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REQUEST FOR PP PROJECT RENEWAL

DIVISION PROJECT CLEARANCE SHEET

1. ACTION: Request for Renewal, FY 1960

A. PROJECT CRYPTONYM: AEQUOR
B. DIVISION: SR
C. BRANCH: SR/3
D. DESK: SR/3-PP
E. CASE OFFICER NAME AND TELEPHONE EXTENSION: [] 4387

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3020
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

2. DIVISION CONCURRENCES:

<u>[]</u> Chief, SR/3	<u>21 Jan 1960</u> DATE
<u>[]</u> Chief, SR/SS	<u>8 Feb 1960</u> DATE
<u>[]</u> Chief, SR/PP	<u>8 February 1960</u> DATE
<u>[]</u> C R/Operations	<u>16 Feb 1960</u> DATE
<u>[]</u> Chief, SR	<u>16 Feb 60</u> DATE

3. APPROVAL:

[]
Chief, DDP/PG

11 March 60
DATE

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RENEWAL OF PROJECT AEQUOR

1. TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED: []

2. AMOUNT IN WHICH PROJECT WAS INCLUDED IN THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAM: []

~~Not specified under~~ []

3. STATEMENT OF FUNDS APPROVED AND OBLIGATED BY FISCAL YEAR SINCE PROJECT INITIATION:

	<u>OBLIGATED</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>
1953	[]	Unknown
1954		
1955		
1956		
1957		
1958		
1959		

4. PROJECT DATA:

a. Current Objectives:

The overall purpose of Project AEQUOR has been redefined as follows:

To exploit the AECAMBISTA 1 group as a Byelorussian anti-Soviet organization for accomplishment of the following tasks.

- (1) To disaffect the Byelorussian people with the Soviet regime and the Communist Party and system.
- (2) To use AECAMBISTA 1 as an instrumentality for intelligence gathering operations inside the BSSR and in other parts of the USSR and for contact operations with Soviet citizens traveling abroad.
- (3) To use AECAMBISTA 1 for dissipating the energies and interest of the RIS and as a means for ascertaining the nature of RIS activities.

b. Changes in Operational Mechanism:

At the beginning of January 1959 AECAMBISTA 1 began transmitting Byelorussian broadcasts over Radio Madrid at its own expense. (See paragraph 4 d for details.)

c. Intelligence Production:

There was no intelligence production per se in FY 1959. There were no funds provided for intelligence gathering activities; practically the

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whole of the AEQUOR operational program was printing and distribution of the AECAMBISTA 1 newspaper. (The exception, the AETRELLIS 1 operation is discussed separately below.)

d. Analysis of Effectiveness:

(1) Chronological List of:

- (a) Significant operational events of previous fiscal year: The principal activity of AECAMBISTA 1 covered by AEQUOR Project and the only activity for which financial support was provided by KUBARK was the printing and distribution of the newspaper, a four-page weekly published in Munich. The newspaper is circulated throughout the world via international mail and is printed in editions of approximately 2000 copies, at least 200 of which are distributed to Byelorussians behind the Iron Curtain, both within the BSSR and Poland, some directly to individuals and others via Byelorussian agencies and institutions.

Following lengthy negotiations with the Spanish Government, on 1 January 1959 AECAMBISTA 1 initiated its first broadcast over Radio Madrid. Fifteen minute programs are transmitted twice daily. Two AECAMBISTA 1 adherents prepare the programs under extremely primitive conditions, but reports from legal travelers indicate that the programs are received at least as far as the Byelorussian colonies in eastern Poland. It is likely that they are also heard in Byelorussia. Soviet jamming is said to be erratic and only moderately effective. The cost of the broadcasts is borne entirely by AECAMBISTA 1, although KUBARK support has been requested.

In April 1959 a Polish Byelorussian, AETRELLIS 1, while visiting his brother in PBERIME, was met and recruited by a Headquarters case officer through the auspices of AECAMBISTA 11. Either through bad faith or bad planning on the part of AECAMBISTA 11, the case officer found himself with insufficient time to accomplish his objectives. It was later reported by mail from a relative in Poland that AETRELLIS 1 had been arrested on arrival in Poland by the security authorities. He was subsequently released, although under what conditions is not known. This unsatisfactory exercise, to which finish has not yet been written, is not cited as a model for future AECAMBISTA 1-KUBARK KUTUBE operations, but it has served the purpose of pointing up potential pitfalls in future collaboration, particularly with AECAMBISTA 11.

