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3 MARCH 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Operational Summary, Project AERATH

1. Introduction: Project AERATH will be terminated on 31 March 1958 and the principal agent under the project, AECAPÉLIN-1 will be transferred from Munich to Paris. In view of the fact that this Agency has been in operational contact with AECAPÉLIN-1 since 1946, a period of over 12 years, a mass of files have accumulated both on the principal agent and on the operational aspects of the Project AERATH. In order to aid the new headquarters case officer in assimilating this vast mass of material the undersigned has prepared an operational summary of Project AERATH. This summary is broken down into the following categories:

- a) Summary of KUBARK-AECAPÉLIN-1 Relationship.
- b) AECAPÉLIN-1's Political Background.
- c) AECAPÉLIN-1's Marital Status.
- d) Status of AECAPÉLIN-1's Headquarters's Escrow Account.
- e) List of Field and Headquarters Case Officers.
- f) Security Considerations.
- g) List of Headquarters Files on Project AERATH.

In spite of the fact that this operational summary is fairly lengthy it should not be substituted for a thorough study of AECAPÉLIN-1's voluminous 201-file and those Project AERATH files which deal with Development and Plans, and Support. This study is by no means complete but merely attempts to point out the highlights of the operation, and those aspects of the operation which need clarification prior to transfer of the project.

2. Chronological Summary of KUBARK-AECAPÉLIN-1 Relationship: The initial contact of AECAPÉLIN-1 appear to be shrouded in a great deal of mystery and no record has ever been made of this event. It appears that he was contacted in August 1946 in Salzburg, Austria by an alleged CIC agent, called "Uncle Tom", who was in fact a KUBARK case officer. Several months later he was turned over to a "Dr. Novak" ostensibly of CIC Salzburg. From 1947 to April 1949 AECAPÉLIN-1 worked under a rather loose arrangement in Salzburg and later in Munich. From April 1949 until April 1950 he was officially dropped as an agent but informal contact was maintained by Munich case officers. From April 1950 until July 1952

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he had agent status in Munich without NSA or Project. He was first put under project on 3 August 1952 under Project AEBATH, which has been successively removed until 31 March 1959.

- August 1946 - AECAPELIN-1 contacted in Salzburg, Austria - He was considered part of Project AEBELLADONNA primarily as a casual informant on Ukrainian emigre activities and personalities in Salzburg.
- 17 May 1947 - AECAPELIN-1 becomes an agent of SC, Munich with assignment of reporting information on the RIS which was in possession of OUN/SB members and general information on Ukrainian affairs.
- 8 Sept 1947 - Initial Field Project Outline submitted by Munich. This was never approved by headquarters.
- 13 Nov 1947 - Headquarters refused to give AECAPELIN-1 project status until he could prove that he was capable of supplying worthwhile information. AECAPELIN-1 continued working as informant in Munich, without NSA.
- 25 June 1948 - Second Field Project Outline submitted by Munich.
- 3 Sept 1948 - Headquarters tentatively approves Project AECAPELIN pending AECAPELIN-1's future production.
- April 1949 - Project AECAPELIN discontinued due to lack of production. AECAPELIN-1 was officially dropped as a Munich agent but informal operational contact was maintained with SUBJECT thru occasional meetings.
- Sept 1949 - AECAPELIN-1 recruited by UFSMHC primarily to provide CI type information.
- April 1950 - Headquarters concurred in more formal use of AECAPELIN-1 as an informant on the AECASSOMARIES and the AECAVATINAS and also information on the Ukrainian emigration in general but without formal project status.
- 18 July 1950 - AECAPELIN-1's employment with UFSMHC discovered. He was granted permission to continue providing UFSMHC with reports provided he informed us of their EKI's and provided us with copies of reports submitted to UFSMHC.
- Jan 1951 - AECAPELIN-1 put on agent status in Munich on regular salary which was charged to Project ANTONIARIC. His activities were primarily concerned in providing background information on Ukrainian emigration in support of Project ANTONIARIC.

