

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: DTLINEN, Project Review

1950

? 1949

1. Description: Full project approved August 1945 (Revised project) to support the "Kampfgruppe Gegen Unmenschlichkeit." Secondary: to use organization as source of information on Soviet Zone and possibly for recruiting persons for district in Soviet Zone, increasing control to be developed.

Previous to August 1949, LINEN was subsidized on a limited basis (as a sub-project of DEMON) beginning 1 May 1949 (Field has copy of project.)

2. Operational Recap: Kampfgruppe had established itself as a clearing house for information on Soviet Zone concentration camp inmates when VLKiva began support in May 1949. The group has expanded its activities acquiring dues-paying members. It has undertaken the compiling of lists of Soviet informees in the Soviet Zone, names of whom are broadcast over RIAS, as well as compiling and publicizing data on conditions of police-terror in Soviet Zone.

It is the sponsor of the "F" for Freiheit campaign, which was stepped up recently.

It has conducted such miscellaneous activities as the mass meetings in Berlin.

It aids persons to escape from Soviet Zone when required and tries to induce others to remain as a potential fifth column within Soviet Zone.

DTLINEN allet. DM 25,000 for Piker activities, on actual need basis. How much spend and what to do?

Propaganda activities include distribution of leaflets, copies of Telegraf (4,000 per week, July-Oct 1949); distribution of phony food circular in Oct. 1949; open letter on Graber, Jan. 1950. In addition, leader is personally active in speaking, holding meetings, etc.

HICOG Weekly Intelligence Report #7, 19 November 1949, carries 4-page report on subject.

In March, the KGR published a comprehensive report on concentration camps in East Zone.

Effectiveness: Effort was made by Soviet agents to abduct the leader of this organization in July 1949, and possibly again in March 1950.

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DATE 2007

Organization has received wide press notice, including Time, Life, and other leading American and European newspapers and publications, publicized through RIAS, etc. The large numbers of persons visiting its offices as well as Soviet Zone press and official reaction are evidence of effectiveness.

3. Fiscal: Revised project provides DM 5,000 and [ ] operational supplies per month. In addition, a one-time subsidy of DM 4,500 is authorized to defray cost of publishing a volume on Soviet atrocities.

WASH 1688 allotted DM 25,000 on one-time basis for anti-Piker activities. This is a maximum, disbursements to be on actual need basis. Charged to OKDEMOW.

Some financial reports of the organization have been received here but they are not regularly received. Submission of monthly KGR statement would be desirable.

Project has been submitted to the Covert Committee for determination of subsidy status. Final decision is pending.

Proposal for raising LINEN subsidy by addition of ECA funds is discussed under "Action Pending".

4. Action Pending: WASH 5814 (26 May 1950) informed field that [ ] had been approached by one [ ] in Paris about support of LINEN through [ ] labor organization (identity not known). [ ] It was suggested to field that they contact [ ] in Berlin 27-28 May, that he may be good instrument for transferring counterpart funds to LINEN.

[ ] suggested initial support of DM 20,000 per month, to be increased to DM 50,000 (this estimate was presumably based on lack of any knowledge of present OPC support.

WASH approved tentatively the idea of such increase, as long as it was arranged without weakening our control or channels into DTLINEN and did not deprive LINEN of "lean and hungry look."

As later changed, [ ] was to have met [ ] in Fran during first week of June. No result yet.

[ ] expressed opinion that we should go slow as [ ] has ideas of expansion of LINEN not strictly along our lines (FRAN 330 IN 27714). WASH 6326 suggests possible alternate lines of action by us if formation of an additional group to handle the new activities proposed, and also as an alternative in case LINEN becomes hard to handle.

5. Comments and Recommendations: The danger of Soviet penetration was recognized from the beginning in dealing with an organization like this. OPC control is still very light, lessening security risk. Continued attention should be paid to the matter of penetration.

[ ] raised question of distribution of "white book" in other European countries (memo for COP 20 September 49), COP approved in principle--will depend on final book.

In May 1950 detailed information concerning the effectiveness of about 120 [ ] which were set off in TPSTALL Zone, and Berlin. This suggests that the LINEN organization might be useful as a double check on many of our other activities there by which we can judge their impact.

This is an operation whose effectiveness appears well-documented. DFLINEN is at present highly successful when measured against the positive purposes contemplated on the project outline, and against the comparatively small cost to us. These results appear particularly successful when viewed against the uncertain results of some of our other subsidies maintained at greater cost.

The only cloud on the horizon is whether in the future KGR may become unwieldy, or get over-ambitious. In either case, it might become hard for us to handle and might depart from its present consonance with our policy. A good summary of the main considerations which should govern our relationship in KGU and which call for a close continuous analysis of its direction--possible development is given in HICOG Intelligence Report #7, 19 November 1949:

This report also mentions the possible danger of misappropriation of funds in such a fast growing organization with multiple sources of income. Our best protection against all possibilities would be to have the KGR submit regular comprehensive accountings, detailed enough to be meaningful, and couple these with independent intelligence checks, such as HICOG Weekly Intelligence Report #7, 19 November 1949.