

~~TOP SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

PROJECT OUTLINE

CRYPTONYM: AEBASIN #1
DIVISION: SR
STATION: Washington, D.C.

HEADQUARTERS CASE OFFICER:
Room No.: 2508-J
Extension: 3264
Date: 26 May 1953

The attached Project Outline is presented for approval.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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Chief, SR Division

5 Aug 53
Date

*Declassified to
Public -
January 1990*

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PROJECT OUTLINE

CRYPTONYM: AEBASIN FI/1

change name

PART I

1. Area of Operations

Estonian SSR and vicinity

2. Purpose

- a. Procurement of operational and strategic intelligence in the Estonian SSR.
- b. Establishment of support facilities in the Estonian SSR for the attainment of long-range intelligence objectives as defined in reference a. below.

3. References

- a. USSR Country Strategic Plan (Top Secret document Ref. #59961, 1 May 1952)
- b. AEBASIN Basic Plan (Top Secret document, Reg. #86981)

4. Background

In May 1952, LCHOMELY recruitment efforts in Sweden were canceled due to the unfavorable character of persons involved in recruiting, including controversial Estonian politicians. The agent candidates who had been spotted prior to May under LCHOMELY declined to undertake the mission in October 1952. It was then considered necessary to concentrate all efforts for AEBASIN agent recruitment in the U.S. The restrictions imposed upon the recruitment of FI agents in the U.S. for AEBASIN area necessitated the search for suitable assets in other areas. Since the Estonian emigre pool in Sweden was still considerable, a new approach to recruitment, well compartmented from political activity, was initiated in December 1952. A recruitment plan for AEBASIN candidates which specifically eliminated the LCHOMELY mistakes was submitted to the [] [] The plan was activated by the Principal Estonian Redsox Agent in Stockholm, who proceeded with the recruitment task in his area in an efficient and secure manner. So far the results produced by this Principal Agent through the [] [] have provided FI agent assets sufficient for the AEBASIN FI Project I.

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5. Objectives

To establish in the Estonian SSR covert resident agent personnel who can assist agents in the procurement of operational and strategic intelligence, and provide assistance in agent infiltration and exfiltration.

6. Targets

- Bring up to date with latest "Targets" in our file.*
- a. Specific intelligence targets in the Estonian SSR are outlined in (1) Top Secret SR Memorandum, Control #73433, 21 March 1952, "Intelligence Targets for 1952," and (2) Top Secret SR Memorandum, Control #84795, 24 November 1952, "Priority Targets in the Baltic Republics, East Prussia, Karelo-Finnish SSR, Murmansk and Leningrad Area."
 - b. Other targets will be included according to the requirements from the JCS and according to the capabilities of the operating agents.

7. Tasks

- a. Establishment of infiltrated agents as legal residents.
- b. Establishment of W/T and S/W communication with the Field Base from the Estonian SSR.
- c. Establishment of support points in the Estonian SSR and utilization of these points for procurement of operational and strategic intelligence. *specify support*
- d. Finding of suitable locations and means of infiltration and exfiltration from the Estonian SSR of non-American personnel.
- e. Location of resistance nuclei that may exist in the Estonian SSR which may be utilized in support of FI operations and who can assist in the coverage of long range intelligence objectives.

8. Persomnel

a. Pseudonyms or cryptonyms

Bring up to date.

(1) AELUNG

~~(2) AENOTE~~

~~(3) AEPAIN~~

~~(4) AESKIP~~

(2) AETAXI

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- (S) AESTEM
- (S) RNCHANGE

b. Personal data

(1) **AESTEM**: Principal Agent. **AESTEM** is a former Estonian Air Force colonel who, while still a high school student, began his fight against the Communists in 1918 as a volunteer in the Estonian Army. He is 54 years old, a graduate of Estonian Military Staff College and speaks, reads, and writes Estonian, English, German and Russian. He acquired some intelligence experience as Chief of the Estonian Voluntary Self Defense Corps and Estonian Traffic Police during the German occupation of Estonia in 1941-1944. From February 1945 to April 1945, Subject worked with the German ABWEHR on the Eastern front. During the years of 1929, 1932 and 1939, Subject was assigned by the Estonian Government to the British Royal Air Force for the purpose of taking various courses and for the purchase of airplanes and equipment. Subject holds an important post in the Estonian Veterans Union in New York City, is a member of the Estonian National Committee in the U. S., is a member of Anglo-Estonian Cultural Society and a member of the Executive Board of the Estonian Relief Committee, Inc. in New York City. His contacts and connections with the Estonian emigre organizations provide him good access to the potential agent pool for **AEBASIN**. **AESTEM** will be given training in spotting, recruitment, CE operations and SI.