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- Dec 1951 - Munich case officer instructed AECAPLIN-1 to sever ties with UPSWING which was in line with AECAPLIN-1's desires. Despite AECAPLIN-1's pleas of heavy pressure of church duties and possibility he might emigrate, the new UPSWING case officer pressed for maintenance of at least occasional contact. To relieve an awkward situation and forestall UPSWING speculation and suspicion AECAPLIN-1 was instructed to write and transmit occasional reports after clearing with the Munich case officer.
- Jan 1952 - At the instruction of Munich case officer AECAPLIN-1 accepted a proposition to work in an alleged Yugoslav intelligence network through AECANDIOT.
- 14 Mar 1952 - New Field Project Outline submitted by Munich.
- 21 Mar 1952 - Provisional Operational Clearance granted. C-2315.
- 7 June 1952 - First LCPLUTTER administered to AECAPLIN-1.
- 8 July 1952 - Operational Approval granted. C-3122.
- 29 July 1952 - AECAPLIN-1 and his wife granted right of entry into the United States under Section 8, Public Law 110.
- 4 Aug 1952 - Project for AECAPLIN-1 approved under cryptonym Project AEBATH for period 3 August 1952 to 31 July 1953. Subject to work as CE informant and general informant on Ukrainian emigration.
- April 1953 - AECAPLIN-1 instructed to continue UPSWING contact but to obtain prior Munich case officer approval of all material passed.
- 3 Nov 1953 - Project AEBATH Renewed for period 1 August 1953 to 31 July 1954. AECAPLIN-2, a Ukrainian emigre in Munich, included as translator and informant.
- Early June 1954 - AECAPLIN's legal wife writes a letter to Munich emigre stating that she is coming from East Germany to Munich. Since AECAPLIN-1 was allegedly married to Irene Bikus at this time, explanations were in order. (See section on AECAPLIN-1's marital status.
- 6 July 1954 - AECAPLIN's legal wife arrived in Munich.
- 7 July 1954 - AECAPLIN-1 met his legal wife.

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- 27 July 1954 - German Court Statement Issued Clarifying Relationship between AECAPPELIN-1 and Irene Ribus and declaring they not man and wife.
- 27 July 1954 - Request granted for change of AECAPPELIN-1's marital status in card-index of Munich Registration Office.
- 12 Aug 1954 - AECAPPELIN-1's legal wife receives right of exile in West Germany.
- 19 Oct 1954 - Court Action initiated requesting divorce between AECAPPELIN-1 and his legal wife.
- 17 Nov 1954 - Project AKBATH Renewal approved for period 1 Aug 54 to 31 July 1955.
- 31 Dec 1954 - Court Decision Granted Divorcing AECAPPELIN-1 and his wife.
- 31 Jan 1955 - First Discussions held between [ ] and Munich case officers about the possible use of Munich assets to support the development of emigre operations against the RIS in France. AECAPPELIN-1 proposed as possible informant for such development.
- Feb-Aug 1955 - Continued discussions about possible transfer of AECAPPELIN-1 to Paris as a CE informant.
- 8 Sept 1955 - Transfer of AECAPPELIN-1 to Paris Disapproved for Operational Reasons.
- 15 Sept 1955 - Project AKBATH Renewal approved for period 1 August 1955 to 31 July 1956.
- 6 Mar 1956 - Second ICFLUTTER administered to AECAPPELIN-1.
- 29 Mar 1956 - New Memorandum of Oral Agreement drawn up for AECAPPELIN-1.
- 3 Apr 1956 - Irene RIBUS, emigrates to Canada were she is established in cosmetics business - AECAPPELIN-1 pays her \$1500 out of his Escrow Account.
- 10 Aug 1956 - Visa granted to AECAPPELIN-1's divorced wife for emigration to U.S.
- 14 Oct 1956 - AECAPPELIN-1's divorced wife boards ship for the U.S.
- 5 Dec 1956 - Project AKBATH Renewal approved for period from 1 August 1956 to 31 July 1957.

