

~~SECRET~~
1953
PROPOSALS FOR RESUMPTION OF CYCLE C

1. At meetings held at Frankfurt on 24 and 25 September, [] informed CAPABLEs 3 and 7 of our decision to postpone the CACCOLA c training cycle, and discussed with them tentative plans for reorganizing the recruitment, training and Ops phases of the CACCOLA Project.

2. The reasons given to CAPABLEs 3 and 7 for postponing the Charlie cycle were substantially the same as those noted in MUNI-5356:

a. Of the agent candidates assessed by us for the cycle, only two or three could qualify in all respects for the work. Two important factors in rejecting candidates were medical and psychological reports. Another was code aptitude, which in general was barely satisfactory.

b. We were not enthusiastic about the panel of CAPABLE 1 instructors nominated for this cycle. CACCOLA 31, we felt was not sufficiently dynamic, nor experienced operationally, to receive the degree of autonomy from the CAPABLE 1 Staff which would be needed both for the security and the efficiency of the Project. [] stressed the fact that CAPABLE 1's chief representative at CACCOLA must be not merely a chief instructor, but must be able to take an active and imaginative part in operational planning and traffic handling without constant recourse to the guidance of CAPABLEs 3 or 7. Whereas these latter would always be consulted on the broad aspects of operations, or on particularly important questions, it would be in the best interests of CAPABLE 1 itself to have on the spot the most experienced and best qualified person possible. [] conceded that CACCOLA 31 was evidently a very good instructor and "headmaster", but pointed out that he did not have the experience or temperament for planning and running operations. As to CACCOLA 32, he appeared to be well versed in many aspects of Soviet Reality, but by his own admission, and by the evidence offered in his biography, was weakest in the part that counted most: illegal living. We also doubted whether he was suited by temperament to the position in which he would be placed. Without the personal appeal which had made CACCOLA 3 such a favorite with the CACCOLA B students, and with what appeared to be not much more talent as a disciplinarian, CACCOLA 32 seemed to us replaceable.

c. The CAPABLE 50 case, which had proved to have wide ramifications, prompted us to halt the Charlie cycle until the extent of compromise of the agent personnel now being considered could be determined. We also wished to inquire into the security aspects of CACCOLA recruitment generally before committing a new cycle to training. With regard to CACCOLA recruitment, we saw the following general problem. On the one hand, it is highly advantageous to have CACCOLA candidates receive Cadre School training. Men who have not been in close touch with anti-Soviet activities, whatever their latent (and vague) desire to participate in them, benefit enormously by undergoing a Cadre School course: they are given a sense of "belonging" and a degree of motivation which is otherwise extremely difficult to instill. Moreover, the Cadre School has steadily been developing as a mechanism for the prescreening of candidates, not only allowing CAPABLE 1 to weed out the more obvious misfits, but permitting the gathering of biographical data which permits KUBARK to run traces before an individual

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

~~SECRET~~
SECRET

is brought face to face with KUBARK case officers or otherwise made witting of ODYOKE interest. On the other hand, the Cadre School is a funnel which under present conditions is not difficult for RIS to monitor, either by planting a CAPABLE 50 at its neck or by penetrating the student body itself. By siphoning CACCOLA candidates from each class of the school, we afford RIS too good an opportunity to spot the individuals selected for CACCOLA.

3. CAPABLES 3 and 7, while not overjoyed at being faced with the problem of redeploying the school staff gathered for Cycle Charlie, did not otherwise voice strenuous objections to postponing the cycle. They did, however, wish to be assured that our intention was indeed to postpone rather than to cut out CACCOLA altogether.

4. In line with discussions held with then made the following proposals for reorganizing the CACCOLA program. It was made clear that these proposals were exploratory only.

a. CAPABLE 1 would provide a top-level CACCOLA representative who would be maximally empowered to act for CAPABLE 1 on Ops planning and traffic handling, and would be responsible as well for the CACCOLA school. CAPABLES 24 and 26 were mentioned as examples of the caliber of men we have in mind.

b. This representative would, if possible, be given training by KUBARK in the US prior to the start of the next cycle.

c. CAPABLE 1 would provide a radio instructor -- either CACCOLA 8 or CAPABLE 42 -- for the school.

d. In order to give the trainees the best possible instruction in Soviet Reality, KUBARK might be able to provide a person better qualified for this task than CACCOLA 32, or anyone else that CAPABLE 1 appears to have available. (COMMENT: We have in mind CAVAN, who it is understood, may be available. Headquarters reaction to his use is solicited.)

e. As regards recruitment, some plan must be worked out either to bypass the Cadre School (admittedly undesirable), or to protect selected candidates from penetrations of the CAPABLE 50 type. At the same time, of course, CI measures with regard to the Cadre School (as to AESAURUS generally) must be thoroughly reviewed and tightened. But no CI measures can by themselves guarantee sufficient security. Something must be done to avoid the "funnel" system of the Cadre School which exists now.

