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30 January 1958

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief, FI/OPS/Projects Branch

SUBJECT : Project AEQUOR, Amendment thereto

REFERENCES : a. SR/DOB Memo. 668, dated 14 March, 1957, to Chief, FI, Paragraph 2

b. AC/SR Memo. to Chief Plans, OSO, dated 12 June, 1952, paragraphs 1, 2, and 3.

1. Request is hereby tendered for the authority to receive and expend the following sum of money:

DEATH BENEFITS:	Two agents (AECAMPOSANTO 6 and 8) at Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) each	\$20,000.00
EXPENSES	: Travel of AECAMBISTA -4 from Paris to New York and return in order to receive the above sum and set up a non-profit corporation to handle it. Also travel expenses of an SR Case Officer to New York and return to assist AECAMBISTA-4.	<u>1,000.00</u>
TOTAL REQUESTED:		\$21,000.00

2. Reference b above was approved 17 June 1952 by ADSO per request of AC/SR, that the death benefits be increased from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 for each agent. Reference a above, concurred in by AC/FI/OPS and approved by AC/FI, delineates the sum and the beneficiary of the death benefits.

3. Recapitulation: The death benefit is payable to the beneficiaries of AECAMPOSANTO 5 and 8 under the terms of an agreement entered into between the Central Intelligence Agency and the agents prior to their dispatch in August, 1952. The terms of the agreement stipulated that the insurance would be paid to the beneficiary, if, after two years from the date of the last contact, no further communication was received; it would then be presumed that the agents were dead. The last contact was in January 1955.

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4. Starting on 19 December 1956, a series of articles appeared in the "Komsomolskaya Pravda" which revealed that one of the three surviving members of AEQUOR Team II, AECAMPOSANTO 9, had been captured but was now "gainfully employed" in the USSR after having recanted his traitorous "sins". Further, the story was written in such a vague manner as to indicate that the Soviets were aware of AECAMPOSANTO 6 and 8 but nothing was revealed as to their status. Insurance payment on the two missing agents was deferred for one year after a discussion with the Office of the General Counsel, based upon the premise that if they were alive they would attempt to re-establish contact. No such contact has been received.

5. In order to obviate any allegations of personal profit, the beneficiary agreed to set up a non-profit organization which will aid the Byelorussian National Council (BNR) in its anti-communist struggle.

6. [] of the Office of General Counsel, has advised us orally that the payment of these death benefits is a legal and moral obligation.

CONCUR []
Chief, FI/OPS Division

[]
[]

* Concur as to Division determination that death benefits are payable in accordance with the terms of the agent agreement.

* APPROVED: []
Chief, FI

DATE: 13 Feb 58

[]
Assistant General Counsel

I would urge the Division to secure [] in the OGC's, written concurrence in our making these payments.

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