

SECRET

10 October 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : AECOB Exfiltration Operation 10/11 September 1955

1. Attached herewith for your consideration is a detailed account of the events that transpired during the recent unsuccessful attempt to exfiltrate two of our agents from the Latvian SSR by aircraft.

2. A summary of the attached report is presented below for your convenience as follows:

- a. Full cooperation and assistance was obtained from [] for the use of Bornholm Island for mounting the operation.
- b. Our agent was alerted to the time of the operation and given the recognition signals to be employed. He acknowledged receipt of this information and reported everything in readiness at the LZ. The operational aircraft thereupon took off on schedule.
- c. The aircraft reached the target area and reported seeing three lights in a position similar to that of an "L" pattern on a field which they took to be the LZ. No fourth light was observed nor was any recognition signal received. After a fruitless search of the area, the aircraft returned to base without landing in the target area.
- d. The following day our agent reported that he and his reception party had been in place at the intended LZ, had not seen but heard the aircraft to the north of the LZ, and had displayed all four lights properly, as well as having given the prearranged recognition signal, without attracting the attention of the aircraft.

3. In view of discrepancies in the reports of the crew vis-a-vis the agents', we made a thorough study of the situation. As the result, we are satisfied the crew, through an honest error in judgement, flew the aircraft over an area resembling the LZ but failed to locate the true LZ. Air Maritime Division concurs with this conclusion.

4. The only other aspect of the operation which gave us pause was the crew's report of seeing five searchlights switched on along the target coastline when the aircraft was heading for the coast at a position 20 miles off

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy
- (2)(B) Methods/Sources
- (2)(G) Foreign Relations

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2005