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12 March 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Project AENOBLE

- YAKUTA, Nikolai Ivanovich (C-14584) []
- KUDRIAVTSEV, Mikhail Petrovich (C-14594) []
- NOVIKOV, Adam Mefodevich (C-14586) []
- KHEMELNITSKIY, Konstantin Il'ich (C-15022) []

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1. This memorandum is predicated upon the Soviet televised press conference of 6 February 1957 wherein four subjects were introduced as U.S. agents. The purpose of this memorandum is to document the developments in Project AENOBLE which culminated in the Soviet publicity. As a matter of background, it should be noted that AENOBLE falls under the scope of the PP Basic Plan AESAURUS approved 10 August 1951. The FI assets of AESAURUS have been handled under separate Projects AESAURUS/AENOBLE and AESAURUS/AEECHO. The purpose of AENOBLE is to develop and exploit the assets of the National Alliance of Solidarists (NTS), an anti-Soviet emigre organization, and to obtain operational, positive and psychological intelligence through the maintenance of communications with NTS agents inside the USSR. Communication with these agents has been largely by S/W with W/T being used in a few cases. KUBARK has long known that a number of NTS agents were imprisoned and later released, further that some agents were RIS controlled.

2. With regard to the aspects of AENOBLE falling within the purview of CI/OA, the record reflects that the SR Division initiated action for Operational Approval on the four subject individuals in the summer of 1952. On 8 December 1952 an appropriate Operational Approval was issued by CI/OA for each of the four subjects to authorize their training and use as agents in the AENOBLE operation. All of the subject agents underwent assessment and LCFLUTTER examinations, with YAKUTA and KHEMELNITSKIY being re-run for a second time. The final results of the assessment and LCFLUTTER were considered satisfactory in each case.

3. YAKUTA and KUDRIATSEV were two NTS agents infiltrated by air in April 1953. They were played as clean agents until shortly before they

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were surfaced by the Soviets in the summer of 1954. On 15 June 1954 the Soviet Press announced that the two agents had given themselves up voluntarily. NOVIKOV and KHMELNITSKIY were two NTS agents infiltrated in April 1953 also. NOVIKOV was captured immediately, but signalled that he was operating under control; therefore, KUBARK kept his circuit open until he was eventually surfaced in the fall of 1955 as a part of the Soviet return to the homeland campaign. KUBARK has played KHMELNITSKIY as a probable controlled agent since his infiltration. His last communication was received in November 1956 and KUBARK's last communication to him was sent on 30 December 1956.

4. On 19 March 1956 the SR Division, by memorandum, requested CI/OA to cancel the Operational Approval for NOVIKOV and his agent file was retired to RI/Archives. On 21 September 1956 the SR Division, by memorandum, requested CI/OA to cancel the Operational Approvals for YAKUTA and KUDRIAVTSEV and their agent files were retired to RI/Archives. As of 7 February 1957 the agent file on KHMELNITSKIY was still carried as active by CI/OA. The Headquarters Case Officer reports that a memorandum requesting cancellation of the Operational Approval would be submitted so that this agent's file may also be retired to RI/Archives.

5. The AENOBLE operation was last renewed on 19 November 1956 for the period 1 July 1956 through 30 June 1957. At the present time there are approximately 16 agents considered as active under the project. It should be realized that all communication with the NTS agents, once infiltrated, has been by S/W and W/T. There has been no lateral contact. Consequently, the entire operation has, in effect, been run as a number of independent singleton type agents. This organizational structure has served to eliminate many security hazards so common to the "intelligence net."

6. Attached is a copy of a memorandum addressed to the DCI under date of 7 February 1957. The document was prepared by the SR Division and adequately explains the Soviet broadcast of 6 February 1957 and how it relates to previous Soviet press and radio releases. The entire KUBARK/NTS relationship has been the subject of previous studies conducted by Agency components, including the Inspection and Review Staff. Therefore, CI/OA does not consider that any gainful purpose would be served by conducting a more detailed analysis of the NTS case at this time.