5. The CAPABLES' reactions to these proposals came on the following day, after some evident mulling over. With respect to the reorganization of the CACCOLA training and Ops phases, there were:

a. CAPABLE 1 is in full agreement with the proposal that a top-level operations man should be provided for CACCOLA 1. However, a man of this type, while having over-all responsibility for the CACCOLA school, would not necessarily be the best instructor, nor is it likely that he could devote sufficient time to regular daily instruction if he were also to do his part in Ops planning and traffic handling. If we are content to consider this man a "staff type" rather than a headmaster, CAPABLE 1 could not be happier.

b. CAPABLE 1 was somewhat reluctant to have one of our men replace theirs as instructor on Soviet Reality, but agreed that if our instructor could prepare their men better, other considerations were secondary. They requested, however, that if a decision is made to use the KUBARK instructor, they be given an opportunity to make his acquaintance beforehand.

6. With respect to CACCOLA recruitment, the CAPABLES outlined the following scheme, which of necessity touches on matters of more general AESAURUS interest:

CAPABLE 1 fully recognizes the security flaws in the present method of recruiting CACCOLA candidates, and agrees that the general measures which must be taken consist both in a tightening of CI measures as such and in avoiding the "funnel" aspect of the Cadre School. The Cadre School, while continuing to perform its functions of "motivating", training, and pre-screening candidates for CACCOLA and other AESAURUS operations, should act also as a means of camouflaging our real selection of CACCOLA trainees, and as a species of mousetrap as well. In order to do this:

a. Students coming to the Cadre School, instead of leaving their employment and places of residence with the idea of returning no more and immediately entering "active work", would come only for the period of training and be prepared to return. A more careful selection will be made of all Cadre School students by the CAPABLE 1 local recruiters and party leaders than has heretofore been done. This measure is already receiving attention.)

b. During each Cadre School course, students will be biographically debriefed, and carefully assessed for their abilities and aptitudes. Accopy of the student's record will be supplied to KUBARK. The assessment of all students should include a medical and psychological check-up by a CAPABLE 1 physician, results being entered on the individual's record. The physician (for example CAPABLE 12, who has just received his M.B.) could be given any necessary training directly by KUBARK, in order to acquaint him with the medical standards and procedures required by KUBARK for CACCOLA candidates. While he would give medical-psycho reports on every Cadre School student, these reports it could be determined what individuals would qualify in these respects for CACCOLA training.

c. A few students (who are, however, not selected for aptitude as CACCOLAs) will be retained from each class for various jobs in the propaganda operations or in the CAPABLE 1 Headquarters. These may or may not, much later, become CACCOLA candidates.

d. Most of the students in each class will return to their places of residence. Among these will be the individuals who have been found suitable for CACCOLA. The fact of their being considered for this work will be kept secret -- even from the individual himself, if this is possible. Persons thus selected can simply be told that they are to return to their homes and to continue their normal CAPABLE 1 party activity, but that they may be called up later -- for an unspecified assignment. In certain instances it may be desirable to make a person witting of his having been selected, in order to keep his candidacy alive (e.g., to prevent him from emigrating, getting married, contracting for a long term of employment, etc.).

e. Cadre School graduates who are not earmarked for operational use in the immediate future either in CACCOLA or in propaganda operations, should by no means be regarded as a total loss. To be sure, a few complete misfits are bound to turn up; however, if the initial selection by recruiting officers of students for the Cadre School is done carefully, there should not be many of these. Most returnees, having benefitted from the school courses, will be of indirect but significant use in doing general CAPABLE 1 recruiting in their home areas. More important, they will be taking their places in what in effect will be an organized reserve. All pertinent data on each graduate -- biography, abilities, aptitudes, medical and psychological characteristics -- will be on file (with KUBARK as well as with CAPABLE 1). In the event of an emergency, when large numbers of agent or partisan types will be needed, such a reserve would undoubtedly be found useful.

f. Cadre School graduates earmarked for CACCOLA, after they have returned to their respective homes, will be approached when needed by special recruiting officer who will take time to arrange each candidate's cover for his renewed departure from home. The candidate will then proceed to a place designated by KUBARK, where he will for the first time come in direct contact with KUBARK case officers. The latter will perform a final assessment, and will then transfer the candidate to the CACCOLA school in the U.S.

