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operational*

22 December 1950

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Berzins*

MEMORANDUM FOR: C/SP  
I/IS

SUBJECT: Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations and Alfred Berzins.

1. The Eastern Europe Division of OGC is not unfamiliar with the claims and composition of ABN. A re-study of our files, in conjunction with the new material, has not altered our original assessment--i.e. ABN does not offer a significant operational potential to OGC.

2. As a general principle, it is believed that it is not advisable to become operationally involved with "roof" organizations such as ABN. If we wish to clandestinely operate in a certain area or deal with a certain nationality group, we should try to have an operational link direct to the group concerned instead of dealing through such intermediaries as a roof organization of this type. Such coalitions claiming to represent several underground elements are inherently less secure. This observation is particularly true of the EE Division-type activity as opposed to some of the SP-type activities.

3. Specifically relating to ABN, it is basically representative of those elements--particularly in the case of the Ukrainians who form the main element of ABN--which we have found wanting either for lack of security, operational potentiality, or representativeness. In the case of the Baltic States, we believe we have leads to groups with greater operational possibilities. Informal liaison with OSO reveals that they consider ABN an opportunistic group of political individuals not particularly secure.

4. Our information

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4. Our information on Berzins indicates a history of noteworthy service as a public official of the pre-World War II Latvian republic. He has extensive knowledge of, and contacts in, the Latvian emigre community. His operational potential for EE-II is limited by the facts of his age, and the fact that it is not believed that he has significant contacts or organization for the operational penetration of the Latvian SSR. If he were put on the Fund payroll, it should be on his value to the Fund, although EE may wish to later consult with Berzins if he is available.