

SUBJECT: Project AEQUOR

1. Joint OSO-OPC Project AEQUOR will provide for: a) the support of any existing resistance movement within the Byelorussian SSR, or development of such a movement for the purpose of carrying out OPC-type activities; and b) utilizing such facilities for the procurement of intelligence in the USSR.

2. OSO-OPC will attempt to carry out the objectives of this project through the exploitation of the Byelorussian National Council (BNR), which is centered in Paris and is considered by its followers to be an embryonic government-in-exile. The group consists of about 150 members who reside in Western Europe, the United States, and South America.

3. OSO will a) exploit communications, when established, and other facilities for procurement of intelligence on strategic targets within the USSR; b) conduct CE operations on the BNR and other Byelorussian emigre groups; and c) utilize the Byelorussian operation as a base for mounting future operations within other areas of the USSR.

4. This project will be implemented by the Combined Soviet Operations Base in Munich. The Chief, FDS, and the Chief, EE, will be responsible for coordinating closely in directing the Chief, CSOB Germany, concerning a) over-all control of the agent infiltration program, including scope and magnitude of operations, timing, and priorities; b) over-all supervision of recruitment and training; c) appropriate briefing; and d) operational guidance.

5. Initially, four agents will be recruited and dispatched; two are now being assessed by OSO. CAMBISTA 2, a BNR official, will act as liaison between OSO-OPC case officers and the Byelorussian emigre agents. The BNR leadership has been told that their officials will be permitted to conduct political indoctrination of the agents prior to training by OSO-OPC and to debrief the agents following exfiltration in the presence of one of our case officers.

6. Communications equipment, Soviet civilian and military clothing, with appropriate documentation, and housing will be required.

7. OSO and OPC will share equally all expenses relating to the recruitment, training, compensation, equipment, and dispatch of agent personnel. The cost to OSO for FY 1952 is estimated at \$23,500. OPC will bear a similar share of the expenses for agent operations and estimates that the OPC-type activities will cost an additional \$28,500 during FY 1952.

8. The OSO Budget Officer states that sufficient funds are available.

9. The approval of the Departments of State and Defense has been obtained for utilization of the emigre groups envisaged in this project. Coordination will continue on major policy problems.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that this project be approved for the period ending 30 June 1952. Any requests for death, disability, or disposal benefits should be handled on an individual basis.

Chief, Plans

Chief, Operations

AD/SO

Date

22 Sept 1951

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Joint OSO-OPC Responsibilities in Project AEQUOR
2. Project Outline AEQUOR

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Original Project Outline

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Joint OSO-OPC Responsibilities

Joint OSO-OPC responsibilities will include: a) the screening, recruiting, training, equipping, dispatching, and exfiltrating of agents; b) establishing and maintaining contact with existing resistance movements in Byelorussia; c) collecting operational information; d) establishing and maintaining communications with resistance groups; and e) establishing operational support facilities in Byelorussia.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, FDS

DATE: 10 September 1951

FROM : STC/SPB *W. Kaufman*

SUBJECT: Project AEQUOR

1. It is noted from the attached outline of Project AEQUOR that sufficient information concerning the proposed OSO contact with and support of the BNR has not yet been developed to enable STC to make a satisfactory analysis of the proposed operation. As plans are developed in more detail they should be coordinated with STC/SPB.

2. Also the principal personalities of the BNR and agents employed through it should be processed for operational clearance as discussed.

Attachment

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PROJECT OUTLINE

CRYPTONYM AEQUOR

DIVISION FDS

STATION Munich, Germany

HEADQUARTERS CASE OFFICER:

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Room No. 2512 L
Extension 2967
Date 8 August 1951

The attached project outline is presented for approval. This is a joint OSO/OPC project. Other copies of this project are being circulated concurrently in OPC channels for the necessary approvals in that Office.

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Ch , FDS
8 August 1951
(Date)

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PROJECT OUTLINE

CRYPTONYM AEQUOR

Joint OSO/OPC Project

1. References

- a. Memorandum for ADPC and ADSO from DDP dated 19 April 1951, subject: "Resolution of Differences between OSO and OPC in Relation to USSR Operations involving Groups".
- b. Memorandum for DDP from ADPC and ADSO dated 5 March 1951, same subject.

2. Objectives

Mounting of clandestine operations in the Byelorussian SSR for the following purposes:

- a. Contact with and support of any existing resistance movement within the Byelorussian SSR, or development of such a movement for the purpose of carrying out OPC-type activities.
- b. Utilizing all facilities established in the Byelorussian SSR for the purpose of supporting intelligence procurement operations in the USSR.