g. In the above process, the Cadre School should be so organized as to prevent anyone -- including instructors, other students, and all but specially designated staff members -- from determining the identity of candidates selected for CACCOLA. Training at the school could, for example, include a special class in W/T (e.g., a three-or-four-position receiving setup) admission to which would be "very clandestine". All students could be given W/T tests (useful in pre-selecting CACCOLA candidates). Those accepted for the W/T course, however, would not include students earmarked for CACCOLA. The course, which can be arranged very inexpensively, would presumably attract the attention of RIS infiltrates, and divert them from the real candidates. The course would, by the same token, serve as a "mousetrap" which would be closely watched by CI (e.g., the instructor in the course could well be given the necessary training to act as informant.). Meanwhile (says CAPABLE 1) the knowledge of W/T code gained by students selected for the course would not be wasted: there would be gradually built up a reserve of people with some W/T experience who could conceivably be useful in the event of emergency.

7. With respect, both to the training-and-Ops phase and to the recruitment phase of CACCOLA, the CAPABLES went one better on proposal to give KUBARK training to a top-level CACCOLA representative. They suggested that if possible more than one candidate for CACCOLA representative be accepted for training and thorough assessment by us -- so that we would be entirely satisfied with this man once the choice was made. (COMMENT: CAPABLES 3 and 7 did not wish immediately to commit themselves to definite candidates by name, but agreed to furnish these if we agreed in principle.) Further, the CAPABLES asked whether we could give training to their physician (CAPABLE 12) as recommended in para. 6 b. above. While we were about it, we might also train other CAPABLE 1 leader types for various key technical positions: e.g., the special recruiting officer who would re-contact earmarked Cadre School graduates and arrange for their well legended departure for CACCOLA assessment and training; and the high-caliber

CAPABLE 1 CE officer promised as a replacement for CAPABLE 11. (In this connection, CAPABLE 7 stated that he would soon have a good candidate for this office. When questioned about CAPABLE 1's erstwhile reluctance to allow a CAPABLE 1 CE officer to build up an informant net within the organization, CAPABLES 3 and 7 indicated that they had had occasion to change their minds: evidently the CAPABLE 50 case had produced a reaction among CAPABLE 1 members which lessened CAPABLE 7's fear of initiating an informant system.)

8. To these sweeping proposals for training CAPABLE 1 key men, [] [] replied that inquiries would have to be made as to the feasibility of conducting adequate courses. Meanwhile he requested that CAPABLE 7 make these proposals in terms of specific names.

9. CAPABLE 3 brought up one more important question, of immediate concern to both sides: the redeployment or disposal of the staff members gathered for CACCOLA C. This shall be the subject of a separate memorandum.

COMMENTS:

Although suggestions offered by both sides will need further study as to detail (especially as regards the scheme for CACCOLA recruitment proposed by CAPABLE 1), the broad ideas covered in these conversations seem to us both workable and potentially effective. Especially interesting is the CAPABLE 1 proposal to send the key men involved in this scheme to us for training. On their part, the CAPABLE 1 leaders undoubtedly feel that only by conducting the training ourselves and by getting to know these men closely will we be satisfied in the long run that they are well placed and adequate for their jobs. From our point of view, the advantages of training and indoctrinating these men -- in security practices as well as the technical aspects of their jobs -- is self-evident. It is a proposal which offers to us precisely the degree of control over this most sensitive area of the AESSAURUS Project which we have been so eager to achieve.

If Headquarters concurs with the general ideas here included, information as to the possibility of conducting training in the US for the "key men" would be appreciated. Assuming this concurrence, and assuming that the investigation of the CAPABLE 50 case leaves us still in business, the following tentative timetable is suggested:

- October-November 1953 Completion of CAPABLE 50 investigation.
- 1 December 1953-1 February 1954 Selection and clearance of candidates for "key men" training. Preparation of courses. Movement of selected men to US.
- 1 February-May 1954 Training of "key men".
- 1 December 1953-1 March 1954 Cadre School training and pre-assessment of agent candidates for C cycle. Return of earmarked candidates to homes.
- 1 April-1 June 1954 Pickup of earmarked agent candidates; KUBARK assessment of agent candidates; transfer of selected trainees to US.

SECRET

~~TOP SECRET~~

1 June-1 July 1954

Commencement of C cycle training for
dispatch early spring 1955.

— [] —

SECRET