

AIR

HGG-A-770

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

MAR 10 1954

Lincoln

2003

Chief of Station, Guatemala

INFO: Chief, WHD

Operational

KUFIRE Tasks, PBSUCCESS

Reference: HUL-A-21

1. In compliance with the instructions set forth in reference dispatch, there is being transmitted herewith in duplicate the first in a series of the "Weekly KUFIRE Operational Reports." In order to meet pouch deadlines and to keep the last-minute rush on the pouches to a minimum, it has been decided locally to prepare this weekly operational report each Friday. Data set forth in each FT report will accordingly cover the period Friday morning through Thursday afternoon.
2. As will be noted, the name of the officer responsible for each FT has been noted on each FT. As additional FTs come to our attention, cable advice from your headquarters will be requested.

Cyrus E. Burnette

8 March 1954

Enclosure:
Weekly KUFIRE Report

CEB/cmh
Distribution:
2-Linc w/att (in dup)
2-Wash w/att (in single copy)
1-Files w/att (in single copy)

Weekly KUFIRE Operational Report

For Week ending 5 March 1954

FT/1 ESCONSON Project

Responsible Officer - George L. Tranger

The principal agent (Esconson-2) has been briefed regarding targets of interest and it is believed that he and his sub-agents can develop the desired coverage. It is noted, however, that Esconson-2 and his sub-agents do not have access to high level target personalities. Project agents are considered low and middle level operators and by reason of educational and social background are unlikely to develop high level contacts. Nonetheless, their contacts in other than top level echelons are believed to be valuable and will probably produce desired information. Principal contributors to coverage of targets will be Esconson-2, 3, and 7. Esconson-4 and 5 will continue to provide operational background information relating to travel, biographic data, etc. Their contribution to the FT/1 targets cited in reference will probably be nominal since they do not have the mobility and required accessibility. There have been no operational changes due to the reorientation of the operation for PESUCCESS purposes. Security remains good; no contact/communications problems presently exist. Effective 1 February 1954 Esconson-4's salary was increased from C 1 to C 2 per month (HGG-A-733, not sent to Lincoln). This increase will not cause operational expenses to exceed the estimate costs for FT/1 cited in reference.

FT/2 ESCROW

Responsible Officer - Cyrus E. Burnette

Escrow's numerous contacts within Spanish and Guatemalan groups as well as within diplomatic and consular circles continue to afford reporting station with timely information on personalities and groups. His information to date continues to be more KUFIRE in nature but he is being briefed on the current necessity of providing information which will serve as a guide in future policy planning. He is also being briefed on the necessity of concentrating his efforts within high level pro-government political circles although, as will be noted from his past performance, he is fairly well entrenched in such groups at present. The security aspect of this FT is believed good but efforts are being made to provide him with a more secure place of contact. Currently we are awaiting authorization to reimburse the contract agent who is Escrow's cut-out for his purchase of an automobile which will be used principally in contacts with Escrow for the present. Communications between the Case Officer and Escrow are channeled through the cut-out and there is no present reason to believe the channel is not secure. Escrow's monthly salary continues to be C 1 plus an average of C 2 to cover expenses incurred by him during his work for us.

FT/3 ESOTROPE

Responsible Officer - George L. Tranger

It is believed that the mission for this task as described in reference should read: "...economic intelligence desired through ESOTERIC." To our knowledge the cryptonym ESOTROPE-2 has never been assigned and represents a typographical error or possibly a misunderstanding regarding identities. ESOTERIC was formerly known as ESCONSON and ESOTROPE was ESCONSON-1 before they both withdrew from the ESCONSON operation in July 1953 (HGG-A-357, not sent to Lincoln).

HGG-A-357 noted that both would continue to cooperate with this station on a voluntary basis as unpaid informants, and ESOTROPE would assist in the preparation of KUGOWN materials, translation work, etc., and would be reimbursed at the rate of £ 3 per month from ESPLANADE project funds. The newly assigned FT/3 tasks therefore represent increased activity on the part of ESOTROPE, but she has agreed to undertake the desired coverage. For the time being it is planned to continue her salary at the rate of £ 3 per month. If, as anticipated, her assignments require greater demands on her time, an upward adjustment will be made.

Except for such prominent organizations as the communist-line Alianza Femenina Guatemlateca (AFG), our coverage of women's activities and organizations has not been complete in the past. As instructed, ESOTROPE will concentrate on the development of psych/intelligence relating to major women's groups. At the same time she will begin a study of the entire target area to provide basic information essential to evaluating current reports and possibly to plan future action. She will, for example, attempt to answer such basic questions as the following (about which we presently have only limited knowledge): a) estimate the effectiveness and influence of women in political affairs; b) what factors contribute to effectiveness or ineffectiveness of women's groups? c) which social-economic levels are most active? apathetic? d) etc.

