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PROJECT OUTLINE

CRYPTONYM AEROOT  
AREA DIVISION SR  
STATION Washington, D.C.

HEADQUARTERS PROJECT CASE OFFICER  
[ ] [ ]  
Room No. 2609 J Building  
Extension 8256  
Date 5 April 1955

The attached revised Project Outline is presented for renewal.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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DATE 2007

[ ] [ ]  
Chief, SR/2

[ ] [ ]  
SR/COPY/PI

[ ] [ ]  
Chief, SR Division

DATE 14 April 55

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Secret -  
January 1990*

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## PROJECT OUTLINE

CRYPTONYM: AEROOT

### PART I

#### 1. Area of Operations

Estonian SSR and vicinity.

#### 2. Purpose

a. Procurement of operational and positive intelligence in the Estonian SSR.

b. Establishment of support facilities in the Estonian SSR for the attainment of long-range intelligence objectives as defined in reference 4-a. below.

#### 3. Background

a. Our original efforts at recruitment of suitable Estonian agent candidates for infiltration into the target area were conducted under LCHOMELY, which was the predecessor to Basic Plan AEBASIN, under which the current Project AEROOT was presented for approval.

b. In May 1952, LCHOMELY recruitment efforts in Sweden were cancelled due to the unfavorable character of persons involved in recruiting, including controversial Estonian politicians. The agent candidates who had been spotted prior to May under LCHOMELY declined to undertake the mission in October 1952. It was then considered necessary to concentrate all efforts for AEROOT agent recruitment in the US. The restrictions imposed upon the recruitment of FI agents in the US for AEBASIN area necessitated the search for suitable assets in other areas. Since the Estonian emigre pool in Sweden was still considerable, a new approach to recruitment, well compartmented from political activity, was initiated in December 1952. A recruitment plan for AEROOT candidates, which eliminated the LCHOMELY mistakes, was submitted to the [ ] The plan was activated by the Principal Estonian REDSOX agent in Stockholm, who proceeded with the recruitment task in his area in an efficient and secure manner. The results produced by this Principal Agent through the [ ] have provided sufficient agents for the AEROOT Project's spring mission of 1954 and for 1956.

c. Three agents were recruited in the spring and summer of 1953. One of these agents was disposed of after five months of training and returned to the place of his origin. Two agents completed

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their training and were infiltrated by air into the target area in early May 1954, where they were captured by the RIS shortly after the dispatch.

d. In October 1954 one agent, formerly spotted for the AEROOT project, but loaned to another project, was transferred back to AEROOT. This agent was placed into a special training which is to continue until July or August, 1955. A second agent candidate is in the process of recruitment. His arrival in the United States for assessment and training is anticipated in March or April 1955.

4. Reference

- a. USSR Country Strategic Plan (TOP SECRET, #59961, dated 1 May 1952).
- b. AEBASIN Basic Plan (TOP SECRET, #86981).
- c. AEROOT Project (TOP SECRET, #89855).

5. Objectives

a. To establish in the Estonian SSR covert resident agent personnel who can assist agents in the procurement of operational and positive intelligence, and provide assistance in agent infiltration and exfiltration.

b. To establish long term assets in Estonian SSR by development and recruitment of legal resident personnel into an effective unconventional warfare nucleus for meeting hot war assignments in the area.

6. Targets

a. Specific intelligence targets in the Estonian SSR are outlined in 1) TOP SECRET SR Memorandum, #73433, 21 March 1952, "Intelligence Targets for 1952," and 2) TOP SECRET SR Memorandum, #84795, 24 November 1952, "Priority Targets in the Baltic Republics, East Prussia, Karelo-Finnish SSR, Murmansk and Leningrad Area."

b. Other targets will be included according to requirements commensurate with the capabilities of the operating agents.

7. Tasks

a. Recruitment, training and infiltration into target area of suitable agent personnel.

b. Establishment of lines of communication with such agents in the Estonian SSR, including the use of S/W and W/T.

c. Development of informants for the procurement of operational and positive intelligence.

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d. Establishment of support points to assist in the further development of intelligence gathering activities in the Baltic States.

e. Recruitment and training suitable legal resident personnel in unconventional warfare techniques as a nucleus for hot war requirements tasks.