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- 16 Apr 1957 - MUNICH pouch inadvertently missent to an UPWING office with possible compromise of an AEBATH dispatch.
- 9 Sept 1957 - Project AEBATH Renewal approved with the understanding that AECAPKELIN-1 must be transferred to another area by end of period 1 August 1957 to 31 July 1958.
- 31 Oct 1957 - Third LCFLUTTER administered to AECAPKELIN-1.
- 22 Jan 1958 - Headquarters recommends to Munich that AECAPKELIN-1 be transferred as requested in Project Renewal.
- 29 Jan 1958 - Munich rejects transfer and desires retain AECAPKELIN-1 services.
- 13 Mar 1958 - [ ] sounded out about possible transfer of AECAPKELIN-1.
- 2 April 1958 - Munich agrees to explore possibilities of AECAPKELIN-1 transfer.
- 20 May 1958 - AECAPKELIN-1's Memorandum of Oral Agreement extended from 1 August 1957 to 31 July 1958.
- 4 June 1958 - AECAPKELIN-1's Memorandum of Oral Agreement extended from 1 August 1958 for an indefinite period.
- 16 July 1958 - Dispatch sent Paris outlining background and operational history of Project AEBATH.
- 4 Aug 1958 - AECAPKELIN-1 refuses transfer to Paris.
- 18 Aug 1958 - Munich proposes transfer AECAPKELIN-1 to [ ]
- 6 Oct 1958 - [ ] unable to utilize AECAPKELIN-1 as CE informant due to small number of emigres there.
- 15 Oct 1958 - PARIS requested re AECAPKELIN-1 transfer.
- 27 Oct 1958 - AECAPKELIN-1 agrees to transfer to PARIS.
- 3 Nov 1958 - Project AEBATH Extended for eight months from 1 August 1958 to 31 March 1959.
- 1 Dec 1958 - Initial Munich- [ ] base officer meeting to discuss transfer of AECAPKELIN-1 to Paris.

3. AECAPKELIN-1's Political Background: While in Munich from 1947 to the present, AECAPKELIN-1 was extremely knowledgeable on the Munich Ukrainian emigration due to the fact that he was a former OUN member, a Greek-Catholic priest and a friend of many of the top leaders of the various Ukrainian emigre organizations.

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Subject's political background can be summarized as follows: He was a member of the OUN (Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists) in Poland from 1929 to 1945. From September 1945 to April 1947 Subject also served as a representative of the AEN (Anti-Bolshevik Block of Nations) in Salzburg and the Tyrol. Since 1945 Subject has been in close contact with the Zeh/OUN (Foreign Section of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists) also known as the OUN/BANDERA and led by Stefan Bandera, and for some time (1947 to October 1948) he served as the head of the counter-intelligence section of the Zeh/OUN's Sluzhba Bezpeka (Security Service). Following the Mitterwald Conference in August 1948 (where the OUN/B expelled the members of the Foreign Representation of the Ukrainian Supreme Liberation Council (ZP/UHVR) and others), Subject left the Zeh/OUN and the SB. However, he has continued to maintain private contacts with both groups up to the present time and is especially close to Ivan KASHUBA, the present head of the OUN/SB.

Because of this background, Subject has proved very useful in providing background information on individuals in both the above organizations especially during the time from 1950 to 1955 when this organization was conducting joint PI operations with the ZP/UHVR. (Please see Attachment A, for a list of cryptonyms utilized in our operational contacts with the above Ukrainian emigre organizations.

However, it should not be assumed that AECAPÉLIN-1's reporting was limited to the above-mentioned organizations. He proved to be a valuable source on many other Ukrainian organizations such as the URDP/Right and URDP/Left; UN Rada, AEN, LAONSS, and various Ukrainian Socialist and Rightist groups. It is impossible to summarize his extensive contacts and only a thorough study of the 12 volumes of the AERATH Operations File will provide an accurate picture of the extent of his contacts among the emigration.