It is doubtful that ESOTERIC will make an appreciable contribution in the collection of economic intelligence. Since his withdrawal from the ESCONSON operation he has helpfully served as a channel of communications with ESOTROPE and has occasionally volunteered information regarding economic matters. However, he appears to be preoccupied with personal business matters and does not appear to be inclined to expend extra effort in the collection of information of interest. Nonetheless, relations between he and TRANGER are very cordial and an effort will be made to extract pertinent information from him when opportunities permit.

There are no current operational problems in connection with this task; contacts/communications are believed secure.

FT/1 []

For the information of Lincoln, subject has been in [] for some time and currently is being handled by that station. We have no contact with him and this FT will henceforth be disregarded.

FT/5 ESODIC

Responsible Officer - Cyrus E. Burnette

Since news of the recent plot against this government was made public, both ESODIC and his older brother, ESODIC-1, have exhibited an attitude of extreme caution. For a period of approximately two weeks both were of the definite impression they were under surveillance by the local authorities. For that reason contact with them was sporadic and carefully managed. At this writing both brothers are jointly working on a project for Case Officer which calls for evaluating an extensive list of WSBURNT Army Officers. It is planned that when they have completed the project, which may take another ten days, they will be briefed on the necessity of carefully developing those officers whom they consider beyond any doubt to be pro-US/anti-CP. The security of this FT is only fair at present; however, extreme caution continues to be exercised and a system of danger signals and alternate meeting places is being worked out. At present no communications in written form are passed between either brother and Case Officer. No money currently is involved but the older brother (ESODIC-1) has been told that he must feel free to accept reimbursement for any expenses incurred in obtaining information for us. It is planned that eventually he will be offered a straight salary which, if accepted, will give us more control than we have at present.

FT/6 ESKIMOID

Responsible Officer - Kenneth S. Givloch

As yet the opportunity has not presented itself for an attempt to develop the subject. It is planned that the approach will be made in the near future and a report submitted at that time.

FT/7 ESLABON

Lincoln is advised that the subject of this FT is in Mexico and until further notice the FT will be disregarded here.

FT/8 ESPARTO, ESPARTO-1

Responsible Officer - Kenneth S. Givloch

Provisional operational clearance has been obtained for the utilization of these individuals and they are now being used to provide travel information. No progress has yet been made in obtaining their aid for the desired defection envisioned by this Field Task.

FT/9 ESPOUSER

Responsible Officer - Cyrus E. Burnette

The above cryptonym was assigned subject at approximately the same time reference dispatch was prepared. Lincoln now has the correspondence. A direct approach was made to subject on 14 January 1954 at which time he agreed that for [] per month plus possible travel expenses when asked to travel for us he would furnish as much information on the CP as came to his attention. He has had no hesitancy in furnishing us with reports in his own handwriting, has not hesitated to sign receipts for money with his true name and in other ways has given the impression that he has full confidence in and is working exclusively for us. Whether or not the latter is true will be seen in the future. He is a clever individual whose native intelligence belies his appearance. Control over him at present consists of retention of those handwritten reports and signed receipts and control over the amounts of money he receives from us. Security of the FT is believed good although steps are being taken to improve it. Communications between ESPOUSER and the Case Officer consist solely of accepting written notes from him. Nothing in writing is ever given him by the Case Officer. His reliability has not as yet been established but if and when it is, subject will be briefed and asked to furnish information on details of the CP paramilitary preparations within labor groups. He has been evaluated as an "F" source in the past but current consideration is being given to elevating him to a "B" category.

FT/10 Arthur G. VAIVADA

Responsible Officer - Cyrus E. Burnette

Direct contact between the Case Officer and VAIVADA has been maintained since 4 January 1954. Since 22 January 1954, VAIVADA has been in direct contact with ESCROW. The initial meeting was carefully arranged and was carried out without incident. Since that time ESCROW and VAIVADA meet on an average of twice each week in order to exploit ESCROW's potential to the fullest extent. The Case Officer and VAIVADA meet on the average of twice each week especially on the morning following each meeting between ESCROW and VAIVADA. Thus far the security of the meetings between VAIVADA and Case Officer is believed good. The two meet at a prearranged place on a prearranged hour. Danger signals between the two have been worked out satisfactorily as well as "Double talk" telephone conversations. Communications are passed between the Case Officer and VAIVADA. Thus far there has been no indication that security is in danger. VAIVADA depends on Case Officer for administrative support and as a channel to headquarters. We have requested cable authorization to reimburse him for a used automobile which he has purchased and which will be used primarily in his contacts with ESCROW. To date no reply to the cable has been received.