

SECRET

5 May 54

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, DOB

SUBJECT : AEBP Progress Report for the month of April 1954

1. Meeting Arrangements

Thirteen (13) meetings were conducted during the month of April 1954 in Washington, D.C. The majority of these meetings took place in the afternoon after AEBRIEF had gotten out of school. He was usually met within a few blocks of his apartment and the meetings were conducted during a walk through the surrounding area, or at some point of interest such as U.S. Archives building, Dumbarton Oaks, National Zoological Park, etc. Duration of these meetings averaged one and one-half hours, and when transportation was required, a company vehicle was used.

2. Communications

Simple arrangements were effected for each next meeting upon termination of the previous meeting. Clandestine contact arrangements such as recognition signals, alternate meeting places, etc. were not observed due to emphasis being placed on this operation of resettlement and rehabilitation of the agent outside of the intelligence business. Agent has an emergency telephone number where he can contact case officer. Instructions have been issued to him to use this phone number if for any reason he cannot get to the appointed meeting place, or if case officer does not appear. If C.O. needs to make emergency contact with agent, it can be accomplished by intercepting agent on his way to or from school. Six different occasions, three days a week and four occasions on two days a week exist when such contact can be effected. During the month reported, C.O. made one call at the agent's apartment and this for the purpose of getting a few articles of furniture to agent.

3. Agent Activity

a. Occupation

Agent's major activity during the period reported continued to be attending the Americanization school of the District Public School system at 19th and California Sts., N.W., five days a week. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays he attended 0930 to 1230, 1330 to 1530, 1930 to 2100. On Tuesdays and Thursdays he attended 0930 to 1230 and 1330 to 1530. This weekly schedule of 24½ hours of instruction, plus homework, plus 4½ hours with the case officer kept him fully and adequately occupied. His progress in the English language is covered further, below.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

SECRET

- 2 -

The agent's wife and child are also attending school mornings only, the former at the Americanization school and the latter at the Cooke Public School at 17th and Euclid Sts., N.W. Although case officer saw them only once during April they are reported by agent to be well and happy and making some progress in English.

Agent is free to communicate with friends and relatives in the U.S. He has mentioned seeing Aldan (fnu) and Grigoritsh (fnu). (C.O. note: both are former instructors at Regensburg and now with G-2 on contract in Washington, D.C.) He has also mentioned meeting Olshansky (fnu) an instructor at Georgetown University and asked C.O. whether or not it was alright to see him. C.O. replied that he had heard of Olshansky but knew of no particular reason agent should not see him. C.O. did point out that Georgetown was quite an NTS organization and that NTS members had a habit of being quite curious about all individuals who appeared to have any contact with Russian affairs. Agents answer indicated his acceptance of the warning against getting closely mixed up with the NTS or its members here in Washington.

b. Agent with Case Officer

The greatest part of the time C.O. spent with agent was devoted to tutorial work in the English language. In addition to this, however, two debriefings were conducted at the request of other offices. The first of these, laid on by a request from the EE Division, has been made the subject of a separate memorandum addressed to SR/COP dated 8 April. Second debriefing was requested by [] Alien Affairs Staff of the Security Office, and concerned agent's knowledge of certain persons while he was connected with General Vlassov during World War II in Berlin. Information obtained was reported to [] verbally and since it was agreed that agent's knowledge of events in which [] was interested was somewhat tenuous, the matter has been left pending. [] will request us for a full and formal debriefing at a later date if it seems to be necessary. Agent was very cooperative during both of these debriefings and seemed eager to participate and try and help us with such information as he could remember.

4. Training

As stated before, agent is receiving 24½ hours of English language instruction per week at the Americanization school. His proficiency had made notable progress by the end of the month. His active vocabulary is limited, but his understanding of words is good of grammar, fair. He continues to have difficulty both oral and written with the gender of personal pronouns, the use of possessive adjectives and also makes frequent mistakes in the use of the articles.

SECRET

SECRET

- 3 -

He has no difficulty making himself understood however, and can already get along in the language better than many less recent Russian emigres in the United States. His reading ability is evidenced by the following: On 20 April he was asked by the C.O. to read aloud two newspaper articles on the rescue of Mrs. Petrov in Australia, which articles he had not seen before. He read them rapidly and required assistance on about only ten words in each article. His actual school work is apparently also going along well and he is about to be transferred to the group at the school, which is receiving the highest level of language instruction given. It does not appear however, that the competition is very keen or the standards very high, and for this reason the C.O. continues to try and force some outside work on agent. Tutorial work by the Case Officer centered largely on grammar explanations and conversations conducted on topics brought up by the location of the meeting, news events, agent's past history, etc. In addition, agent wrote some short simple compositions for C.O. towards the end of the month, and simple selected reading was assigned to agent from material obtained from the Public Library. If a level of literature can be reached that agent is able to handle easily and that interests him, considerable progress in vocabulary build-up and comprehension should take place.

5. Agent Cover

The cover of the agent continues to be no particular problem. Not many questions are asked of him at the school and to those who inquire he has been able to simply answer that he is an emigre who like many others is learning the language before settling down on a job in the United States.

Upon return from the trip agent made to New York at the end of March for the purpose of visiting friends and relatives, an incident was mentioned by agent which is worth noting. A cover story for him had been agreed on before hand as it was realized that his acquaintances in New York would wonder why he had come to Washington, and what he was doing there. It was agreed beforehand therefore that he would say that his passage to the United States had been secured through the work he had done for () When faced with reality however, the agent did not use this story and stated instead that his passage to this country had been obtained in return for his giving language lessons in a school in Washington for six months. Agent claimed that the story he used went over very well. His uncle immediately offered to pay off his passage but agent declined saying he felt it better to carry out his contract as agreed. This divergence from an agreed plan, while it did not cause any harm, can be interpreted as another example of the agent's inability or unwillingness to proceed according to plan and is somewhat reminiscent of the way he went to pieces during the last incident while in Salzburg, Germany.