(2) **AELJUNG**: Agent Trainer. **AELJUNG** is a former Estonian General Staff officer with a rank of captain up to 1940. He had an extensive experience in training agents for behind the Soviet line missions with Finnish and German intelligence during 1940-1945. He was recruited by the CIA in 1951 as a principal LCHOMELY agent instructor in Germany. He was transferred to the U. S. in February 1953 in the same capacity for **AEBASIN** project. **AELJUNG** speaks, reads and writes Estonian, English, German and Russian and has an excellent area knowledge as well as the understanding of handling native-born Estonian personnel. As a reputable and patriotic Estonian officer, he can contribute substantially to the agent motivation and psychological build up in addition to trade and fieldcraft training. **AELJUNG** will also serve in the capacity of an interpreter to the American Commo instructors.

(3) **AENOTE** is employed as a junior non-American **AEBASIN** instructor. He is a native-born Estonian. The Subject has worked for five years for CIA and predecessor organizations in Europe and

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received formal tradecraft by OTS after being recruited in the U. S. AENOTE has acquired a considerable knowledge about the Soviet reality by serving in the Soviet armed forces and labor camps during 1941-1945.

- (4) AEPALM (Agent) is a native-born Estonian with frontline experience in Estonian military units under German command from 1943-July 1945. He is 26 years old and has signed an agreement to go to the Estonian SSR as a W/T operator for a two-year period after training in the U. S. His motivation for undertaking the task is that of a patriotic Estonian soldier who wants to continue the fight against the Russians and Communism.
- (5) AESKIP (Agent) is a native-born Estonian, 28 years of age, and has been recruited as a W/T operator for work in the Estonian SSR after complete training in the U. S. AESKIP has had no military training but has been a seaman since 1942, and as a seaman has visited most of the European ports. According to the recruiter's assessment, AESKIP is capable of learning everything that is necessary for the task before him.
- (6) RNCHANGE (Agent) is to be trained as a W/T operator agent for the Estonian SSR. He has many relatives and friends in the target area who probably will provide some support to him and to the other agents. The Subject is 30 years old and a seasoned frontline veteran of the Estonian front during World War II, and has had experience with the Estonian partisan forces. He was recommended by the AEBASIN recruiter as a man with a well-developed character, an old soldier and a bitter enemy of the Communists and Russians; he is undertaking the assignment as an opportunity to work against the Russians in Estonia--an opportunity for which he has waited for a long time.

- (4) AETAXI (Agent), a native born Estonian, 30 years of age, is to be trained as a W/T operator agent for the Estonian SSR. He has relatives and friends whom he hopes to be able to contact for operational support. He has front line experience fighting the USSR with Germany during the war. He and RNCHANGE are friends of long standing and have confidence in each other's ability.

AEPALM was in training from June until October. He was removed from the Project because he did not fit in with the other two men. He is being considered for other projects within the branch. *and was the Special Agent in Charge Nov 1959*

AESKIP was found unacceptable for agent work. He was returned to Sweden and told that, because of improved world conditions ~~truce~~ (truce in Korea) that the proposed missions were cancelled.

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RNCHANGE 30/4/53 JG-5420 #52774

AETAXI 5/6/53 C-20571

10. Cover

The cover used by the case officers in the U. S. in contact with the principal agents, instructor-agents and with agent trainees is that of an unidentified U.S. Government agency. The covert associates are aware of being contacted by the American Secret Service. Agent cover legends will be prepared to fit the specific agent requirements and will be based on available documentation. The Cover Division will provide AESTEM, the Principal Agent, in the U. S. with an appropriate cover for employment. For operational purposes Subject has a natural cover due to his positions in various Estonian emigre organizations. His employment cover with a manufacturer of aircraft parts is in agreement with his profession and training as an airforce officer.

