9 November 1954

Chief of Foreign Intelligence MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT

: Project AECHAMP (Renewal)

PURPOSE: This project supports FI operations against Lithuania 1. with primary emphasis on REDSOX and REDSKIN activities. Since its inception. several years ago, this project has met with both successes and reverses. It currently is undergoing a regrouping and reassessment and the present renewal is intended to cover the Agency's obligations to the few remaining assets, and to serve as a base for starting operations anew. Prior to any future active operations, an amendment will be submitted to this project or the new activity will be presented as a new project.

2. PERSONNEL:

a. [] contract agent who is serving as P/A of the project.

b. [_____, two field agents who are being debriefed in Germany for CE and PP purposes.

HISTORY: This project began as an operation against the Baltic States through a base in Lithuania in June 1949. Since that time it has been amended and renewed numerous times but always with the basic mission of recruiting, training and dispatching agents into Lithuania and the USSR. Past operations have included the dispatch of agents into the target area, their capture and extermination, the doubling of our agents by the RIS and joint operations with the British. During recent months the project's status has changed so often that project actions sent to the staff were outdated before they could be approved. One of these, a request for extension, is attached but is to be disregarded since it does not reflect the true status of the project. For this reason the Division and the FI Staff have agreed that the present potential of AECHAMP is that represented by the planning of a future REDSOX operation utilizing the former P/A of [], []; the CE phase in which contact is being maintained with an ; and]).L are being agent inside the USSR utilized in this aspect and for their PP potential.

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4. ACTION AND AUTHORIZATION REQUESTED:

Renewal from 1 July 1954 through 30 June 1955 with authorization to obligate ______ from the DD/P-SR Division budget of the 1955 fiscal year.

Breakdown:

Compensation (C) Compensation (C) @ \$4,000 each) Travel Operational expenses \$5**,000**



Total

Commitments: Authority is requested to grant action agents the following benefits, following their completion of a mission into Lithuania: Return to the US as permanent residents, death and disability insurance, and a bonus of approximately \$2,500.

5. FT STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. Following the meeting of the DC/FI/OPS with Division and STC representatives in early August the DC/FI/OPS made the following recommendations: "We recommend the approval of those portions of AECHAMP for which financial commitments must be made. A separate project should be written for the REDSOX operation planned for launching in May 1955 with reference, or as an amendment, to AECHAMP. This new project can then more definitely specify operational details and financial commitments. Specifically, we see no point at this stage to set aside almost \$16,000 for operational expenses which are quite unforeseeable at this time." (See memorandum attached.)

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- b. In view of this recommendation, Projects Branch obtained approval of the Division to reduce the renewal request to only that amount necessary for the compensation of the three agents on board, a fund for travel and a fund for operational expenses required for the holding operation. That amount requested for the infiltration operation was eliminated. The delay in the processing of this action was occasioned by the following: After the meeting with the DC/FI/OPS, which was to consider renewal for a year, new activities within the project led the Division to believe that an extension, rather than renewal, would be appropriate. This request for an extension was submitted to the FI Staff in late August 1954, however, before it could be processed it was learned that conditions set forth in the extension had changed and were no longer realistic. It was them decided that it would be more appropriate to again request renewal under the original recommendations made by the DC/FI/OPS on 6 August 1954.

hief, Plans Approved:

Attachment:

Project Outline AECHAMP

FI Staff Coordination:

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DC/FI/OPS For FI/OPS Chief/STC STC/SPB C/Plans Br.