AECAMBISTA 4, President of AECAMBISTA 1 and PA of the AEQUOR Project, is also President of the Paris Bloc (a political center for non-Russian ethnic groups) and, as such, he

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is a participant, with other members of AECAMBISTA 1, in various conferences, conventions and meetings throughout the world. Many members of the group, unpaid as they are for their AECAMBISTA 1 activities, are regular employees of such organizations as Radio Liberty.

(b) Target Actions and Reactions Attributable to Project Operations:

The following reactions to AECAMBISTA 1 activity were received during the year.

Various issues of the Byelorussian version of the "Return to the Homeland" newspaper have carried heavy attacks against AECAMBISTA 1 and AECAMBISTA 4 in particular.

AECAMBISTA 1 receives a constant trickle of letters, particularly through its newspaper distributor in Sweden, from Byelorussians in Poland who have received the newspaper. They are almost unanimously favorable, and the writers repeatedly request continuation of the operation. There has been no response directly from the BSSR, although Byelorussians in Poland claim that copies of the newspaper and other literature sent to them find their way into the BSSR proper.

Issue No. 5/294 of the Byelorussian "Return to the Homeland" contained an article ostensibly written by the well-known Byelorussian author Aleksey Kulakovskiy in which he denounced the AECAMBISTA 1 newspaper for printing in installments his own book Dabra Seltsy, a scathing attack on the Soviet agricultural system. Apparently Kulakovskiy was pressured into disowning his own work and denouncing anyone who touched it.

An article in the No. 3 issue of "Communist Byelorussia" makes direct reference to the KUCAGE activities of AECAMBISTA 1. N. Khalipov, Chief of the Division of Propaganda and Agitation of the CP Central Committee for Byelorussia, writes the following in an article entitled "Political Education of the Laborers":

"In the ideological activities which must be conducted at the present time, the battle against bourgeois ideology and against the remnants of the past in the consciences of the people and their way of life acquires a special significance. In view of the exacerbated ideological battle taking place in the international arena and because of the frenzied attempts on the part of imperialist circles and their ideologists to widen their pernicious influence via various media (newspapers, radio broadcasts, mailing of literature, rumors and calumnious fiction), one of the most important problems

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of all workers on the ideological front is the intensification of political activity among all levels of the population and the indefatigable unmasking of the reactionary anti-national substance of the bourgeois ideology and morals...."

All of the above types of activity in parentheses fall within the framework of the AECAMBISTA 1 KUCAGE program. AECAMBISTA 1 continues to remain the target of Soviet KUCAGE efforts, an indication that the AECAMBISTA 1 emigration continues to be a recognized threat to the Soviet Union.

(2) Pertinence to RMD:

The most active elements of AEQUOR Project are currently located in Germany and to a lesser extent in France and Belgium. The AEQUOR tasks listed in paragraph 4 a above are compatible with the objectives and tasks of the RMD for Germany dated 15 July 1958 and also with the SR Division Operational Program for FY 1960.

e. Cover, Control and Security:

The AECAMBISTA 1 publication appears as the official organ of the group. There is no reason to believe that the Byelorussian emigration suspects the publication of being subject to any outside influence or support. Employees of the publication are unwitting of KUBARK or ODYOKE interest and are therefore incapable of offering any risk of compromise to the relationship. Funds granted to AECAMBISTA 1 for publication of the newspaper are explained to the Byelorussian emigration as emanating from AECAMBISTA 1 coffers, augmented by contributions from people interested in the realization of Byelorussian freedom from the Communist yoke. The field case officer delivers monthly subsidies to a cutout who has full operational approval for transmittal to the publications staff. Only three members of AECAMBISTA 1 are aware of KUBARK interest and the fact that the funds for the publication come from KUBARK. There have been no disposal problems and none are anticipated. Witting members of the subsidy effort are dedicated members of AECAMBISTA 1 with such nationalistic tendencies as virtually to preclude them from making any detrimental disclosures that would jeopardize their cause.

