

27 August 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE GROGROUND RECORD

SUBJECT : Austrian PM Activities re [] TDY

1. An informal discussion [] (and myself) was held shortly after [] return from a month's TDY in Europe. The following general - and specific - topics were discussed:

a. The field is forming a project proposal which will call for the spotting and recruiting of an unspecified number of "high level" type indigenous agents. ("High level" in this case meaning intelligence and capabilities - not social standing, contacts and the like.) These persons, after their capabilities have been determined as thoroughly as possible, will receive intensive PM, weapons, W/T, etc., training and earmarked for use as staybehind organizers. (For problems arising out of the proposed training, see para c below.) Winner pointed out that from this intensive training, the problem of agents becoming witting - especially if one or more should develop as duds - would arise. (?) [] stated that the training would be necessarily very compartmented and that 1) the chances of duds would be small since the men would be handpicked re intelligence, aptitude, etc., and 2) thus termination wouldn't be difficult. (?)

b. [] stated that the field was not especially alarmed over the GRLAUNCH situation - and that they would let it mark time for the time being and phase it out gently.

c. According to [] the GRDAGGER picture remains good and promises to become better. However, the training of agents (other than in W/T) is a sizeable problem. The idea of practical, week-end training - such as [] utilized in LAUNCH - is out; the Frankfurt/M training sites and facilities are out or on the way out, and we don't have the necessary facilities in Austria yet. [] suggested that it would be wise to investigate the possibility of setting up training facilities under the sponsorship of USFA at a base or bases of theirs. The field will look into this.

d. E & E seems to be progressing as well as can be expected (field view). Concentration is being placed on recruiting a P/A, 2 W/T operators and at least 2 sub-organizers for each section. Nothing is being done about the undeveloped Innsbruck-Land Salzburg portion - seems that the field has forgotten that GRBORAX was lined up to furnish contacts for this job.

e. Pistols and demolitions have been turned over to USFA to repay equipment loans - however, USFA has waived the reimbursement of mortar rounds borrowed some time ago. [] is going to Frankfurt/M sometime in near future to look over the material dug up from the German caches and to requisition what he needs for Austrian caching.

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