

9 September 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: SR/CPP

SUBJECT: Summary Report as of 1 July 1953 -
AECHAMP PP Activities

1. SR has been in continuous contact with the AECHAMP organization since August 1949. Our collaboration with this National Lithuanian group was initiated primarily in the interest of FI operations. Up to approximately nine months ago the PP value of the group remained largely dormant. The group prepared and signed two leaflets which were dropped into USSR in 1950 and 1951. It also published a few books of value in the English, French, German and Lithuanian languages, and prepared occasional materials for broadcasting into Iron Curtain territory over VOA, RFE and other available European facilities, but otherwise confined its work to political activity in connection with friendly governments and the Lithuanian community in the western world. Only since the turn of the year have AECHAMP PP activities assumed more serious proportions. Now they appear to be of great potential merit.

2. These activities fall into two broad categories of radio broadcasting and news-propaganda dissemination through print. As of the end of June 1953 they were as follows:

a. The AECHAMPS were broadcasting to Iron Curtain areas in the Lithuanian language on seven-day weekly schedules over the following short wave facilities:

Radio Rome and Radio Vatican - 20 and 15 minutes daily respectively and 15 minutes daily over Radio Madrid. This time is available to the AECHAMPS free of charge. To Radio Vatican they pay an occasional subsidy of \$100 to \$200 of their own will.

b. Both on demand and at their own initiative they are supplying texts, tapes and speakers to

VOA (Radio Center Munich and New York)
RFE Munich
RIAS
Radio Stuttgart (Südwest Rundfunk)
NWDR Hamburg
Deutsche Welle Köln
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c. The AECHAMPS record the daily output of LSSR radio stations. For this purpose they operate a monitoring station at Scharbeuts, near Lübeck, Germany.

d. They publish every ten days an "ELTA News Bulletin", a lively 20-page mimeographed publication in the Lithuanian language. The immediate practical purpose of the bulletin is to service the Lithuanian language press in the West consisting of some 70 dailies and weeklies in all parts of the globe and 8 radio outlets in the U.S. A broader purpose of the bulletin is to guide, weld together and inform the Lithuanian emigre community from a central source.

e. They subsidize a small weekly ("Kelciwis" - "Traveler") intended for Germanized Lithuanian emigres from so-called Lithuania Minor and East Prussia. Frequently the weekly makes its way into the East Zone of Germany.

f. As occasion demands, the AECHAMPS issue books, pamphlets and leaflets for distribution in the West, and, when possible, in East. Currently, they are arranging for the publication in South America of a popularly written Spanish language non-fiction volume entitled "El Imperio del Genocidio". It is intended to help the large Lithuanian communities in South America in their efforts to counteract pre-communist tendencies prevalent among native inhabitants. During June 1953 the AECHAMPS also issued in Germany 4,000 copies of a 4-page German language anti-Soviet leaflet ("Sowjetische Worte und Taten in Baltikum") for distribution by friendly Germans by mail to intellectuals in the Western and Eastern Zones.

g. Over and above the specific items listed above, the AECHAMPS carry on a widespread program of political-publicity activity directed at the West for the underlying purposes of (1) creating news to give substance to transmissions directed at Soviet, (2) securing neutral third-party personal or mechanical outlets for their output or point of view, and, obviously, also, for the purpose of influencing Western opinion. To this end the AECHAMPS service regularly all leading newspapers, periodic publications and broadcasting networks in Western Germany, Austria and Switzerland with a monthly German-language news bulletin ("ELTA Pressebericht") and supplement this with extensive personal contact and frequent one-story news releases. In addition, both under their own name and that of a "Lithuanian Secretariat for the European Movement" at Strasbourg they put out releases and exploit personal contact for the purpose of gaining access to

French, Scandinavian and other European printed and radio news media. Shortly, the non-German language European press and radio field is to be serviced with a French version of the "Elta Pressdienst". A current favored, and effective, temporary AECHAMP press device has been to convoke press conferences for the purpose of developing new personal contacts. A July 1953 conference held at Hamburg in connection with Baltic demands to UN resulted in extensive European medium- and shortwave radio coverage. A spot check of German and Swiss papers revealed coverage in newspapers with a combined circulation of 1,150,000 (not including papers not seen). As events warrant, additional conferences are to be held in Bonn, Paris, Rome, Strasbourg and Luxembourg (the last intended to secure entree to Radio Luxembourg).

