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1-6392

APR 29 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Operations, DD/P
SUBJECT : Project AEMANNER (Approval)

1. The attached project, originating in the SR Division, is herewith presented for your approval in the total amount of \$13,000 for the period 1 May 1955 through 30 April 1956.

2. Attached is a memorandum, prepared by Plans Staff, dated 26 April 1955, summarizing the important factors involved and stating the recommendations of the FI Staff.

Chief
Foreign Intelligence

Approved:

COP-DD/P

29 April '55

Date

Attachment: Project Outline AEMANNER

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2D
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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26 April 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Foreign Intelligence

SUBJECT : Project AEMANNER (Approval)

1. PURPOSE: To launch a REDSKIN operation from the Western Hemisphere and Europe, targeted against the Lithuanian SSR. It is proposed to:
 - a. Spot, recruit, and train Lithuanians planning to return to their native country.
 - b. Spot, recruit, and train Lithuanian merchant seamen who are employed on or who are qualified to apply for employment on vessels calling at Lithuanian SSR ports.
 - c. Exploit existing postal channels between the Lithuanian SSR and the West for operational support and intelligence interception purposes.
 - d. Interrogate persons coming out of the Lithuanian SSR to obtain operational information.

2. PERSONNEL:
 - a. Agents with whom the Agency has made oral agreements are:
 - (1) [] (1) a former Lithuanian Army officer who fled Lithuania in 1944 before the advance of the Soviet Army. He is now covered as P/A of Project AECHAMP (formerly Project CAPSTAN, under Basic Plan AEGEAN), but is herewith being transferred to AEMANNER. [] worked for the French IS from 1946 until his recruitment by CIA in 1950. He was subsequently appointed chief of operations for an emigre group in Germany, helped interrogate refugees from the USSR, and later became P/A for AECANVAS BACK, an operation which was designed to exploit Lithuanian railroad employees. For his work in Project AEMANNER, [] will be brought to the U.S. to serve in a support capacity spotting and developing legal traveller and correspondence leads. (Note: It has been established that this agent was blown to the RIS through his connec--

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tion with AECANVASBACK. However, since his new assignment will be in the U.S., his position from the security angle is considered by CI/OA to be reasonably safe.)

- (2) [] (formerly [], under Project CAPSTAN), is a Lithuanian who fled his country during the wartime German occupation. He was subsequently connected with a number of anti-German and anti-Russian organizations. Recruited by CIA in 1951, he was employed as an interrogator. For the AECANVASBACK operation, he made contacts with two of its agents. He will be used for Project AEMANNER in a support capacity. (Note: Since the FPOP was written, this agent has obtained a job with Radio Free Europe. It has been established that he has been pretty well blown through his past activities, but because his new job will take up much of his time, he will be used by CIA on a parttime basis only, and on non-sensitive tasks, such as spotting and gathering operational information. His "planned immigration to the U.S." as mentioned in the FPOP, is not expected to materialize in the near future.)

b. The following potential agents, for whom the Desk has been awaiting clearances, are expected to be used in the project:

- (1) [], a naturalized American citizen of Lithuanian birth who came to the U.S. about 1947. He is now manager of an import-export firm in the U.S. and makes frequent trips to Europe and occasional ones to South America and Asia. Approached in the U.S. by [] (formerly with Project CAPSTAN) in March 1954, he expressed his willingness to serve. He will be assigned to spot Lithuanian merchant seamen and potential repatriates to Lithuania. It is expected that he will serve without pay. Provisional Covert Security Approval was requested by the Division in November 1954.

- (2) [] (not yet contacted) is a Lithuanian DP who was sentenced to a year in a German jail on an undetermined charge (probably theft). Scheduled for release in January 1955, he was last reported in the prison hospital under treatment for tuberculosis. The lead to this prospective agent was furnished through the debriefing of a refugee from behind the Iron Curtain, who had been corresponding with the subject. This correspondence, now in the possession of the Agency, indicates Subject's "repentance" and a "yearning for his homeland". If recruitment is accomplished and his repatriation can be managed, he will be trained for

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clandestine work before going back to his native country. Provisional Operational Approval was requested by the Division in January 1955.

- c. Another potential agent (no cryptonym yet assigned), is a Lithuanian-born California sports instructor who fled to Sweden after the war where he was employed by the U.S. State Department. He emigrated to the U.S. about 1947 and obtained U.S. citizenship in 1954. This man speaks good Lithuanian, English, German, Russian, and Swedish, and has some knowledge of Polish, French, Norwegian, Danish, and Latvian. He was approached by a Headquarters C/O in March 1955, and expressed his willingness to engage in intelligence work. If a recruitment develops, it is planned to send him to Germany where he will spot and develop leads for REDSKIN activities. Provisional Operational Approval has been granted.
- d. One more agent, in Europe, is under assessment for Project AEMANNER. No further details are yet available.

Cover: On his arrival in the U.S., [] will probably be covered as a Department of the Army employee. [] and [] will probably employ natural cover. Arrangements for the others will be made after their formal recruitment.

3. BACKGROUND: All activities concerning intelligence gathering from the Lithuanian SSR have heretofore been carried on under Project AECHAMP, a REDSOX operation, which also covered, on a limited scale, developmental REDSKIN operations. It was recently decided that to give REDSKIN activities the proper attention and impetus, they should be authorized under a separate project and directed and administered more vigorously and systematically than has been possible in the past.

4. EVALUATION:

- a. RQM/RE states that the objectives as stated by SR/2 appear to cover the collection of operational information (with one exception), with the others having a potential of developing into media for the collection of positive information.*
- b. RQM/RE calls attention to the fact that one of the targets listed in the FPOP (paragraph 6d) is given priority on the IPC for that area, and that Navy has submitted a detailed dossier on the subject. This dossier has received ~~field~~ action through SR Division, but according to RQM/RE's records, the dossier has not yet been forwarded to Germany.

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*(Note: Although the FPOP includes a list of targets which definitely imply that long-range objectives will include the collection of positive OB and economic information, Projects Branch assumes that the first year will be spent in recruiting and training agents who can be expected to gain access to these targets.)

5. ACTION REQUESTED: Approval for the period 1 May 1955 through 30 April 1956, with authority to obligate \$13,000.

Breakdown: Compensation (E 1, \$5,000; E 1, \$1,000)	\$6,000
Operational expenses (to include development of recruits and contacts, safehouse rentals, and miscellaneous expenses)	4,000
Travel	3,000

Commitments: None. Prior approval will be requested in the event that it is necessary to make commitments to agents going into denied areas.

6. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a. FI/OPS accepts postal operations, recruitment of repatriates for resident agents, and maritime coverage of target ports through seamen agents as valid undertakings. It seriously questions the adequacy of the means to mount these kinds of operations. Concurrence is recommended only with the provision that this Staff be given a quarterly progress report. (Note: First report to be due three months from date of Project approval.) //
- b. On the basis that this project represents, at the present time, only two actual assets, E 1 and E 1 both of whom have been blown, and with the latter to be used on a part-time basis only. Projects Branch concurs with the FI/OPS proviso.
- c. If the California sports instructor is recruited, and his assignment to Germany materializes, his use in the project

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