as follows:

	<u>Staff</u>	<u>"Hornet"</u>	<u>"Fatherland"</u>	<u>Total</u>
Printing	- -	200	2,500	2,700
Editor	600	- -	- -	600
Man. Editor	450	- -	- -	450
Secretary	250	- -	- -	250
Wrapper	100	- -	- -	100
Postage	600	- -	- -	600
Paper	- -	60	180	240
Rental	120	- -	- -	120
Typist	70	- -	- -	70
Plates	- -	200	- -	200
Circulation	<u>70</u>	<u>- -</u>	<u>- -</u>	<u>70</u>
TOTAL	<u>2,260</u>	<u>460</u>	<u>2,680</u>	<u>5,400</u>

5,400 DM = \$1285 per month = \$15,400 per year

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AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS FOR CONTINUING PROJECTS--FY 1953

<u>AEQUOR</u>	<u>#3445-51-002</u>	<u>Sub-project Cryptonym</u>	<u>Allotment Account No.</u>
<u>Project Cryptonym</u>	<u>Allotment Account No.</u>	<u>Sub-project Cryptonym</u>	<u>Allotment Account No.</u>

[_____] Case Officer [_____] Branch Chief

A. PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

(Indicate number and type of personnel required and estimated total compensation for salary, allowances, travel and related employee benefits. Additional information necessary for complete understanding must be attached.)

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Compensation</u>
Staff Employees	_____	\$ _____
Staff Agents	_____	_____
Career Agents	_____	_____
Agents	_____	_____
Consultants	_____	_____
Detailed Personnel	_____	_____
Miscellaneous	<u>5</u>	<u>4,200</u>
TOTAL:	<u>5</u>	TOTAL COMPENSATION: \$ <u>4,200</u>

B. SUPPLIES, MATERIEL, AND EQUIPMENT

(Indicate amounts in applicable spaces below. A complete supporting list of each category must be attached.)

Commo	\$ _____	Quartermaster supplies	\$ _____
Medical	_____	Special devices	_____
Chemical	_____	Other supplies	<u>2,944</u>
Ordnance	_____	Other equipment	_____
		TOTAL:	\$ <u>2,944</u>

C. OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

(A complete explanation and breakdown of all such expenses must be attached.)

TOTAL: \$ 8,256

D. SUBSIDY OR PROPRIETARY PAYMENTS

(A complete explanation and breakdown of all such payments must be attached.)

TOTAL: \$ 15,400.

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED FOR FY 1953: \$ 15,400.

(APPROVED) (DISAPPROVED) (APPROVED) (DISAPPROVED)

Division Chief

ADPC

S E C R E T

Security Information

TO : Chief, SR Division 27 March 1953
ATTN : Peter P. Kapusta, SR/3
FROM : Assistant Director for Communications
SUBJECT: Project AEQUOR (PP Portion)

1. Subject project has been reviewed by this Office. No Communications facilities beyond those already existing will be required in support of this project.

2. It is intended that this memorandum shall accompany subject project when presented for approval in lieu of a Communications Annex for the project.

FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNICATIONS:

Chief [] Projects Branch

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HYKINGSIAN OPERATIONAL PROGRAM
Revised Budget

I. Project ARBOR
(monthly expenditures in \$M)

	<u>Staff</u>	<u>"Hornet"</u>	<u>"The Fatherland"</u>	<u>Total</u>
Printing	255	200	2,500	2,700
Editor	450	---	---	600
Man. Editor	250	---	---	450
Secretary	100	---	---	250
Wrapper	600	---	---	600
Postage	150	40	180	210
Paper	70	---	---	120
Rental	---	---	---	70
Typist	---	250	---	200
Plates	---	---	---	70
Circulation	---	---	---	---
TOTAL	2,810	440	2,680	5,690

Handwritten notes in margins:
 - Right margin: 2,700, 600, 450, 250, 1,000, 400, 410, 120, 70, 200, 120, 115, 579
 - Under "Hornet": 130, 200, 530
 - Under "The Fatherland": 2,500, 280, 2,980
 - Under "Circulation": 120, 195, 245

\$400 DM = \$1285 per month = \$15,420 per year

1954. 5795 DM per month

*Personnel 1645 DM per mo = \$47
 Materials 1210 DM per mo = 34
 Publications 240 " = 6
 Proprietors 270 " = 77
 \$1,652*

*Approved
in principle*

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