3. AECHAMP PP activities directed to Iron Curtain areas are tailored for mass appeal. Those activities which are confined to the West, including the bulk of the AECHAMP press-publication program, are distinctly aimed at makers of governmental and organized and mass public opinion. It can be said safely, on the basis of experience, that AECHAMP PP activities have impact and value far beyond the scope warranted by the total number of AECHAMP nationals in emigration (approximately 1,500,000) and living under Soviet rule (approximately 3,000,000). Their effectiveness is due to the fact that the AECHAMP organization (a) has deep sentimental root in the homeland and its wartime history; (b) it has reasonably warm general Lithuanian and non-Lithuanian public support as a moral spokesman for the homeland; (c) it is not an artificial emigre creation; (d) AECHAMP, representing a small nation, can and does exploit natural sympathies for the underdog; and, (e) the organization has two-three dedicated individuals to carry the great intellectual load of the work.

4. Except for these few individuals AECHAMP otherwise limps along on an average level of personnel competence. This condition is the result, in turn, of the fact that AECHAMP, like many another exile group, suffers seriously from the helplessness of a spectator relegated to the role of looking out upon events and policies that are determined by the more powerful; from depletion of personnel through emigration; from general attrition by time and political uncertainty, and from an obscure financial future. The majority of AECHAMP leaders and employees are in their positions by default. It can be said that, essentially, AECHAMP is living on its past moral strength and reputation. Unless AECHAMP and the AECHAMP community takes measures to strengthen the organization in political and executive personnel, in time, in perhaps the maximum of five years, the organization may begin to disintegrate, with or without our support, short of developments that may decide the fate of the AECHAMP homeland.

5. AECHAMP is organized and staffed as follows:

a. The group is headed by a governing body of 9 non-salaried political policy makers who meet irregularly and represent the major political views in the Lithuanian anti-Soviet community. At its offices in Reutlingen, Germany, AECHAMP has a staff of 5 salaried officials who compose the Executive Committee and 12 editorial-technical and clerical employees. Of this number, one Executive Committee member, 5 editorial and 2 clerical employees are directly concerned with radio, press and other PP-type activities. In addition, there is one salaried AECHAMP representative each on the scene at Radio Rome, Radio Vatican and Radio Madrid. It is believed that Madrid may eventually require 3 employees and Rome-Vatican two employees each.

b. Organizationally, PP activities come under the jurisdiction of the AECHAMP "Information Service" which is one of the four divisions of the AECHAMP Executive Committee. Since this "Service" supervises all normal AECHAMP informational, as well as PP type publicity-propaganda activities, PP work is segregated for sharpness and drive into a separate PP Staff. A competent chief is now being sought for this staff as a result of the resignation of a temporary head who had been hired on a trial basis. (SR has on hand a potential candidate for this post. The individual is acceptable to AECHAMP and may be dispatched to Germany if found to be adequate after trial and training in the U.S.) Current gaps in qualified subordinate personnel are usually filled by AECHAMP through the expensive device of farming out tasks to competent individuals wherever they can be found, usually outside of Germany.

c. There is no question in AECHAMP minds that the only American guidance they will consider is that which comes from us. For the purpose of procuring intelligent guidance on European and AECHAMP national trends, the group has in existence an informal advisory panel of prominent unpaid Lithuanian and non-Lithuanian individuals residing in major European centers who may make individual or collective suggestions through correspondence or occasional consultations. In addition to this, throughout the world AECHAMP operates a network of some 50 volunteer contributors-listening posts who are reimbursed for expenses and whose function it is to support AECHAMP political and PP activities by monitoring local conditions and keeping AECHAMP informed, by establishing contacts and by planting press and radio materials. This network covers all large U.S. and Canadian communities, all of Western Europe, South America, Australia and parts of the Middle East.

d. An ex-officio member of the PP staff is AEPOLE 6, the Chief of AECHAMP FI Operations. His function is to advise on possibilities and techniques for clandestine PP tasks, to carry them out and to keep generally informed on AECHAMP PP staff activities for this purpose.

6. The main propaganda line pursued by the AECHAMPS is uncompromisingly anti-Soviet. On their own initiative they avoid anti-Russianism. The anti-Soviet line is based on the assumption that the leopard will not change his spots; that while the present Soviet dictatorial system prevails all peaceful overtures to the West are ruses and that the non-Soviet world can begin crediting USSR with good will only when the Soviet regime begins making substantial political concessions to its own people and especially to conquered peoples. Underlying this approach is an understandable emphasis on demands for the liberation of the AECHAMP homeland. However, this matter is given general appeal by putting forth references to the AECHAMP national plight as an example of what befalls a nation when it becomes a victim of Communism. This is presented in the sense that "We experienced Communism at first hand. Take warning from our tragedy and help us." The country itself is urged to resist and thwart Soviet authorities with all passive means, but above all, to try to preserve its moral and physical strength for the moment of decision. Therefore, until the time when broad overt resistance may become profitable, the nation should try to "roll with the punch" when no other opposition course other than open violence to Soviet pressure seems possible. A current major concern of the AECHAMPS is the development of children and youth programs that will appeal to both young and general audiences in USSR territory. In addition to their basic audience in USSR, the AECHAMPS also try to reach substantial groups of their own nationals in Poland, scatterings of them in BSSR, the East Zone of Germany and an audience of unknown size and unknown listening facilities in Siberia.