SECRET

6. Agent Motivation, Loyalty, Emotional Stability, etc.

a. Motivation.

Agent's short term motivation is directed at trying to do well in the school and learn the English language. He works hard, is willing to spend long hours and shows through this a capacity for work and a fair amount of drive. His long term motivation is stated as a desire to avenge the evils perpetrated on himself and his family by the Soviets and a desire to obtain for himself a new "rodina", a new mother-land. He comes out with this, however, somewhat as a slogan and C.O. does not accept this as an answer to the question. The true nature of this motivation will probably not be ascertainable till we get down to the facts and realities of his actual disposal.

b. Loyalty.

His loyalty is still with the U.S. Intelligence Service for the opportunity they gave him for the only exercise he has ever been able to make of work directed against the USSR. Whether this amounts to anything or not will only come out also when we face up to his disposal or occupation from 1 July onwards.

c. Emotional Stability.

AEBRIEF appears to be a relatively stable individual, somewhat remarkably so in view of his advance billing and the fact that he still does not know what the future holds for him. He seems to enjoy a relatively normal family life as evidenced by mention of family outings, movies, etc. and has shown the Case Officer no evidence of continually straying off the reservation as he did in Europe. To be sure, he is fully occupied which was not the case before. School work does keep him busy and allows him less time for idle dalliance than he had in the past. In general however, he seems to have adjusted well to the problems of living in a strange country with a different language and habits than those to which he is accustomed.

7. Control

No particular demands have been made on agent and control has been an easy problem. All directions given concerning meetings and administrative matters have been met with no grumbling and generally with enthusiasm. He is well aware of the fact that he is being treated decently, although not lavishly, and in the present has a unique opportunity to learn the English language and be paid for it.

An additional factor contributing to good control in this case has been the psychological advantage gained by C.O. in insisting on use of the English language and only resorting to Russian when necessary for explanation of words. This tends to hold down objections

and demands on the part of agent as he is not confident about the exact nature of what he may be saying.

8. Operational Success and Outlook for Future.

The entire emphasis of relations between Case Officer and agent during the month of April has been on agent's devotion to and study of the English language. No discussion whatsoever has taken place on future plans with agent, or what we may have in mind for him. Along with his study of English, an effort has been made to accustom him to the United States, its people and its manners. It has been felt that the closer he gets to becoming an American, the less trouble we will have with him during disposal or afterwards. Progress in this regard has been adequate. It is felt that by the time the school term is up in the beginning of June, agent will have a good command of the English language and will be equipped to get on with life in America.

Prior to actually proceeding with disposal certain other possibilities will be explored. In early May agent will be assessed for possible use in Spotting and Assessment activities and inquiries will be made to explore possibilities of his use by the Department of Army in Washington. In considering his potential usefulness, C.O. is mindful of the impracticality of agent's being used in any capacity where he is required to live a cover with his family unless it is built up over a long period. The fallacy of attempting to have him and his family assume a different name and identity has been clearly demonstrated by the blowing of his cover in Salsburg. He is perfectly willing however, to leave his family for extended periods of time, provided they are adequately settled down and provided for.

His usefulness operationally is further limited by the deficiency in his make-up which causes his not following the details of prearranged plans (see para. 5 above).

9. Administration.

a. Finance.

No financial demands have been made by agent and on the contrary he seemed surprised when reminded early in the month that C.O. had agreed beforehand to pay the ticket cost for his New York trip. C.O. has also had to practically insist on paying for language books, dictionaries, supplies, etc. when C.O. and agent went shopping together. His salary has been paid at the rate of \$3800 per annum, with withholding tax taken out.

SECRET

b. Disposal.

This subject did not arise with agent during the month of April and no commitments have been made.

c. Contract.

It had been originally agreed and insisted on by the Special Contracting Officer that AEBRIEF should sign a contract. Agent had also indicated that he would like a written agreement in order to clear the air on commitments made or implied during his past relations with us in Europe. Special Contracting has now decided that a contract is not necessary so the matter of formalizing the relationship between the agent and the U. S. Government will probably not come up again till it is decided whether or not he will be hired after the six months period and consequently whether or not he will be disposed of.

10. C.O. Comment.

In summation, AEBRIEF is intelligent, hardworking and very much interested in continuing with clandestine operations directed against Soviet power. He has a good streak of controlled curiosity, shows initiative and is aggressive, all good qualities in an agent. He has limitations cover-wise however, and also in respect to his ability to implement a plan either formed by him or formed by others and agreed to by him. This latter liability is believed to be not due to low intelligence or poor memory and cannot be interpreted simply as an unwillingness to follow direction. If it were the latter he would not himself so readily devise or help devise the plans which he later fails to follow.

While therefore, he has qualifications for further use, his use should be limited to short term work such as spotting or a defection assignment and then only if he can be compartmented so that his work will not jeopardize others. He might also possibly have use as an instructor, briefer or debriefer if under close control. It does not appear to C.O. that he has any value as a resident or principal agent in a long term situation requiring him to develop a subordinate organization or network. He would likewise be a definite risk as a member of a network if he was not under close control of an American Case Officer.

[]
Case Officer

SECRET