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11 December 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Meeting with AECASSOWARY/15

1. During his recent visit in Washington, AECASSOWARY/2 was asked to suggest a candidate for the position of principal agent or operations chief for the U. S. and Western Hemisphere. He proposed AECASSOWARY/15, currently employed by the CI Staff in a contract capacity. AECASSOWARY/15 provides the advantages of a good working record, lengthy tenure with AECASSOWARY/1 and considerable operational experience. In addition, he is well situated geographically, residing in Washington.

2. Having recommended him AECASSOWARY/2 had also tentatively propositioned AECASSOWARY/15. AECASSOWARY/15 had not given an immediate answer, but had asked for time to think the offer over.

3. AECASSOWARY/15 was considered a satisfactory candidate at Headquarters, and it was therefore felt that we should take some part in helping him to make up his mind, to exert our influence in order to obtain an affirmative decision. Further, we wished to let him know that he would not be cutting himself off from the Agency, although he would be losing his contract status.

4. As a result, on 9 December 1959 AECASSOWARY/15 was met by [] [] (AECASSOWARY/15's current case officer from the CI Staff) and [] [] at the Hot Shoppe at the Virginia end of the 14th Street Bridge. Following an exchange of pleasantries, AECASSOWARY/15 was reminded of AECASSOWARY/2's proposition and told that we wished to discuss it with him, letting him know our views and what it would mean for him if he were to accept the job. The following was stated:

It had been mutually recognized by AECASSOWARY/2 and by us that AECASSOWARY/2 was overburdened and was unable to give operational matters the attention they deserved. It was therefore mutually agreed that the appointment of an operations chief in the United States would be necessary. The duties of such a man would involve the running of AECASSOWARY/1 clandestine operations in North America and perhaps even in Latin America, if sufficient potential were to be found there. The operational chief would be in day-to-day contact with an Agency case officer, but would ~~involve~~ also frequently travel to New York and perhaps elsewhere.

SECRET

SECRET

This operations Chief would also be the logical man to handle for AECASSOWARY/1 the activities of an European principal agent, who will also be appointed soon. Both AECASSOWARY/2 and we viewed this position as being a key one and deserving of an able individual, and we were pleased with AECASSOWARY/2's recommendation. While we were unable to discuss the question of salary very specifically, the job would probably call for more than he was currently getting, and it would be a step forward from the point of view of his own career.

4. [] stated that, although he hated to lose AECASSOWARY/15, he thought that a satisfactory replacement could be found, and that a release from the contract could be arranged. He did not want to stand in AECASSOWARY/15's way if the proposed job appealed to him.

5. AECASSOWARY/15 accepted the above with apparent interest, but he was loath to make any commitment. He stated that he wished to have some time to consider the proposal further and he wished to discuss it again with AECASSOWARY/2. He was told that this was perfectly permissible, and we expected him to give the matter some thought. We expect to arrange for a meeting with all interested parties within a week or two.

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[] and [] met with AECASS/15 on 12 Dec. A/15 said at that meeting that he had almost decided to take the job.

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