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28 June 1957

DD/P3-3894

6 JUL 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Operations, DD/P

SUBJECT : Project AERROOT (Renewal)

1. The attached project, originating in the SR Division, provides for the utilization of all practicable channels of communication with the Estonian SSR to develop, recruit, establish and direct legal resident agents to collect operational and positive intelligence information. Project AERROOT operations have been redirected from those of a REDSOX nature in favor of REDSKIN efforts. It is presented for your approval of retro-active renewal for the period 1 November 1956 through 31 March 1958. Because of the time necessary to make the REDSOX and REDSKIN revisions in the project, a 17 month approval is being requested.

2. Authority is requested to obligate [] from the DD/P-SR Division budget: [] for the fiscal year 1957, and [] for the fiscal year 1958, subject to the availability of funds.

3. The SR Division memorandum requesting renewal is attached. It summarizes the important factors involved and presents a detailed breakdown of the funds requested for the renewal period.

4. FI/OPS notes that the operational effort under Project AERROOT will be performed chiefly overseas, particularly in Western Europe, and that no large mechanism will be built up in the United States.

5. I recommend renewal of Project AERROOT as submitted.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3022
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

[Signature]
Chief
Foreign Intelligence

Approved: []
COP-DD/P

JUL 6 1957
Date

Attachment: Project Outline AERROOT

Staff Coordination:
For C/FI/OPS []
For CI/OA []
For C/CI []
For C/RQM/RE []

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21 May 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Counter Intelligence Staff

SUBJECT : AERCOF Project Renewal

1. It is felt that the capture of AERCOF project agents AERCOF/1 and AERCOF/2 in 1954 does not compromise the going and planned operations under the AERCOF project for which a renewal is requested. None of the agents retained on the project currently was exposed to AERCOF/1 and AERCOF/2.

2. The foreign-national agent trainers and instructors connected with AERCOF/1 and AERCOF/2 at the SR Domestic Operations Base are not involved in current operations of AERCOF project nor are any of the safehouses or other physical facilities employed in AERCOF/1 and AERCOF/2 training and dispatch operations.

☐
Chief, SR Division ☐

☐ ☐:rdv

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14 MAY 1957

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Review of Project AEROOT SR/Estonian SSR

1. Production and Evaluation

Thirteen positive disseminations were produced by AEROOT during 1955, none in 1956, and one in January 1957. Several of these appear to be of more than routine value. One concerned the Soviet's policy in Europe and their desire to shift the spotlight from Europe to the Near or Far East - which was subsequently fulfilled by events, one reported on the withdrawal of Soviet officials from East Germany, and one on the Murmansk-Pechenga Highway. Others reported fragmentary items of military or political interest concerning the Estonian SSR.

2. Rating of Production: C

3. Requirements

No specific customer requirements are referenced on AEROOT's reports. Its objectives are preponderantly operational and its positive intelligence production negligible since 1955. Guidance in the collection of positive intelligence information exists, however, in targets listed by the IPC.

4. Recommendation

Renewal is recommended.

For
Chief, FI/RQM/RE

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Project Renewal

CRYPTONYM AEROOT

Headquarters Case Officer:

AREA DIVISION SR

[] []

STATION Washington, D.C.

Room: 1060 J Building

Extension: 8256

Date: 2 April 1957

Renewal request is attached.

[] []

Chief, SR/2

[]

[]

SR/COP/FI ✓

[]

[]

Chief, SR Division

22 April 1957
Date

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2 April 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Foreign Intelligence

SUBJECT : Request for Renewal of Project AEROOT

1. It is requested that Project AEROOT be renewed for the period 1 November 1956 through 31 March 1958 retroactively. This is a continuing project on FI operations involving Estonia and Estonian nationals of USSR. The original AEROOT Project was approved 13 May 1953 under Basic Plan AEBASIN, and has been continued by means of renewals and extensions to 31 October 1956. Pertinent documents are attached. Activities contemplated in the project are subject to expansion and contraction in consonance with requirements, operational opportunities and availability of qualified staff and agent personnel.

