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Progress Rpt.

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c. BYELORUSSIAN SECTION

(1) Personnel:

AEQUOR project was temporarily deprived of one person due to the skiing accident of [redacted]. However, in view of the fact that the training schedule has not yet started, [redacted] will be utilized for the present in miscellaneous capacities and it is hoped that he will be able to join the training unit sometime during the early part of 1953.

(2) Recruitment and Training (AEQUOR III)

(a.) At our last meeting CAMBISTA 2 indicated that CAMBISTA 1 did not have any more candidates for training purposes of the caliber desired by the AIS. With this admission by CAMBISTA 2 the decision was reached at CSOB to utilize recruits obtained from independent sources, since it was felt essential to render such support to the AEQUOR II team as might be requested and to maintain a REDSOX asset in the BSSR during 1953. In view of the above decision we have been interviewing several potential candidates. At least two of these look promising and detailed debriefings, assessments, etc. are planned for them.

(b.) There has been some consideration given to the prospect of incorporating the independent recruits into the AESOP concept for training purposes. The outcome of this discussion will be reported in next month's progress report. In the meantime the tentative assignments of personnel to the training project are as follows:

- [redacted] - Project Officer
- [redacted] - Training Assistant
- [redacted] - Training Assistant
- [redacted] - Administrative Officer

It is anticipated that one of the young case officers being transferred to the field on a temporary basis will be assigned to this project if it reaches the scope to warrant another man. If the candidates presently under assessment work out all right, it is anticipated that we will be able to begin our training program by the 15th of November.

(3) Cadre School:

In view of our decision to cease recruitment efforts through CAMBISTA 2, it was decided to concentrate on other aspects of our relationship with the CAMBISTA 1 organization. The implementation of the Cadre program will depend upon positive answers to the problems raised in recent cable traffic between Washington, [redacted] and Munich. (Refs: DIR 25170, DIR 25171, SMUNI 0578, SMUNI 0679).

(4) West Plan:

During the last month little action has been taken with respect to this phase of the AEQUOR project. We are holding in abeyance any further action until a solution of the problem raised in EGMA-0288 has been reached. The implementation of West plan will also depend upon the decision taken above

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with regard to the Cadre school, since it is envisaged that these two projects will work complementary to each other.

(5) CANTABILE 1:

The progress of the CANTABILE 1 operation is reported on separately in EGMA-01467.

(6) Political:

As of this date Ostrovski has not returned to Munich with the biographical data on his proposed candidates. We feel that we should not make any further advances to him with regard to AIS interest in his organization's potentialities and that the ball will have to be carried by Ostrovski and his group if we are to take any further action upon his proposal.

(7) General:

In the general process of cutting down as much as possible on activities within the German mission, it is anticipated that a great many aspects of the AEQUOR project will no longer be the responsibility of CSOB. The phasing out of such responsibilities as the subsidies of CAMBISTA 1 publications, the Cadre school, and the West plan will undoubtedly result in some more positive conclusions with regard to the Byelorussian Section in general and the AEQUOR project in particular during the next few months.

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