In the case of the newspaper, operational contact is maintained by KUBARK through the field case officer, who transmits the funds to a representative of AECAMBISTA 1 at specified intervals and receives financial accountings of expenditures. KUBARK controls the publication by supplying approximately 90% of the total operating funds. AECAMBISTA 1, upon being granted subsidization for the newspaper, agreed to accept KUBARK guidance in editorial policy, thereby providing KUBARK with a voice within the Byelorussian emigration and with a potential for speaking to Byelorussians at home. To date AECAMBISTA 1 has been readily responsible to editorial suggestions from KUBARK .

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It has been noted that AECAMBISTA 4, the PA, has never undergone an LCFLUTTER interview. Although his reluctance, due to his exalted position within his own organization and within the Byelorussian emigration, is understandable, at the same time it is hoped that renewed operational interest in his organization on the part of KUBARK can be used to persuade him to take the test. Various AEQUOR operations have come to sudden, unexpected ends, and it is felt necessary to obtain reassurance on all security aspects of the organization. If, in the final analysis, AECAMBISTA 4 remains adamant on this score, he should at least be cut out of purely operational matters.

f. Assessment of Indigenous Agents:

The Principal Agent of AEQUOR Project is AECAMBISTA 4. He is seen by the field case officer approximately once a month, unless developments necessitate more frequent meetings. In addition, AECAMBISTA 4 has access to a second case officer in the ODYOKE Embassy in Paris. AECAMBISTA 4 is deeply ideologically motivated; he is an ardent nationalist, intensely anti-Communist and anti-Soviet. He is capable in the performance of his obligations and responsibilities as a PA. He is limited seriously by the paucity of funds allotted to the project. Control during the reported period has continued to be easily exercised over him.

Other members of AECAMBISTA 1 accept the authority of AECAMBISTA 4 and his orders with little or no question, although the organization cannot be considered a tight operational unit at the present time. Activities are limited in number, and relatively little is asked of the members except for financial contributions. However, it is believed that greater demand for operational discipline within the organization would meet with a satisfactory response.

g. American Project Personnel:

Project AEQUOR currently requires the part-time services of three staff officers:

1 field case officer in Munich
1 field case officer []
1 Headquarters case Officer []

h. Liaison with Intelligence Services: Not applicable

i. Interagency coordination: Not applicable

j. Plans for Ensuing Year:

Doubts which might once have been held about the importance of the nationalities question in the USSR are being rapidly dispelled. Numerous reports concerning the existence of national feeling in various areas

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of the USSR have been received through sources unconnected with any emigre group. It would seem wise to play discreetly upon and exploit anti-Soviet dissidence based on nationality, increasing and aggravating internal dissatisfaction and tension within the BSSR and at the same time attempting to create a climate favorable for KUTUBE recruitment of non-Russian Soviet citizens. Byelorussia is an important strategic area and is populated by the third largest national group in the Soviet Union. Furthermore, it is an area from which very little positive intelligence is being received, despite the importance of area targets. Since AECAMBISTA 1 has been and continues to be willing to collaborate in depth with KUBARK, attainment of the above KUTUBE-KUCAGE objectives would dictate serious consideration of a major effort to utilize the group to the greatest extent of its potential.

It is believed that AECAMBISTA 1 possesses potential previously unexploited (partly from lack of funds) in the REDSKIN field, i.e., contacting Soviets traveling abroad and mounting legal traveler operations into the BSSR.

In the KUCAGE field we may encourage and sponsor the printing by AECAMBISTA 1 of Byelorussian anti-Communist works other than periodicals, particularly those written within the BSSR but banned there. Two such works are currently being considered. (It should be noted that even the Soviets find it necessary to acknowledge the importance of the Byelorussian language to the extent of printing approximately eighty periodicals alone in Byelorussian.)

k. Estimated Expenses:

Subsidy of the Newspaper:

(2 Field Agents	[]
Office	1000.00	
Travel	1000.00	
Supplies	1000.00	
Editing Fees	1000.00	
Printing	7000.00	

~~REDSKIN and other type KUTUBE activities as yet not evolved:~~

ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS TOTAL

[]
[]
1,000.00
[]

1. Field Direction:

The present field case officer is [] at the Munich Operations Base.