4. AECAPÉLIN-1's Tangled Marital Status: In 1954 it was discovered by Munich Station that AECAPÉLIN-1 and Irene nee Bilus had been living as husband and wife since 1945 when in fact they had never been married. This came about when AECAPÉLIN-1's legal wife came from East Germany to Munich in July 1954. The facts on this tangled marital situation are as follows:

- a) AECAPÉLIN-1 married Marianna Elisabeth MOSKVA in November 1936 in Lvov, Ukraine. In 1937, AECAPÉLIN-1 was arrested by the Polish Police and sentenced to 12 years imprisonment for his activities in the OUN. During this time Subject's wife was unfaithful to him and he wrote to her giving her a free hand in a divorce. She did not take advantage of the offer.

In September 1939, AECAPÉLIN-1 was released from prison during the German attack on Poland. In early 1940 he again met his wife and they were reunited to avoid a public scandal. In June 1941 Subject was sent to the front lines and his wife again took up with another lover. In 1944 she fled with a German officer to Slovakia and later to Vienna. From mid 1944 until her appearance in Munich in July 1954, AECAPÉLIN-1 had no contact or news from her.

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In the meantime, AECAPPELIN-1 began working with the Germany Abwehr in Dreesow and a Irene Yaroslavna BIRUS was appointed as his assistant by the Germans. The two were entrusted with housing of captured Russian agents and watching over their wireless communication. Lest the Russian Agents become suspicious, the Germans ordered the two to pretend to be a married couple. With this end in mind, BIRUS was furnished with false documents made in AECAPPELIN-1's name though the two had never contracted a marriage.

In the middle of April 1945, the two were sent on a mission to Austria by the Germans. They registered with the authorities as husband and wife and after Germany's collapse AECAPPELIN-1 received an Austrian Kennkarte. When he was transferred to Munich in 1947, the couple received German documents on the basis of registration with the police. The first falsification of documents took place in Munich in 1940, when AECAPPELIN-1 presented IRO with a false marriage certificate in regard to an alleged marriage in Krakow. Later, a copy of this false marriage certificate was given to the German police in Munich during October 1952, when a Reisepass was issued to Irene.

- b) The matter was resolved by having AECAPPELIN-1 and BIRUS go to the German court and clarify their relationship. This was done on 27 July 1954 and AECAPPELIN-1's marital status was changed in the Munich Registration Office. On 31 December 1954, AECAPPELIN-1 and his legal wife Marianna nee MOSKVA were divorced by German court. AECAPPELIN-1 was now rid of both women.
- c) On 3 April 1956, Irene BIRUS emigrated to Canada where she established herself in the cosmetics business with the help of \$1500 from AECAPPELIN-1. In October 1956, AECAPPELIN-1's divorced wife emigrated to the United States. AECAPPELIN-1 now has no further obligations to either woman.

5. AECAPPELIN-1's Headquarter's Escrow Account

Included as Attachment B to this memorandum is a complete breakdown of AECAPPELIN-1's Headquarter's Escrow Account. This includes all deposits and withdrawals from 1953 until 31 March 1959. The total amount in subject's escrow account, as of 31 March 1959, is \$7445.05.

6. Field and Headquarters Case Officers:

a) Field Case Officers

- |   |    |                      |                                 |
|---|----|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| ( | .. | ) (Identity unknown) | - Salzburg - 1946               |
| ( | )  | Identity unknown)    | - Salzburg - 1946 - Spring 1947 |

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the unmarked pouch. (IR-1-2582, dated 10 April 1957). There seems to be little doubt that URSIC is and will remain content to use ACPHILL-1 on a casual basis, by our leave as it were, as has been the case in the past. We believe URSIC is aware of the fact that ACPHILL-1 has had a long and close relationship with KUBARK, presumably would assume that ACPHILL-1 knows where his real future lies, and doubt very much that URSIC would try to warm up their present contact with ACPHILL-1 to any great extent. If for no other reason than the fact that they must assume that ACPHILL-1 reports on his dealings with URSIC to KUBARK. From our point of view, we also are convinced that if URSIC should try to get any closer to ACPHILL-1, he would report the fact, without fail, for the reasons noted above as well as several others...."

