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SR/DCB/ST/ 926

26 October 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, FI/OPS/Projects Branch

SUBJECT: Project ABQUOR, Amendment thereto

REFERENCES: a. SR/DCB Memo. 668, dated 14 March 1957, to Chief, FI, Paragraph 2
b. AD/SR Memo. to Chief Plans, OSO, dated 12 June 1952, Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3

1. Request is hereby tendered for the authority to receive and expend the following sum of moneys:

DEATH BENEFITS:	Two agents (AECAMPOBANTO 6 and 8) at Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) each	\$20,000.00
EXPENSES:	To be incurred in settlement of the estates of both agents. One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00)	<u>1,000.00</u>
TOTAL REQUESTED:	Twenty One Thousand Dollars	\$21,000.00

2. Reference b. above was approved 17 June 1952 by ADBO per request of AD/SR, that the death benefits be increased from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 for each agent. Reference a. above, concurred in by AC/FI/OPS and approved by AD/FI, delineates the sum and the beneficiary of the death benefits.

3. Recapitulation: The death benefit is payable to the beneficiaries of AECAMPOBANTO 6 and 8 under the terms of an agreement entered into between the Central Intelligence Agency and the agents prior to their dispatch in August 1952. The terms of the agreement stipulated that the insurance would be paid to the beneficiary, if, after two years from the date of the last contact, no further communication was received; it would then be presumed that the agents were dead. The last contact was in January 1955.

4. Starting on 19 December 1956, a series of articles appeared in the "Kommunisticheskaya Pravda" which revealed that one of the three surviving members of ABQUOR Team II, AECAMPOBANTO 9, had been

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captured but was now "gainfully employed" in the USSR after having recounted his traitorous "sins." Further, the story was written in such a vague manner as to indicate that the Soviets were aware of ARSAMPOHANTO 6 and 8 but nothing was revealed as to their status. Insurance payment on the two missing agents was deferred for one year after a discussion with the Office of the General Counsel, based upon the premise that if they were alive they would attempt to re-establish contact. No such contact has been received.

5. The money will be placed in a fund for the use of the beneficiary under the guidance of the Agency. With the payment of the insurance and accrued salaries, all financial obligations under Project ARQUEB will have been satisfied.

[SR/COB/YI]

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