5. D & TO Activities: Not applicable.

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(When Filled In)

22 January 1960

PROJECT FINANCIAL DATA

PROJECT CRYPTONYM

AEQUOR

FISCAL PERIOD COVERED

1 July 1959 THRU 30 JUNE 1960

MAY NOT EXCEED SECRET CLASSIFICATION

RESPONSIBLE STAFF OR DIVISION

SR DIVISION

POINT OF CONTROL (Hdqs. or name of Field Station)

A. PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

INDICATE NUMBER AND TYPE OF PERSONNEL REQUIRED AND ESTIMATED TOTAL COMPENSATION FOR SALARY, ALLOWANCES, AND RELATED EMPLOYEE BENEFITS. INCLUDE EVERYONE PAID FROM PROJECT. ATTACH PERSONNEL ANNEX IF NEW PROJECT T/O OR T/O ADJUSTMENTS ARE INVOLVED.

TYPE	NUMBER		ESTIMATED COMPENSATION		
	U.S. PERSONNEL	FOREIGN NATIONAL	BASE SALARY	ALL OTHER	TOTAL
STAFF EMPLOYEES					
STAFF AGENTS					
CAREER AGENTS					
CONTRACT AGENTS					
DETAILED PERSONNEL					
MILITARY					
ALL OTHER					
TOTAL A.					

B. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

INDICATE AMOUNT REQUIRED IN APPLICABLE SPACES. IN THOSE PROJECTS WHERE THERE IS AN UNUSUAL REQUIREMENT FOR AGENCY SUPPORT, OR WHERE LONG LEAD-TIME ITEMS ARE REQUIRED, APPROPRIATE ANNEXES SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR ATTACHMENT TO THE PROJECT.

COMMO	CHEMICAL	QUARTERMASTER	OTHER SUPPLIES	SERVICES
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
MEDICAL	ORDNANCE	SPEC. DEVICES	OTHER EQPT.	SPACE
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

TOTAL B.

C. OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

INDICATE VOLUME AND NATURE OF EXPENSES.

Administrative costs.

TOTAL C.

1,000.00

D. SUBSIDY OR PROPRIETARY PAYMENTS

IF FUNDS ARE TO BE TURNED OVER TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS IN LARGE LUMP SUMS TO BE EXPENDED BY THEM AT THEIR DISCRETION TO ACCOMPLISH AN AGREED-UPON OBJECTIVE, ATTACH ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN OR FISCAL ANNEX, AS APPROPRIATE. LIST GENERAL CATEGORIES OF EXPENSES TO BE COVERED BY SUBSIDY OR PROPRIETARY PAYMENTS, INCLUDING ESTIMATED DOLLAR AMOUNTS FOR EACH CATEGORY.

Details under this heading as reflected in Project Outline.
Accountings in accordance with approved Administrative Plan.

TOTAL D.

TOTAL FUND REQUIREMENTS (A+B+C+D) \$

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E. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

STATE TYPES OF CURRENCIES NEEDED, IN UNITS PER MONTH, AND APPROXIMATE DOLLAR VALUE.

PROPOSED FUNDING PLAN (How and where the payment or advance will be made).

F. ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS

TO BE COMPLETED FOR DIRECT PROJECTS ONLY. ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUBSIDY, PROPRIETARY, OR OPERATIONAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN OR FISCAL ANNEX, AS APPROPRIATE.

DESCRIBE TYPE OF ACCOUNTING TO BE OBTAINED AND ANY SPECIAL PROCEDURES OR INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE SUBMISSION OR RECORDING OF THOSE ACCOUNTINGS.

THIS PROJECT FINANCIAL DATA SHEET REFLECTS THE TYPE AND DEGREE OF SUPPORT REQUIRED FOR THIS PROJECT.

DATE

GENERAL STAFF OR AREA DIVISION CHIEF OF SUPPORT

APPROVING AUTHORITY

DATE

PP/OPS/PP REF. NO.

SIGNATURE

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