8. Personnel

a. Cryptonym

- (1) AELUNG (Agent trainer)
- (2) AENOTE (Agent trainer)
- (3) AEPALM (disposed)
- (4) AESKIP (disposed)
- (5) AESTEM
- (6) AEROOT/1 RNCHANGE
- (7) AEROOT/2 AETAXI/1
- (8) AEROOT/3
- (9) AEROOT/4

b. Personnel Data

(1) AELUNG: Agent trainer. AELUNG is a former Estonian General Staff Officer with a rank of Captain up to 1940. He had extensive experience in training agents for behind the Soviet line missions with Finnish and German intelligence during 1940-1945. He was recruited by CIA in 1951 as a principal LCHOMELY agent instructor in Germany. He was brought to the US in February 1953 in the same capacity for the AEROOT Project and was transferred for administrative and handling purposes to SR/DOB as of 1 November 1953 upon the request of SR/DOB.

(2) AENOTE: Native-born Estonian employed as AEROOT instructor; transferred to SR/DOB as of 1 October 1953.

(3) AEPALM: AEPALM was in training from June until October. He was removed from the project because he did not fit in with one of the two agents and was disposed of on 24 November 1953.

(4) AESKIP: AESKIP was found unacceptable for agent work and returned to his place of origin.

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(5) AESTEM: Principal FI agent. AESTEM is a former Estonian Air Force Colonel who, while still a high school student, began his fight against the Communists in 1918 as a volunteer in the Estonian Army. He is 55 years old, a graduate of the Estonian Military Staff College, and speaks, reads, and writes Estonian, English, German and Russian. He acquired some intelligence experience as Chief of the Estonian Voluntary Self Defense Corps and Estonian Traffic Police during the German occupation of Estonia in 1941-1944. From February 1945 to April 1945, subject worked with the German Abwehr on the Eastern front. During the years of 1929, 1932 and 1939, subject was assigned by the Estonian Government to the British Royal Air Force for the purpose of taking various courses and for the purchase of airplanes and equipment. Subject holds an important post in the Estonian Veterans Union in New York City, is a member of the Estonian National committee in the U. S., is a member of the Anglo-Estonian Culture Society, and a member of the Executive Board of the Estonian Relief Committee, Inc. in New York City. His contacts and connections with the Estonian Veterans organization provide him good access to the potential agent pool for future AEROOT agent recruitment. AESTEM was given training in spotting, recruiting, CE operations and SI. Since recruitment of FI agents has been restricted in the U.S., it is contemplated to transfer him to the AEBASIN/PP Project.

(6) AEROOT/1: (formerly RNCHANGE). A native born Estonian 30 years of age. This agent was recommended by the AEROOT recruiter in Sweden. He was trained in the U. S. and dispatched in the Spring of 1954. He was killed resisting the RIS forces, shortly after dispatch.

(7) AEROOT/2: (formerly AETAXI). A native-born Estonian 30 years of age and trained with AEROOT/1 for a joint infiltration mission. He was dispatched with AEROOT/1 in the spring of 1954. Shortly after dispatch the agent was apprehended and played back by the RIS as if he were clean. On 14 January 1955 RIS surfaced the capture of the American Agent. This agent had been interrogated by RIS and turned over to the Soviet military tribunal.

(8) AEROOT/4. formerly AETONGLEUR/2, formerly AEHIKER/2 with the [ ] he agent was trained for a penetration attempt for the Swedes in 1952. The mission was cancelled because chances for success seemed limited. Agent was recruited to work for Americans and was brought to Germany where he was completely assessed. It was the conclusion of the assessment team that this agent is above average in intelligence and a high calibre agent type. He

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was brought to the U. S. in January 1954 for training for a "black" reconnaissance type mission into Northwest USSR. He was dispatched in August 1954, but did not successfully complete his mission because of the lack of cooperation that the Norwegian IS had promised. The agent was returned to the U.S. in September 1954. December 1954 the agent was officially transferred to the AEROOT project and commenced training for an FI type mission immediately. The agent is 35 years old, in excellent physical condition, and has a patriotic pro-Estonian and anti-communist view. During World War II he fought with the German Army in defending Estonian territory. When the Russians finally overran Estonia, he escaped to Finland and joined the Finnish Navy. The agent is a natural linguist with a speaking knowledge of eight languages.

(9) AEROOT/3: This agent candidate escaped from Estonia in November 1949 into Sweden via a fishing boat on which he was employed. He has held various sorts of jobs and subsequently was hired as a seaman on Estonian ships (1951-1952). In 1952 he jumped ship when it was in Canada and worked as a Canadian forester until April 1953. At this time he attempted to legalize his presence in Canada, but since he had come there without any visa, he was sent back to Sweden. In July 1953 he was contacted through the Agency's REDSOX agent in Sweden for American Intelligence and was placed under stand-by status until further notice. Since the agent candidate is currently employed as a seaman, recontacting has been delayed.