3. Targets

OSO-OPC will use the following organizations to achieve these objectives:

- a. Byelorussian National Council (BNR) - The center of this organization's activities is in Paris and it is considered by its followers to be an embryonic government-in-exile. The Council, under the leadership of Nikolai Abramchik, consists of about 150 members residing in Western Europe, the United States and South America.
- b. Such other affiliated Byelorussian organizations or individuals as may prove to be useful in the accomplishment of the above objectives.

4. Tasks

a. Joint OSO-OPC Operations

- 1) To screen, recruit, train, equip and dispatch agents into Byelorussia and to exfiltrate such agents when required.
- 2) To make contact with any existing resistance movement in Byelorussia.

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- 3) To collect operational intelligence concerning the scope and extent of the resistance activities within Belorussia in order to form an accurate judgment concerning its usefulness for OSO-OPC purposes.
- 4) To establish and maintain adequate communications between the resistance movement and/or individuals in Byelorussia and bases outside the Iron Curtain, including air drops, overland couriers, W/T, postal channels, or other means.
- 5) To establish operational support facilities in Byelorussia to facilitate future OSO and OPC operations both within this area and elsewhere in the USSR. This will include obtaining documentation, setting up safe houses, transit facilities, etc.

b. OPC Operations

- 1) After the existence of an underground resistance movement has been established, to provide support by air drop to enable the resistance to expand its organization and develop its potential for OPC-OSO clandestine activities. Provision of such support will be in response to the underground's specific requirements and will in all cases depend on the underground's ability to receive it. Support will include provision of such items as medical supplies, sabotage equipment, limited quantities of arms, printing presses, concentrated foods, throw-away radios, etc., in quantities consistent with operational security.
- 2) To provide supplies and communications equipment for burial and eventual use in the event of overt hostilities.
- 3) To direct the resistance movement's war planning so as to ensure consonance with U. S. war plans for operations in this area.
- 4) To provide assistance to the BNR for publication of leaflets and other propaganda media aimed at the population of Byelorussia.
- 5) To provide financial assistance to the BNR to permit publication of an emigre newspaper in order to stimulate development of Byelorussian nationalism among the emigre society.

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c. OSO Operations

- 1) To exploit communications, when established, and other facilities for procurement of intelligence on strategic targets within the USSR.
 - 2) To conduct counterespionage operations and analysis on the BNR and other Byelorussian emigre groups.
 - 3) To utilize the Byelorussian operation as a base for the mounting of future operations within other areas of the USSR.
- d. Division of responsibilities between OSO and OPC for activities provided for in this project will be in accordance with Ref. 1 b above.

5. Implementation

a. Field

This project will be implemented in the field by the Combined Soviet Operations Base in Munich. The Chief, CSOB, will be responsible to Chief, OPC/Germany and Chief, OSO/Germany for matters falling under their respective authorities.

b. Headquarters

Chief, FDS/OSO and Chief, EE/OPC will be responsible for coordinating closely in directing the Chief, CSOB Germany on:

- 1) Overall control of the agent infiltration program, including scope and magnitude of operations, timing and priorities.
- 2) Overall supervision of recruitment and training for the initial contact missions.
- 3) Intelligence and action briefing for individual missions.
- 4) Operational guidance.

c. Coordination with Project QKACTIVE

Implementation of this project will be closely coordinated with Project QKACTIVE so that operations conducted under this project will not adversely affect the overall objectives of QKACTIVE, or vice-versa. This coordination will be effected by the Chief, USSR Group, OPC German Station, Chief, EE/OPC and Chief, CSOB.

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6. Requirements

a. Support

Division of responsibility between OSO and OPC for support requirements for this project will be in accordance with reference 1 b above.

b. Personnel

1) Byelorussian Emigres:

- a) Initially four agents will be recruited and dispatched to the target area. (OSO is now assessing the first two of these).
- b) CAMBISTA 2, a liaison officer of the BNR for contact with U. S. case officers.

2) U. S. Personnel:

- a) OSO-OPC staff officers at headquarters and in Germany.

c. Communications Equipment

Agents will be provided with W/T sets for use in contacting U. S. field bases or for the use of Byelorussian resistance when contact is established. In the initial stages, approximately four (4) instructographs for W/T training, and six (6) agent sets (RS-6) will be required.

d. Operational Aids

Each agent operation will require complete Soviet civilian or military documentation together with appropriate clothing and accessories, depending on individual cover requirements.

e. Housing

Housing for shelter and training will be provided for agents at U. S. field bases.

f. Financial

- 1) OSO-OPC will share equally all expenses relating to recruitment, training, compensation, equipment and dispatch of agent personnel. OPC will contribute all funds necessary for the following:

AS

- a) Implementation of OPC-type activities within the USSR, exclusive of shared costs connected with penetration of the USSR to be undertaken on a joint basis with OSO.
 - b) Such support as may be required for the expansion of Byelorussian emigre organizations or activities.
- 2) OSO's share is estimated to be [] to the end of FY 1952, and is broken down as follows:

	<u>FY 1952</u>
Compensation and Living Expenses for Agent Personnel	[]
Operational Expenses (training, transfer, travel, etc.)	10,000.00
Special Equipment	6,000.00
Provision for Contingencies	<u>1,800.00</u>
	[]

- 3) OPC will have an estimated expenditure to the end of FY 1952 as follows:

	<u>FY 1952</u>
OPC Share of Agent Operations	[]
OPC Budget for Other OPC Activities	<u>28,500.00</u>
	[]

7. Security and Cover

a. Staff

Personnel of CSOB operate [] and will be known to the liaison officer of the BNR and to the agents as representatives of the American Intelligence Service.

b. Agents

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8. Coordination

Utilization of Russian emigre groups for the activities envisaged in this project has been discussed with the Departments of State and Defense and approval has been granted. Coordination will be continued with respect to major policy problems involved in the operation. Such coordination will not compromise precise operational time-tables or exact locations or reveal identities of agent personnel.

9. Current Status

- a. The following commitments have been made to the BNR leadership:
 - 1) BNR officials will conduct political indoctrination of agents prior to training by OSO-OPC. The agents will then be turned over to us for training and dispatch. BNR officials will be permitted to debrief agents following exfiltration in the presence of one of our case officers.
 - 2) No arrangements have been made with regard to disposal or death benefits with any individual agent or group of agents. If an agent desires a contract, we may include death, disability and disposal benefits as part of the contract provisions.
- b. CAMBISTA 2 has submitted the names of two agents who are in process of obtaining visas for travel to Germany. Upon arrival they will be assessed, recruited and will enter training. In addition, CAMBISTA 2 will act as instructor and training assistant at the OSO-OPC field base.
- c. Two more agents will be provided in the near future by CAMBISTA.
- d. Two agents will be dispatched to eastern Byelorussia and two dispatched to western areas of the country.

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PROJECT FINANCIAL DATA

(This data may not exceed **SECRET** classification)

Project Cryptonym AEQUOR Fiscal Period Covered 1 July 1951
through 30 June 1952
EE-4/OPC
Case Officer Responsible Staff or Division

A. PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

(Indicate number and type of personnel required and estimated total compensation for salary, allowances, travel and related employee benefits.)

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Estimated Total Compensation</u>
Staff Employees		
Staff Agents		
Career Agents		
Agents	6 (guerrilla warfare and W/T specialists)	
Consultants		
Detailed Personnel		
Miscellaneous		1.900
TOTAL	<u>6</u>	\$ <u>1.900</u>

B. SUPPLIES, MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT, AND SPECIAL SERVICES

(Indicate the type and estimated cost of materials and special services required to support the project. Attach a list of special equipment requirements, if available.)

Airies and ammunition	\$ 5,000
Throw-away radios, miscellaneous	4,100
Medical equipment, food concentrates	2,000
Sabotage equipment	3,000
Total Estimated Cost	\$ <u>14,000</u>

C. OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

(Indicate volume and nature of such expenses, such as (1) maintenance of two operational houses abroad, (2) hire of approximately 10 foreign nationals for procurement of information, (3) spot purchase of information, etc.)

Total Estimated Cost \$ _____

D. SUBSIDY OR PROPRIETARY PAYMENTS

(If funds are to be turned over to individuals or groups in large lump sums to be expended by the individuals or groups at their discretion to accomplish an agreed-upon objective, explain the type of financial accounts, factual verification, or statements, if any, other than a receipt for the lump sum, which will be obtained from such individual or group.)

Support of Byelorussian newspaper
in Germany \$14,000

Total Estimated Cost \$ 14,000

E. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

(Show approximate dates funds will be required, if known, and indicate whether funds will be required in U. S. dollars, specific types of foreign currency, checks, bonds, gold, or some special type of negotiable instrument. Indicate any special security requirements or special methods of transmission anticipated in connection with funding the activity.)

F. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

(Within security limitations, list any other facts or circumstances which will enable Special Support Staff to lend adequate logistic support to this project. Indicate specifically the "Rush" or "Time" factors involved.)

G. Funds required for use in Field
Funds required for use by Hq.

\$ []
\$ 14,400
\$ []

Total (this amount is also total of
A, B, C, and D above)