2. Summary of AEROOT accomplishments in the period 5 April 1955 to 1 November 1956:

- a. Recruited and trained two REDSOX agents.
- b. Recruited three REDSKIN agents.
- c. Recruited two Soviet Estonian residents as informers.
- d. Detected and followed up three RIS agents from Estonian SSR in cooperation with Swedish and British intelligence services.
- e. Interrogated and caused confessions of two RIS agents from Estonian SSR.
- f. Spotted one P/A candidate for work in cooperation with Finnish IS.
- g. Recruited one agent for a repatriation mission to Estonian SSR.
- h. Recruited a merchant seaman qualified to visit Soviet ports.
- i. Recruited two mail drops for S/W correspondence with Estonian SSR.
- j. Detected RIS control of a Swedish IS agent in Estonian SSR, with whom we also were in unilateral communication.

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-2-

- k. Established, with the aid of liaison, that all Swedish and British IS agent assets in Estonian SSR were under RIS control.
- l. Provided two PM agent candidates for Hot War covert operations training.
- m. Thirteen reports were disseminated of which three were judged to be of considerable value and ten of value, probably true.
- n. Expanded our network of emigre informants in several countries dealing with matters of interest to Clandestine Services.

3X. Planned future activities:

- a. Contact AEROOT/6 and AENEON/13 on their next trips west.
- b. Continue S/W correspondence with TIBABEL/1.
- c. Recruit AENEON/14 for assignment as P/A in Finland.
- d. Press further development of present capabilities for PI and OI and step-up spotting, recruiting, briefing, debriefing, and training agents, candidates and informants.
- e. Scrutinize Estonian escapee and refugee cases for possible RIS infiltration and follow-up with appropriate action as the situation may require.
- f. Establish legal resident agents in Estonian SSR.

4 5. Changes:

The principal changes from the earlier project outline, approved 17 June 1955, are two:

- a. Abandonment of REDSOX in favor of REDSKIN effort as the result of reapportionment of responsibilities within SR Division, and
- b. Focusing attention on CE as a result of Estonians coming to the West in greater numbers as visitors, volks-Deutsche POWs going to Germany, and RIS agents in the guise of escapees.

5 6. The current objectives of the project are:

- a. To establish a number of legal resident agents in Estonian SSR.
- b. To utilize all practicable channels of communication between Estonian SSR and the Western World to develop, recruit and direct legal resident agents.

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-3-

- c. To spot, recruit, brief and, when practicable, train legal travellers between Estonian SSR and the West.
- d. Extract operational and positive intelligence information from visitors to and from Estonian SSR, one-time Estonian-resident volks-Deutsche POWs, clean and unclean escapees from Estonian SSR.

6 A. Operational Personnel

The following categories represent the personnel who are being used, or are being considered for use, on Project AERROOT:

a. Covert Associate:

AESTEM, a Principal Agent Type, employed by us for this as well as Project AEBASIN. He is a former Estonian Colonel who has wide contacts among Estonian emigres. He has had Agency training in agent procurement and CE operations. Covert Security Clearance, C-17638, was granted on 7 March 1953.

b. Field Agents:

(1) AERROOT/5, former Estonian journalist, now resident of West Germany, where he publishes an emigre newspaper. He is particularly valuable for his covert contacts with employees of a Soviet Foreign Office element and Trade Mission in East Germany. Operational Clearance, C-35273, was granted on 1 June 1955.

*Term. 14 Apr. 57
3/B*
(2) AERROOT/7 is an Estonian resident in West Germany engaged by us on Oral Agreement and full time basis as a spotter for REDSKIN leads among Estonians in Germany. It is planned to use him also as a safehouse keeper. Operational Clearance, C-49144, was granted 18 February 1956.

(3) AERROOT/8 is an Estonian resident of Ireland, employed as captain or first mate on ocean-going vessels. According to an oral agreement, he serves as spotter, cut-out and recruiter. Operational Clearance, C-39792, was granted on 22 November 1955.

(4) AENEON/15 is an Estonian resident of Germany whom we are assessing for a repatriation mission on assignment as a long-term resident agent in Estonia. POA C-53816, was granted on 16 August 1956.

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-4-

(5) AENEON/16 is a volks-Deutsche Estonian, now a German citizen, employed on West German vessels which visit Soviet ports. He is used for operational and intelligence tasks in Soviet Baltic maritime areas. Operational Approval, C-53567, was granted on 14 December 1956.