*Contacted by HQ 9/6, brought to U.S. April 1955.*

9. Operational and Security Clearances

AEROOT personnel have covert security clearances granted on the following dates:

AELUNG	12 January 1952	JG-3721 #50562
AENOTE	29 July 1952	PZ-3265 #28635
AEPALM	10 April 1953	C-19257 #84788
AESKIP	10 April 1953	C-19256 #84779
AESIEM	7 April 1953	C-17638 #82620
AEROOT/1	30 April 1953	JG-5420 #52774
AEROOT/2	18 June 1953	CSC-91537
AEROOT/3	22 December 1954	C-32592 #114300
AEROOT/4	5 January 1954	C-14069 #79661

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10. Cover

- a. The cover used by the case officers in the U. S. in contact with indigenous instructors and with agent trainees is that of an unidentified U. S. Government agency. Indigenous instructors know that they are dealing with the Agency personnel.
- b. Agent cover legends will be prepared to fit the specific agent requirements and will be based on available documentation.

11. Contact and Communication

- a. Direct contact exists between the agents and the case officers. during the training period as well as with AEROOT instructors.
- b. S/W communication is planned as the primary channel of communication with the agents in the target area. An alternate channel of contact is W/T.

12. Control and Motivation

- a. AEROOT/1 is reported killed.
- b. AEROOT/2's sentence by the Soviets has not been public up to this date.
- c. AESTEM is physically under U. S. control due to the fact that he has established permanent residence in the U. S. As a former Estonian Officer, he had exhibited a strong will to continue the fight against the Communists in Estonia and for the liberation of his native land for some time prior to his association with the Agency. His family of one son, one daughter and his wife are in the U. S. He has his first U. S. papers towards citizenship.
- d. AEROOT/3 is bitter against the Soviet regime in Estonia, since his family was cruelly treated by the Soviets. Ever since his escape from Estonia he has expressed the desire to help his friends and relatives to escape from Estonia. He is fully aware of the fact that if captured by the RIS that he will get a severe penalty. He wants to rehabilitate himself in the United States and hopes to get a bonus in the event that his mission is successful. This understanding was reached between the REDSOX recruiting agent in Sweden and AEROOT/3.
- e. AEROOT/4 is dependent upon the Agency's assistance for help in rehabilitation in the U. S. as a permanent resident after completion of his mission. He has expressed a definite desire to work with U. S. intelligence for the purpose of continuing the unfinished fight against the Communist tyranny. A satisfactory financial arrangement is considered important by the agent as proof of good faith on the part of the U. S., and as a token of

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appreciation of the risks he is assuming in the common interest of Estonia and the United States. His salary and bonus remain under Agency control until the completion of his mission. He is apparently not subordinate to any other government or political emigre organization in Sweden. However, he is interested in the eventual liberation of Estonia and in the defeat of the Soviet regime.

13. Coordination

a. Coordination of this Project has been effected with the Office of Communication, TSS, Procurement and Supply Logistics, SR/DOB, and consultations are in progress with Air and Maritime Support Offices.

b. All activities under this Project which affect the areas of WE and/or WH Divisions' responsibilities are and will continue to be coordinated with these divisions.

c. The problems of the entry of aliens has been and will continue to be coordinated with the Alien Affairs Branch, Inspection and Security Office.

d. Procurement of supplies and equipment has been and will continue to be coordinated with the Procurement and Supply Office.

14. Timetable

Training of the agent, AEROOT/4 outside of the SR/1 safehouse began in November 1954. This training consists of an intensive study of the Russian language and radio in private institutions. From 18 February 1955, the agent will continue intensive study in Russian language and the operational area knowledge. It is planned to place the agent in SR/1 training area on or about 1 August 1955 with AEROOT/3. During the month of July AEROOT/3 and 4 will undergo intensive maritime training in long distance swimming and canoeing, simulating realistic exfiltration conditions. The estimated time of agent departure from the U.S. and the beginning of the target mission will be in early spring 1956. Infiltration will be by sea-balloon. The date of termination of the mission is estimated to be summer or fall 1958, or sooner if possible and/or feasible.

15. Intelligence Product of the Project

a. So far no positive intelligence reports have been produced.

