

7 September 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WISNER

SUBJECT: Nikolai H. POPPE

1. Dr. Nikolai H. Poppe was contacted in Germany in July of 1948 by Mr. Charles V. Murphy of TIME-LIFE who talked to Dr. Poppe at great length during a two day period. Mr. Murphy had been in correspondence with his principals in TIME-LIFE, New York, with regard to Poppe and the useful purpose which could be served by bringing Dr. Poppe's story to the American people. The long delay in bringing Dr. Poppe to this country was due to the ineffective procedure which still exists in connection with bringing persons like Dr. Poppe to this country. Dr. Poppe, as was known to CG, broke his own cover on arrival at Westover Field, Massachusetts, when he addressed a letter to the University of Washington and to a personal friend.

2. I regret that Mr. [ ] who is quoted in paragraph 1 of Mr. Kirkpatrick's memorandum of September 6, did not express his point of view when I informed him that Mr. Chamberlain had come to Washington for a period of two days specifically for the purpose of talking with Dr. Poppe with a view to ascertaining if and how Dr. Poppe's story should be handled. I regret further that Mr. [ ] did not express opposition to the project involving Dr. Poppe and the TIME-LIFE people when the matter was discussed in his presence in your office some time ago.

3. With regard to paragraph 2 of Mr. Kirkpatrick's memorandum of September 6, it may be stated that in talking with Dr. Poppe and Mr. Chamberlain I gave every indication that there would be full cooperation on all sides in the preparation of an article. As to the last sentence of paragraph 2, there was no reference to Dr. Poppe's reports during my conversation with Dr. Poppe in the presence of Mr. Chamberlain. It was only after the first day's interrogation of Dr. Poppe had been completed by Mr. Chamberlain that Mr. Chamberlain telephoned me to state that in the course of their discussion during the day Dr. Poppe had referred repeatedly to reports in which he had covered various points, and Mr. Chamberlain asked me whether he might read them. I informed Mr. Chamberlain that it would be an extensive job to dig out such reports, but that I would look into the matter. Later that evening when I talked with Mr. Chamberlain he repeated his request stating that there were dates and names about which Dr. Poppe was a bit vague and which he said could be cleared up from his reports. I told Mr. Chamberlain that I was having the matter looked into and that I would contact him later. When Mr. Kirkpatrick called you to inform you of this matter

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I got in touch with Mr. Kirkpatrick, in accordance with your instructions, gave him briefly the background, and assured him that nothing would be given to Mr. Chamberlain without the concurrence of OO. I informed him further that it would be easier for all concerned perhaps if I should have the questions which Mr. Chamberlain might have as a result of his work in connection with the article answered by OO. Mr. Kirkpatrick said this would be satisfactory and indeed seemed pleased with this solution. I informed Mr. Kirkpatrick further that there was no intention of giving Dr. Poppe's reports to Mr. Chamberlain for obvious reasons and furthermore there were some things in this report which Mr. Chamberlain's employer, Mr. Luce, would not like. Mr. Kirkpatrick agreed.

4. I talked with Dr. Poppe and did not at all receive the impression that he considers himself betrayed. In fact, he has told me at least twice that if he can make any contribution to the fight against communism by exposing Soviet policy in the Far East, he would be very glad to do so. I reject, therefore, the entire concept in paragraph 5 of Mr. Kirkpatrick's memorandum

5. It is my understanding that while OO has been handling Dr. Poppe as a source to OPC, policy guidance for the handling of this body remains in OPC and that OO is merely carrying out a housekeeping function except that they have benefited from information which Dr. Poppe has been able to furnish them. I am not concerned with the procedure of OO in handling bodies: much can be said on this subject which had better remain unsaid.

6. I have no objection to giving written confirmation to the oral commitment I made to Mr. Kirkpatrick on September 2, but, before doing so, I would suggest that Mr. Kirkpatrick and Mr. [ ] be called into your office for a discussion on this subject. As you know, the Dr. Poppe-LIFE deal was initiated by yourself. I object to the entire tone of Mr. Kirkpatrick's memorandum and consider the inferences regarding OPC's conniving, rude and impertinent.

C. OFFER

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