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17 September 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Files

FROM: WE/2

A meeting was held on 18 September 1953 to discuss REDSKIN operations in Belgium. Present at the meeting were []

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED:

General: It was decided that investigation of REDSKIN potentials in Belgium could best be done [] support from SR would be required on carding, travel reports and other functions mentioned below.

Soviet Sailors: The frequency of trips by Soviet sailors to Antwerp and their pattern of activity while there is as yet unknown. SR agreed to prepare a study from the existing crew lists to show the frequency of trips made by individual crew members. [] is preparing information on the activities of Soviets while in Antwerp.

Belgian Firms: The possibility of exploiting Belgian businessmen doing business with the USSR was discussed. [] felt that few Belgians traveled to USSR on business as this trade was handled mainly in Belgium through the Soviet Trade Delegation. Leads developed in the REDCAP operation currently exploring this field will be expanded for REDSKIN purposes.

Correspondence: The volume of Belgian/USSR private correspondence is believed to be heavy and [] suggested the possibility of furnishing the local service with photographic equipment with which to photograph envelopes coming from the USSR. This was thought practical as it is believed mail from the USSR would arrive in a unit at one location. [] agreed to investigate the possibility of using such equipment. If the envelopes can be photographed, SR will use the product to categorize the channels of communication and suggest selective leads for follow-up.

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Soviet Repatriations [] to determine the present Soviet repatriation activity in Belgium.

Belgian Foreign Office: [] to determine the extent of the Belgian Mission in Moscow, including maids, chauffeurs, etc., The possibility of recruiting, through [] a low level member of the staff will be surveyed. In the event such a recruitment is effected, SR will furnish someone to brief him on security controls in Moscow, etc.

[] will not be available before the first of the year. His assignment to Brussels will depend on finding a specific REDSKIN target which he would be qualified to cover. If he is sent to Belgium, [] said he would prefer to clear him, at least informally, with the []

Athletic Groups, etc. The Belgian Foreign Office is being requested to speed up passage of visa information in order to give advance notice on Soviets traveling to Belgium for international sports events. [] will investigate the possibility of a Belgian chess organization which sponsors individuals for attendance at matches behind the Curtain.

Personnel: [] advised that, if the REDSKIN program in Belgium is to be given priority treatment, new personnel would eventually be necessary to handle the added work load. He recommended that he would need someone who could contact Belgians and process reports in French. An outside unit could be set up for this purpose.

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