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- b. Number of CE reports received: None.
- c. No CE reports have been disseminated.
- d. From the CE reports some of the RIS techniques were learned.

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CRYPTONYM: AEROOT

PART II

16. Estimated Cost

a. Estimated AEROOT budgetary requirements for a 12-month period (beginning 1 March 1955):

Compensation

Salary for AEROOT/2 for 4 months - - - - -	\$ 1,400.-	
Salary for AEROOT/3 - - - - -	3,275.-	
Salary for AEROOT/4 - - - - -	3,275.-	
<del>Salary for one covert associate - - - - -</del>	<del>5,000.-</del>	
Support for agent personnel in Germany and elsewhere - - - - -	3,600.-	
TOTAL - - - - -		\$16,550.-

*This item deleted by Projects Branch w/approval of HQs C/o since AESTEM has been transferred to another project.*

*PrT  
14 June 55*

Operational Expenses

Travel - - - - -	[ ]	
Purchase of Information - - - - -		
Purchase of operational currency - - - - -		
Training (outside of SR/1) - - - - -		
Death benefits for AEROOT 1 and 2 - - - - -		
Medical and hospitalization benefits - - - - -		
Purchase of supplies and equipment - - - - -		
Entertainment and miscellaneous - - - - -		
GRAND TOTAL - - - - -	[ ]	

b. Project allotment will be charged to the budget of SR Division.

c. Accounting by agents' receipts will constitute a write-off for foreign currency in the amount of [ ] - This amount is indicated in the estimated Project cost under the purchase of currency. The advance of funds will be charged as an allotment expense at the time of disbursement. A memorandum control account will be maintained in the event of the agents' exfiltration from the denied area.

17. Special Problems and Commitments

a. The Agency is committed to act as a trustee for AERDOTS 1 and 2 in execution of their wills entrusted to the Agency prior to their departure from the U. S. and executed on 20 April 1954. Their estates are composed of \$10,000.- death benefits each, and of the funds placed in escrow accounts during their training period and while on the mission, as well as the funds placed in the agents' bank accounts. This liquidation will be done according to Agency regulations and to the agents' contracts.

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b. Agents who go on missions into the denied area will receive bonuses not exceeding \$5000.- each after the completion of their mission in the target area and death benefits not to exceed \$10,000.- each.

c. Agents will be paid at the rate of \$480.- per month, minus Federal income tax, while they are under contract with the Agency, during the period when food, housing and maintenance are not provided. When the agents are in a training course under SR/1 control, and when provided with housing, food and maintenance, they will be paid ~~\$125.~~ per month. While the agents are on the mission in the denied area, their salaries will be \$480.- per month, which salaries will be held in escrow accounts for their benefit and will be disbursed according to their wills left with the Agency prior to their departure from the U. S., or paid to them after their exfiltration from the target area.

Changes herein made  
by Projects Branch  
at request of Hqs 70  
who had to change  
his original estimates  
after negotiation with  
the agents

150 + Federal  
income tax

PM  
15 June/55

d. Prior to dispatch into the target area, agents will be advanced \$250.- each for entertainment and purchase of gifts. These sums will be deducted from their escrow accounts when the accounts are liquidated.

e. AEROOT/4 has been promised rehabilitation rights and permanent residence in the U. S. AEROOT/3 is expecting the same benefits. This matter will be arranged through the Alien Affairs Office by the Project Case Officer.

f. Agent contracts include also a maximum of \$5000.- for hospitalization and medical expenses while under contract and in training. Most of this amount is of a contingency nature, and only \$1000.- is reflected in the 12-month estimated AEROOT budget.

g. Negotiations are under way for procurement of suitable maritime facilities for balloon infiltration of agents into the target area with the support of Danish Intelligence.

18. Logistic Annex

The logistic annex for Project AEROOT/FI is on file in SR/Logistics. See the financial section of the Project for the estimated material cost.

19. No communication facilities beyond those already existing will be required in support of this Project. Any changes in the requirements will be arranged with the Communications Office.

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S E C R E T

M-1 3047

DATE 25 February 1955

TO : SR/2  
ATTN : [ ]  
FROM : Director of Communications  
SUBJECT: Project AEROOT

1. Subject project has been reviewed by this Office. No Communications facilities beyond those already existing will be required in support of this project.

2. It is intended that this memorandum shall accompany subject project when presented for approval in lieu of a Communications Annex for the project.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS:

For [ ]

S E C R E T