(6) AENEON/14, born Estonian, is a naturalized US citizen, professor at an US university. We plan to use him under natural academic cover at a third country to exploit intelligence potential germane to cultural exchanges between that country and Estonian SSR. Operational Clearance, C-48197, was granted on 10 September 1956.

(7) AEROOT/3 is an Estonian resident of Sweden employed as fireman on ocean-going vessels. He has completed a REDSOX W/T and clandestine mission course but was not dispatched for reasons beyond his control. He is considered to be in operational reserve status. Meanwhile he serves as spotter for agents among Estonian nationals. Covert Security Approval, C-32592, was granted on 31 December 1954.

(8) TIBABEL/1 is a resident of Estonian SSR dispatched by Swedish IS and believed to be RIS controlled. Unknown to the Swedes, TIBABEL/1 maintains an independent S/W link with us via a P/A. Operational Clearance, C-26412, was granted on 14 March 1954.

7 8. The following agent personnel, carried in Project AEROOT in the past, have been terminated:

a. AEROOT/1 was dispatched to Estonia on a REDSOX mission in the spring of 1954. He lost his life apparently while in Soviet hands. Payment of death benefits to his heirs, provided in his contract with the Agency, is pending settlement of his estate.

b. AEROOT/2 was dispatched into Estonia with AEROOT/1. It was reported he was captured by RIS forces in the spring of 1954. According to a Soviet announcement, he was tried by a Soviet military tribunal in 1955. He is now presumed to be dead. His contract with the Agency provides for payment of death benefits to his designated heirs upon settlement of his estate.

c. AEROOT/4 was terminated in April 1956. He was resettled by Contact Division, OO in the US. While it is not planned to use AEROOT/4 operationally, his training in W/T would make him qualified as an instructor in basic W/T training for possible future agents of the Clandestine Services, particularly in the instance of Hot War.

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-5-

8 ~~9~~. Cost of the Project

For the period 1 July 1955 to 30 June 1956 the total cost of the AEROOT Project was [] []

For the period 1 July to 31 October 1956, [] []

Estimated total cost of the Project from 1 November 1956 through 31 March 1958 (17 months) is [] [] broken down as follows:

Salaries:

AEROOT/5	\$ 2,600.00
AEROOT/7	2,550.00 900
AEROOT/3	425.00
AENEON/14	6,000.00
AENEON/16	2,550.00
AENEON/19 ¹	<u>650.00</u>

*Term. 14 Op. 51
2/82*

Total

~~\$14,745.00~~ 13,125

Operational Expenses:

a. Purchase of operational currency for payment to agents and informants in the denied area [] []

b. Spotting, assessment, recruitment, and training of agents outside of Agency facilities [] []

c. Holding expenses prior to recruitment or dispatch for agent personnel overseas [] []

d. Purchase of information:

(1) Compensation, gratuities, expenses to informers overseas [] []

(2) Housing, maintenance, travel, per diem for informers in the course of interrogations and debriefing expenses overseas [] []

SECRET

-6-

(3) Purchase of books, periodicals, maps, etc.

[]

(4) Incidental expenses in connection with purchase of information overseas

[]

Total

[]

e. Cost of cover:

(1) Cover for AEROOT/5 - overseas

[]

f. Entertainment by c/o-s, P/A-s, and covert associates

[]

Total Operational Expenses

[]

Travel expenses of c/o-s and agents.

[]

Allowances for safehouses and housing overseas - Frankfurt, Helsinki.

[]

Supplies and equipment - overseas: cameras, pads, film, S/W material, etc.

[]

Grand Total

[]

1 AENEON/19 is an Estonian national, now residing in Hamburg, Germany. He is in the process of recruitment as spotter and recruiter of Soviet and German sailors. POA C-56790 was granted 7 December 1956. He is currently in a holding status under oral agreement at 200 DM per month from 1 February 1957, pending full operational approval.

2 Accounting by courier's receipts at the time of transfer will constitute a write-off for operational currency totalling to \$5,000.

