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22 October 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Domestic Operations Base
VIA : SR/COP/PI, SR/COP
SUBJECT : AEDEPOT Program

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD HOUSE EXEMPTION 3028
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. Confirming our conversation on 21 October, I have examined subject Project file which was forwarded to SR/COP/Plans for review and comment as an attachment to your memo dated 8 October. The file was hand-carried to me by on 20 October.

2. I appreciate this chance to take a second look at this Project which will serve as background for some of the writing that I will have to do in connection with the development of ~~that portion~~ of the Division's Preliminary Estimates for FY 1961 (in preparation currently) and the Division's Operational Program for FY 1960 which will be prepared this Winter. With your permission, given to me orally, I have made a thermofax copy of your 9 July 1958 renewal request for AEDEPOT for FY 1959.

3. With the exception of a couple of points that I would like to make concerning matters discussed in your 17 January 1958 review of Project AERREADY, I would prefer to defer any detailed comments on the direction and scope of AEDEPOT until after we have gone through the U/W requirements exercise which is the subject of separate correspondence. If I have any substantive comments that are worth putting down on paper, I believe I should be in a better position to make them after we have finished wrapping up the SR Statement of Capability required in connection with the JCS U/W requirement exercise.

4. Confirming our conversation of yesterday, the only points I have to make with respect to your 17 January 1958 report which was not officially routed to me are the following:

- a. With particular reference to page 23, I would suggest that it would be well not to make much of a point of the statement attributed to DDCI with respect to CIA's concept of its role in war in support of military operations. It is true that some of the papers

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prepared by PPC for DDCI's signature in 1955 and 1956 did contain a categorical statement to the effect that "priority of effort in war preparation should be given to the creation of assets having current operational usefulness". I would suggest, however, that this statement is taken somewhat out of context since the DDCI memo in question is followed up by an acknowledgment that this particular doctrine has little application on the intelligence collection side where we are largely dependent upon stand-by or stay-behind assets which, if properly and securely managed, are definitely not allowed to have any "current operational usefulness". I think we all agree that the assets developed under AEDEPOT are not to be considered for current operational use in order to avoid endangering or contaminating them from a security point of view. Therefore, I suggest that in any future correspondence on the subject of AEDEPOT, it would be well to tone down any statement about AEDEPOT having current operational usefulness.

- b. As a second point, it is noted that you have a statement on page 24 of your AEDEPOT review to the effect that you estimate that at least 600 agents would be needed to satisfy the 169 target requirements imposed by the JCS. Confirming our phone conversation, I would suggest that it would be well to avoid gearing the goals for AEDEPOT to any of the magic numbers appearing in the yearly JCS U/W target or area requirements. The number was 132 last year (not 169) and it may be 1,132 next year depending upon the mood of the Pentagon at the time. As you and I agree, (and I know SR/COP and SR/COP/FI feel strongly on this point, too) it would be well to continue to stress in any publicity given to our Program that we will put selectivity ahead of any attempt to gear the number of agents trained to the numerical dimensions of any sort of requirements developed in the military services. As another point in this connection, I think if we stay away from any talk about gearing our goals in AEDEPOT to the numbers specified in the JCS requirements (particularly a ratio on the order

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of 600 agents to satisfy 169 targets) we will look better on the balance than would otherwise be the case to any reviewing authorities looking over our shoulders.



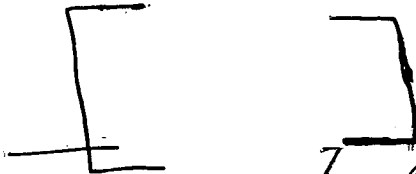
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1 - Addressee w/a (AEDEPOT Program)

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