The underlined does not know whether ACPHILL-1 will be able to make a clear break with URSIC at this time though it appears that this probably will be possible. We have requested the field case officer to give us a full report of ACPHILL-1's resolution of his URSIC relationship, prior to his transfer to Paris. Even if URSIC refused to drop all contact with ACPHILL-1, this would not necessarily be detrimental. In fact, it might provide us with a valuable picture of URSIC's interests and sites in Paris.

- c) ACPHILL-1's Relationship with the ACPHILL-1's: As mentioned before, ACPHILL-1 has been in contact with top Ukrainian endgame leaders throughout his tour in Zurich. His relations with the ACPHILL-1's and especially ACPHILL-12 need further explanation in view of the latter's offer to make ACPHILL-1 his representative in Paris.

Headquarters files do not reflect the full details on the extent of ACPHILL-1's relationship with the ACPHILL-1's from an operational standpoint. It appears that this relationship is based primarily on friendship and on the fact that ACPHILL-12 is aware that ACPHILL-1 has had extensive experience in the intelligence field, and can be called upon for advice on operational matters.

We have requested the field case officer to provide us with further information on this relationship and to report the details of ACPHILL-1's final resolution of his relationship with ACPHILL-12.

8. List of Headquarters Files on ACPHILL-1 and Project ACPHILL-1

- a) Subject's DM File:

Vol. I - December 1946 - December 1952

Vol. II - January 1953 - December 1954

Vol. III - January 1955 - December 1956

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Vol. IV - January 1957 - December 1958

Vol. V - January 1959 - Present

The above files have been turned over to C SR/2 on 4 March 1958. J

b) Project AEBATH is broken down as follows:

1) AEBATH/Development & Plans - 1 volume - Transferred to SR/2 (Case File No. 74-6-63/1)

2) AEBATH/Support - 1 volume - Transferred to SR/2 (Case File No. 74-6-63/2)

3) AEBATH/Operations - (74-6-63/3)

Vol. 1 - Feb 1947 - Jul 1951  
Vol. 2 - Sept 1951 - Dec 1952  
Vol. 3 - Jan 1953 - June 1953  
Vol. 4 - Jul 1953 - Oct 1953  
Vol. 5 - Nov 1953 - Nov 1954  
Vol. 6 - Dec 1954 - Sept 1955  
Vol. 7 - Oct 1955 - Mar 1956  
Vol. 8 - Apr 1956 - Nov 1956  
Vol. 9 - Dec 1956 - Mar 1957  
Vol. 10 - Apr 1957 - Aug 1957  
Vol. 11 - Sept 1957 - Dec 1957  
Vol. 12 - Jan 1958 - Jul 1958  
Vol. 13 - Aug 1958 - Mar 1959

Retired to RI/Archives

Any portion of this project may be obtained by requesting WASH-CIA-PRD-3892 and the folder number desired.

- 4) AEBATH/Production - (74-6-63/4) - 1 volume - Retired to RI/Archives under WASH-CIA-PRD-3892. In reality, the real production of Project AEBATH will be found in the Operations folders due to the fact that operations and production are so closely bound together in a CE-Informant type case.
- 5) AEBATH/USP/ONG - Vol. I, II & III & IV. This was a file set up to include only the German language reports which AEBATH-1 passed to the Germans. It has been retired to RI/Files under the file number 74-6-130/4.
- 6) AEBATH/News Reports - Vols. I, II, III, IV. This file was set up to include long untranslated reports prepared by AEBATH-1 in Ukrainian, Polish, or German. It has been retired to RI/Archives and bears the number WASH-CIA-PRD-3092.

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