CONCUR

[]

Chief, EMOPS Division

[]

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MATERIEL AND FACILITIES REQUIREMENTS ANNEX

**PROJECT - AEROOT - FI
(Renewal)**

	<u>FY-57</u>	<u>FY-58</u>	<u>Total</u>
I. MATERIEL:			
A. ZI - None	\$ 0.00	0.00	0.00
B. Offshore			
1. Recorders, tapes, cameras, film	<u>0.00</u>	[]	[]
Total Materiel	<u>0.00</u>	[]	[]
II. FACILITIES:			
A. ZI - None	0.00	0.00	0.00
B. Offshore			
1. Key money for one safehouse, rental for two safehouses	[]	[]	[]
Total Facilities	[]	[]	[]
Total Materiel & Facilities	[]	[]	[]

III. SUMMARY: Materiel and facilities support for AEROOT-FI from 1 November 1956 - 31 March 1958 is estimated at []

[]
Chief, SR/Logistics

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14 August 1957

MATERIEL AND FACILITIES REQUIREMENTS ANNEX

PROJECT - ANBASIN - PP

I. MATERIEL

	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>U. Price</u>	<u>FI 1958</u>	<u>Total</u>
A. ZI - Local procurement by contract agents.					
1. Tape, recording, plastic, 7"	75	ea	\$ 3.40	[]	[]
2. Office supplies				[]	[]
Total Materiel				[]	[]

II. FACILITIES

A. ZI - Funded through the project

1. Rental of safe office @ \$210 per month including utilities
2. Telephone @ \$40 per month

[] []

B. Offshore - Funded through the project in the ZI

1. Rental of one safe office @ \$50 per month including utilities

[] []

Total Facilities

III. SUMMARY - The logistics support listed above is for project ANBASIN - PP as submitted for summary removal for FI 1958.

[]

Acting Chief, SR/Logistics

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(When Filled In)

FI OPERATIONAL AUTHORIZATION

TO : FINANCE DIVISION

THROUGH: FI/PLANS/PROJECTS BRANCH, FI/ADMIN/BF

SUBJECT: AMROO7 ; 7-3400-83-145 ; Germany SR
APPROVAL OF PROJECT ACCOUNT NO. COUNTRY, AREA DIVISION

SECTION 1. TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECTS BRANCH

THE ABOVE PROJECT HAS BEEN APPROVED FROM 1 Nov. 1956 TO 31 March 1958 IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$ AS BROKEN DOWN BELOW.

JWN/E-MH 8 July 57
FI/PLANS/PROJECTS BRANCH DATE

SECTION 2. TO BE COMPLETED BY CASE OFFICER

BREAKDOWN OF REQUESTED TOTAL:	FISCAL YEAR	
	1957	1958
COMPENSATION	<u>6,855</u> <u>6,555</u>	<u>7,920</u> <u>6,570</u>
EXPENSES <u>FOR. CURR.</u>		
TRAVEL	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
OTHER: <u>Log Support</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

ACCOUNTING DETAILS

TYPE OF PROJECT (Check one) REGULAR SUBSIDY PROPRIETARY

METHOD BY WHICH PAYMENTS ARE TO BE MADE

Eq. and

FUNDS TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR BY: (Check one)
 REGULAR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTINGS (AFR 30-10)
 RECEIPTS ONLY (CFR 9.4)
 OTHER (Explain): In accordance with Admin. Plan approved Jan. 9, 1956.

SECTION 3. TO BE COMPLETED BY DIVISION BUDGET OFFICER

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE SR DIVISION BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1957 CONTAINS SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO MEET THE OBLIGATIONS OUTLINED ABOVE.

mjk 4/8/57
DIVISION BUDGET OFFICER DATE

SECTION 4. OTHER APPROVALS

FINANCE DIVISION MUST HAVE, IN ADDITION TO FI PROJECT APPROVAL, SPECIFIC WRITTEN APPROVAL ON CERTAIN TYPES OF EXPENDITURES BEFORE FUNDS CAN BE ADVANCED. INDICATE BELOW ANY APPROVALS IN THIS CATEGORY THAT HAVE BEEN SECURED:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PURCHASE OF AUTOMOBILE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN WHEN REQUIRED
<input type="checkbox"/> PURCHASE OF MAJOR ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Explain):
<input type="checkbox"/> RENTALS IN EXCESS OF THAT PERMITTED BY REGULATION	

SECTION 5. ADDITIONAL CRYPTONYMS, PSEUDONYMS, ETC.

ABSTEM, AMROO7/5,7,8,3, AMROO7/15,16,14, TICABEL/1

SIGNATURE OF CASE OFFICER SR/2 EXTENSION 8256 SIGNATURE OF DIVISION CHIEF OR DESIGNEE DATE