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7 February 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Soviet Statement on American Subversive and Espionage Activity,
6 February 1957

1. In a three-hour broadcast and televised press conference of unprecedented elaborateness, L. I. Ilyichev, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry's press department, presented detailed charges of American subversive and espionage activities against the USSR and other Bloc countries.
2. Most of the material has been discussed earlier in the Soviet press and radio at various times. A number of captured agents were presented personally before a large audience of 200 newsmen, including many Western Correspondents, and their "espionage materials" were prominently displayed.
3. The statement was made after three persons had been arrested in the United States as Soviet spies and a number of Soviet diplomatic personnel had been expelled from the United States and several Latin American and West European countries on charges of espionage and subversion. It also occurred in the midst of increasingly palpable student, intellectual, and worker unrest within the USSR. Thus its timing is apparently calculated to counteract the impact of these events and to serve as a warning to Soviet citizens and possibly as a pretext for cracking down on non-conformist elements within the USSR.
4. Ilyichev began with a general statement that "imperialist aggressive quarters in Western countries" have always tried to undermine the Soviet Union. Now the United States, "for the first time in history," has "raised to the level of official policy subversive activity against countries 'unsuitable' to it.", Ilyichev referred to an "early 1956 White House statement" that "liberation of the people's democracies was, is, and will be the chief aim

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of United States policy until success is achieved..." "It is a matter of common knowledge that the United States Congress earmarks hundreds of millions of dollars for subversive activity," said Ilyichev, and he went on to repeat familiar Soviet charges against the Mutual Security Act and the Kersten Amendment.

5. Charging that "official United States government bodies are conducting subversive and espionage activity against the peace-loving countries," Ilyichev added that "these self-same forces are actually operating under the guise of all sorts of 'private' committees, foundations, and unions. Noteworthy in this connection is the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. The best known organization established for financing and directing subversive activity is the so-called 'Crusade for Freedom'."

6. In connection with "interference in the home affairs of the Soviet Union and other Socialist nations by the aggressive quarters of the United States," Ilyichev again mentioned the American military attaches, Stockell and Tansey, and charged that during the period between April 1950 and December 1956 there were "no less than 12 violations of the Soviet Union's air space."

7. The most important names mentioned at the press conference are listed below.

- a. Galai and Khrantsov were reportedly smuggled into Soviet Territory on an intelligence mission.

(SR comment: An SR operation, in which two young Soviet defectors, trained in the Munich area, were dispatched overland from Norway into the USSR. They were captured at an early stage after infiltration and their cases publicized.)

b. Moroz was reportedly smuggled into the USSR via Turkey and immediately surrendered to Soviet authorities.

(SR comment: The Director has recently been briefed on this case which still contains sensitive aspects touching on CIA relations with German authorities.)

c. Irving Fiedler, Ronald Bollenbach, and Robert Dreier are mentioned as having been connected with espionage.



d. Lakhno, Gorbunov, Makov, and Remiga are reported as agents infiltrated by air into the USSR.

(SR comment: These were four of a group of eight NTS agents air-dropped into the USSR in April 1953. The capture and execution of these four was announced with fanfare by the Soviet press and radio in May 1953.)

e. Yakuta, Kudryavtsev, Novikov, and Khmelnitski were present at the press conference, and each made a long statement on the history of his recruitment, training and dispatch.

(SR Comment: These were the remaining four of the NTS group mentioned above. Both Novikov and Khmelnitski were played back at us over a period of three years. Novikov was surfaced several months ago, and the play cut off. Khmelnitski is here surfaced for the first time. the fact that these agents were under RIS control was positively known

by us in the case of Novikov, and strongly presumed in the case of Khamelnitski.)

8. The Director is mentioned by name by Yakuta (above) as follows: "... An American serviceman had sown ampules with prussic acid into the collars of our shirts.... Among ourselves we called these ampules a 'friendly gift' from Mr. Allen Dulles."

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