7. Because of a lack of time and facilities AECHAMP radio activities have not been monitored for content during delivery or checked prior to delivery on the air except in isolated cases of major addresses or news stories. However, the general and specific lines used are apparent at all times, in the overt AECHAMP news bulletins and other publications. The AECHAMP attack line has been consistently stronger than that of the VOA or the overt U.S. governmental line without contradicting it in spirit or intent. Editorial control of AECHAMP press and radio production at the source would require the stationing of an SR representative at or near AECHAMP headquarters. He, in turn, would have to be serviced at least monthly with guidance on specific propaganda lines and with more frequent news and theme materials. Or, in time it may become more

profitable to establish SR links for speed and efficiency with AECHAMP radio representatives in Rome and Madrid. From any point of view AECHAMP radio activities must be regarded as still being in the stage of infancy and experiment. One of the early needs is to obtain some data for an estimate of the probable audibility of Rome, Vatican and Madrid shortwave facilities in and around the main AECHAMP target areas. This is a completely unknown matter. As of the summer of 1951 scattered sources from the USSR reported hearing rumors that Radio Vatican could be heard there in a non-Lithuanian language, but nothing further has been learned to substantiate this. A possible indirect indication that AECHAMP radio activities are getting through to the homeland is in the fact that as of May 1953 three provincial USSR radio stations went off the air (Siauliai, Kaunas, Klaipeda). Conceivably, this may have been a result of the AECHAMP practice of specializing in monitoring these stations for revealing local news and rebroadcasting it with comment to the homeland and Western audiences.

8. Short of sending an SR representative to Germany for direct supervision of AECHAMP FP activities, a possible alternative exists in the weekly pouches of news and themes currently going out from SR/2 to AECHAMPS, if this correspondence is expanded to include extensive guidance on general propaganda lines and two-way discussions with AECHAMPS on routine problems of cooperation. In addition to a measure of control that this would constitute it would also fill the AECHAMP need for constant consultation on the American point of view. This they do not have now with the departure from Germany of all Baltic case-and contacting officers. Presently, AECHAMP matters are handled from Munich by Novinger on a part-time basis. Should AECHAMP FP activities show increasing promise and scope, eventually it may become necessary to have them handled on a full-time basis both in the field and at the headquarters. The growth of these activities is likely to call for solutions to a number of serious but now dormant problems. A more virile and effective AECHAMP may prompt German authorities to pressure the organization into submitting to their control. This in turn may raise once again the question of relocating AECHAMP in some other part of Europe, which would create new problems of security, control, personnel and increased subsidization. Thus far the Bonn attitude to AECHAMP has been that of friendly cooperation and assistance. The attitude of the local state authorities has been carpingly hostile as towards a group of foreigners occupying sorely needed German housing facilities and enjoying privileges through the protection by the occupying powers at the expense of destitute Germans. Partly, AECHAMP has continued to remain in Germany exactly because of this protection; partly, because it regards Germany as the focal point of Europe and also because the largest AECHAMP community on the continent resides there. An important factor is also the belief that operating expenses are lower in Germany than elsewhere in Europe. Thus, AECHAMP salaries are geared to German standards and average 300-350 DM per month.

9. At this writing there is no apparent reason why we should not continue to collaborate with AECHAMP and support the organization until it disqualifies itself or the need for this relationship ceases to exist. It is believed that a subsidy of [] should be adequate if not slightly generous for all routine and developmental needs during the next twelve months. Current support has been paid at the rate of [] (in DMs) quarterly. These have been one-time payments made to the AECHAMPS, specifically for PP purposes, in March and June of this year. (Two other one-time general support subsidies paid to the organization were the equivalents of [] and [] turned over in 1950 and 1951 to keep the organization going, in exchange for operational support.) It is believed that in the interest of control we should continue to pay future subsidies in quarterly installments. However, any funds given to AECHAMP will go further if the organization is advised that appropriations for it are made on an annual basis and that with performance there will be no reason why such appropriations will not be used up. This will enable the AECHAMPS to plan ahead with greater assurance and on a sounder basis than is afforded by three-month periods. Also, our subsidies will be more valuable to the AECHAMPS if the funds are deposited in dollars in an AECHAMP account in Switzerland in order to enable the organization to take advantage of favorable Swiss rates and to keep the true extent of its finances from the knowledge of the German authorities.

