

27 February 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Cancellation of Planned SR/2 AEROOT REDSOX 1956 Mission

1. The planned 1956 REDSOX mission into the Estonian SSR is cancelled on the decision made by Acting SR/COP for the following reasons:

a. Information received late in 1955 through interrogation of a confessed RIS agent indicates that the pool of existing operational support assets in the Estonian SSR are either under RIS control or RIS monitored and planned contacts through these channels can no longer be considered operationally secure for the REDSOX agents.

b. On the basis of unfavorable SR/7/DOB reliability evaluation reports on AEROOT/4, summarized in a memorandum dated 1 February 1956, it was decided by Chief, SR/2 and Acting SR/COP that this agent should be dropped, his contract terminated and the agent disposed.

c. Review of AEROOT/3 personal contact assets in the target area, whom the agent could trust, reveals that he has only two potential contacts in the area:

1) One lived on the mainland of Estonia at an address known to the agent up to 1949, but present address unknown, although believed by the agent to be alive in 1953.

2) The second potential contact for AEROOT/3 consists of two brothers who, according to the agent's knowledge were living up to 1949, in a highly restricted area. Access to this restricted area from the mainland is only through a special permit issued by MVD requesting justifiable reasons and document checks for the visit to the island. Since AEROOT/3 cannot be provided with documents that could be backstopped and pass MVD checks for the purpose of obtaining travel permits to the restricted area, these contacts are inaccessible to the agent. Therefore, it must be considered that AEROOT/3 has only one potential support contact in the area at an address presently

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unknown to the agent. By a rule of thumb, for operational purposes a "black" living REDSOX agent should have at least three firm initial operational support contacts to begin with, since anyone of them may die, be deported to some other area, or arrested. In view of the above it is considered operationally unsound by SR/2 to send AEROOT/3 on a singleton REDSOX mission.

## 2. Disposal of AEROOT/4

Since the SR/7/DOB reliability assessment report of AEROOT/4 states: "There is no firm basis to believe that AEROOT/4 is maliciously careless, nor, can it be stated, that he generally is malevolent, or that he is abnormally contradictive", which is also the opinion of AEROOT Project case officer who has personal knowledge of the agent over an extended period, and of the good record the agent had under previous project and performed well under TSS and Covert Training Branch specialists, his disposal and termination of services will be conducted in a friendly manner. He will be settled within the U.S. economy with assistance to fit him into a civilian life.

As a result of the decision made by Acting SR/COP on 6 February 1956, the following action will be taken by SR/2 AEROOT Project case officer:

- a. Remove the agent from a training safe house by 10 February and place him in a nearby hotel and there inform the agent of the pending termination of his contract with the Agency.
- b. Review the agent's file and will take the necessary steps to discharge financial and other commitments.
- c. Consult with Legal Counsel in order to obtain proper letter of termination and secrecy agreement for agent's signature.
- d. Consult with Alien Affairs Office for advice as to the cover the agent should use while reestablishing himself in the US.
- e. Prepare a memorandum for CI Staff, Finance Division to the effect the agent's contract has been terminated.
- f. Make a request to Assistant Director for Operations to assume the primary responsibility for resettlement.
- g. Upon signing of a letter of termination and secrecy agreement and receipt of funds due the agent, including resettlement funds, [ ] will conduct the formal termination of the agent as follows:

- 1) Will write a memorandum for OO Alien Branch to the effect that the person is turned over for their handling.
- 2) The agent will be told the reason for termination is the fact that there have been changes in operational plans which necessitate cancellation of his contract.
- 3) At the present, or in the foreseeable future, we cannot utilize his services in the type of missions for which he was trained and is best fitted. It is possible his services could be used in the event of a hot war.
- 4) The U.S. Government will provide a reasonable amount of financial assistance for establishing himself within the U.S. economy. He will be provided with a backstop cover story for reference purposes.
- 5) He will be provided with a post office box for future communication with OO/Chief, Alien Branch.

h. Project case officer will be responsible for insuring that the agent is properly briefed in regard to security and the agent will be impressed with the serious consequences of any security breach. Every effort will be made to terminate the agent in a friendly manner, so that he will be a more willing participant in carrying out his secrecy agreement.

### 3. Handling of AEROOT/3 Case

The following actions will be taken by SR/2:

- a. Project case officer will inform AEROOT/3 that plans for REDSOX operation have been changed and the operation cancelled.
- b. Since AEROOT/3's Swedish passport and re-entry visa validity dates dictate that he should leave the US as soon as his termination papers are in order.
- c. Have all the financial obligations settled, check the return of all the equipment provided to the agent by the project case officer and SR/Logistics, have the agent procure US revenue certificate, make arrangements for steamship transportation, transfer the agent from the Washington area to New York, and make arrangements with the Alien Affairs Office for unhampered departure from the US.

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d. Soon upon arrival to Sweden, AEROOT/3 is to register in a commercial radio school and complete his training for the procurement of a commercial radio operator's licence. The cost of radio schooling for a three month period plus a sum of \$300 for personal living expenses will be provided to him by the Agency while he attends the radio school.

e. After procurement of the radio operator's licence, AEROOT/3 is to make an all out effort to get himself employed on commercial ships as a radio operator. This position would give AEROOT/3 more freedom to observe the ports and port areas while his ship docks, and thus place him in a better position to make observations, contacts, and prepare reports.

f. Depending upon further developments, an attempt will be made to provide AEROOT/3 with documents of some Scandinavian country, for the purpose of placing him on ships visiting Soviet Estonia or other Baltic ports. In such an eventuality AEROOT/3 may have an opportunity to visit Soviet Estonia and to locate his potential contact in the area.



g. If documentation of AEROOT/3 as a national of a Scandinavian country can be accomplished, without too much trouble, he will be instructed to go to visit Soviet Estonia as a tourist, when the opportunity arises, check on his potential contacts, obtain whatever information on targets he is instructed, and to make caches in the area as necessary.

h. AEROOT/3 will be instructed to spot and report other Estonian REDSOX agents candidates he can recommend, on the basis of positive personal contacts such candidates may have in the Estonian SSR.

Prior to departure of AEROOT/3 from the U.S., SR/2 project case officer will:

a. Brief the agent on his secrecy agreement with the government and on the course of action he is to follow.

b. Will provide AEROOT/3 with a P.O. Box for communication with the Agency, and be instructed that for the purposes of passing on more sensitive information, he is to employ one way S/W system as he was instructed during the training period. This will be co-ordinated with TSS/SAD.

   
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