Give on least estimate here to maintain

Review point out how this fits in

11. Contact and Communications

a. There will be direct contact between the agents and the case officer during the training period. Personal contact will be maintained with the Principal Agent and AEBASIN instructors. Through DOB facilities, an emergency contact with AESTEM will be established via a mail box.

b. AESTEM agent will establish his own contacts with the sub-agents in the U. S. and other areas.

c. W/T communication is planned as the primary channel of communication with the agents in the Target area.

d. An alternate or emergency channel of contact will be attempted through S/W channels.

who on above today & what use?

Suggest including

12. Control and Motivation

AESTEM and indigenous instructors (AELUNG and AEBIGE) are physically under U. S. control due to the fact that they have established permanent residence in the U. S. In the case of action agents, they are dependent on the CIA for help in rehabilitation after completion of their missions; their salaries and bonuses remain under Agency control. They are apparently not subordinated to any other government, with the possible exception of future free Estonia. The agents are neither connected with nor owe their loyalty to the old Estonian politicians or diplomats. In the case of AELUNG and AESTEM there is a patriotic officers' desire to continue the battle against the Communists and to liberate Estonia. To be able to work even remotely for this purpose on a full time basis appears to be the primary motive for working with the Agency. Both of these agents realize that the

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defeat of Communism can come only through U. S. leadership as the major world power. ~~NOTE~~ apparently has a definite liking for intelligence work; he also has a desire for the relatively good income derived from employment as an agent instructor. ?

13. Coordination

- a. Coordination of this project has been effected with the Office of Communication, TSS, Procurement and Supply, SR Logistics, SR/DOB, and consultations are in progress with Air and Maritime Support Offices.
- b. All activities under this project which affect the areas of WE and/or WH Divisions' responsibilities are and will continue to be coordinated with these Divisions.
- c. Training of alien instructors and agents has been and will continue to be coordinated with the Office of Training and DOB.
- d. The problems of the entry of aliens has been and will continue to be coordinated with the Alien Affairs Branch, Inspection and Security Office.
- e. Procurement of supplies and equipment has been and will continue to, be coordinated with the Procurement and Supply Office.

14. Timetable

- Primary & alternate drop site 2*
- a. ~~Mission I. The estimated date of engagement of three agents will be about 1 June 1953. The final assessment of the three will take about two weeks. Training will begin about 25 June and will continue through March 31, 1954. The estimated time of agent departure from the U. S. and the beginning of the target mission will be in early spring, 1954. The date of termination for Mission I is estimated to be in summer, 1956.~~
 - b. *ant* Mission II. The estimated date of engagement of three additional agents will be in July 1953. Training of the team will begin about 1 August 1953 and will continue through July 1954. Departure of Mission II from the U. S. and the beginning of the target mission will be in mid-summer, 1954. The mission is estimated to be terminated in the summer of 1956.

~~Infiltration Method:~~ The team will be dropped by air into the Target area.

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Figures for this page can't be furnished
until Logistics gives figures; they don't
want to work up figures until ~~it~~ until
they see the corrected plan *project A*

PART II

15. Estimated Cost

Insert 1-

Object	<u>A</u> Amount author- ized by ADSO or Plans	<u>B</u> Total Allot- ment this fiscal year 1 Feb-30 June	<u>C</u> 1st Amend- ment new Total FY 1 Jul-30 June	<u>D</u> 2nd Amendment New Total FY 1 July-30 June
Compensation	\$37,900.00	\$6,500.00	\$35,000.00	
<i>material (see register's comment)</i> Supplies, Material and Equipment (Incl Comm)				
Travel and Trans- portation				
Operational Expenses				
Bribery and Barter items for operational purposes				
Rubles for operational purposes for three agents*				

*This item was not included in the Basic AEBASIN Plan.

16. Special Problems and Commitments

- a. The Agency is committed to provide assistance for rehabilitation in Sweden or in the Western Hemisphere after satisfactory performance of duty on a two-year mission in the denied area.
- b. Agents who go on missions into the denied area have been promised \$10,000.00 death benefits and \$5,000.00 bonus each after two years of satisfactory duty in the target area.
- c. More stringent border and internal controls as well as a renewed mass deportation of the Estonian population will adversely affect the operations.

Sic!

c. Escrow accounts are authorized for RNCHANGE and AETAXI. During each month of the training period each agent will be paid \$100 in cash and \$250.00 will be deposited in an escrow account. If the agent refuses to go on his mission the amount in escrow will be forfeited. During the period that the agent in on his mission his entire salary will be placed in escrow.