

SECRET

9 February 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, FI
VIA : FI/Plans
SUBJECT : Project AEROOT Amendment

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 25X2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. FI Project AEROOT envisaged employing a vessel indigenous to the Baltic Sea area as a platform for launching personnel balloons to infiltrate the project's agents into the target area in the spring of 1956.

2. To assure ourselves the availability of a suitable boat in time for dispatch, negotiations for its procurement were initiated with the Danish Intelligence Service (DIS) as far back as early spring of 1955.

3. The quest for the requisite boat turned out to be no easy task. Nevertheless, after considerable time and effort devoted to it the DIS came through with one on an acceptable charter basis.

4. This week operational considerations caused us to abandon the AEROOT infiltration mission. As the result, the project's requirements for a sea-going launching platform fell off.

5. However, in light of the fact that the availability of a suitable boat in the Baltic may be regarded as an important asset for us in line with possible other covert uses such as ELINT operations, propaganda balloon operations versus the Baltic States, and the anticipated plans for agent infiltration by balloon into an area neighboring on that planned for AEROOT, it is recommended that we do not give up the arrangements already made for our use of the boat.

6. It is requested, therefore, that approval be granted to allow expenses, connected with the newly envisaged use of the boat, to be borne by Project AEROOT until such time that a special project may be devised for its use should such a project be deemed necessary for administrative purposes. No additional funds would be required for Project AEROOT in this connection pending its renewal since the Operational Expenses category of the project has sufficient funds to cover the cost of procurement of such a vessel.

Concur
Oppose

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Acting SR/COP

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