10. The AECHAMPS adhere to the principle that they will maintain themselves as an organization and finance activities which are their "raison d'etre" out of their regular income. This income consists of between \$20,000 to \$25,000 received annually in public subscriptions, which fluctuate considerably with the trend of public events but in general tend to decrease with the passage of time. Inherent AECHAMP activities, in addition to purely organizational and patriotic work, are political actions carried out in connection with the UN, governments, official and unofficial world movements, emigre groups and the like. Since travel, office space, administrative and other overhead expenses are incurred necessarily in connection with both normal and PP-type activities, it appears just to draw the line between subsidy and non-subsidy expenditures on the basis of the following formula:

a. The AECHAMPS finance out of their own funds:

- (1) All expenses connected with organizational, patriotic and national and international political activity, including national propaganda meetings, conferences, publication of notes and documentation, and recruitment of political personnel, and

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(11) One half of expenditures connected with administrative, travel, equipment and other overhead needs.

b. The AECHAMPS draw upon subsidy funds for:

(1) All radio, monitoring and non-Lithuanian press and propaganda activities, and

(11) One half of administrative and other overhead expenditures enumerated above.

11. The AECHAMPS are subject to monthly accountings to us on the use of subsidy funds. The present rate of expenditure averages \$3,000 monthly, with approximately 50% going to radio needs, 30% to press propaganda and 20% to overhead and administration, including heavy postage and other distribution expenses. In the AECHAMP organization all funds, including subsidies, are controlled by an independent three-man National Fund and expenditures are made against bills on the basis of countersigned vouchers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

12. It is recommended, subject to the reservations stated in para 13 below, that:

a. PP subsidy payments to AECHAMP be continued during FY 1954 at an annual rate of [] (or possibly [] to allow greater freedom for orderly expansion) to be paid quarterly under the terms and methods outlined above (para 9-11);

b. The indigenous PP staff chief selected by SR/2 be dispatched to AECHAMP at an early date to prevent the presently leaderless AECHAMP PP apparatus from falling into stagnation;

c. The indigenous PP staff chief be accompanied to his post by an SR/2 staff member assigned for a 3-month period of TDY to initiate him into his duties and gain for himself direct knowledge on the ground on the problems involved for more effective handling of future practical problems;

d. Arrangements be made (possibly with appropriate EE and WE field stations) to spot-test the probable audibility of Radio Rome, Vatican and Madrid in the primary AECHAMP target areas;

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e. In the event the present promising AECHAMP PP development should continue, consideration be given at the appropriate time to the question of a PCS field assignment of an SR/2 member for the purpose of constant supervision, monitoring and control. It is suggested that in the interim a two-way exchange of correspondence on a weekly to 10-day basis be initiated between AECHAMP and this Headquarters on matters of guidance and day-to-day problems. It is also suggested that SR/2 sample at irregular intervals independent opinions on AECHAMP PP effectiveness in view of the cumbersome and time-consuming nature that any direct ante- or post facto monitoring efforts by SR/2 would have to take.

f. Finally, due to the fact that AECHAMP is constantly subject to political and economic influences which are beyond AECHAMP or our control, it is recommended that the AECHAMP program of PP activities, as well as the entire relationship with AECHAMP, be subjected to a complete review at six-month intervals to determine its continued value as an instrument of PP, FI and other anti-Soviet activity.

13. One general question pertaining to AECHAMP or any other similar group that can be raised at this point is whether PP-type of collaboration of the character described here, excluding the question of covert support, is a proper sphere of work for SR, or if it is in fact so, whether this collaboration could not be carried out more effectively by some other existing governmental or semi-governmental medium. Our understandable need to apply covert practices to all phases of such collaboration, with attendant distractions and diversions of time and effort from other tasks, raises the question whether the value received is justified. There can be discussion even on the question of whether the task of covert support itself is properly placed, particularly in view of the possibility that what is now, of necessity, being done covertly, can be done more effectively overtly. These questions are raised here not necessarily as a matter for discussion or as a recommendation, but primarily as a point, coming to the fore from extensive experience, which should be considered in periodic reviews of collaboration with such organizations as AECHAMP.

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