

SECRET

*Stanley
Newman*

RENEWAL OF PROJECT AEVIRGIL

FY - 1962

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3829
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. Current Objectives

The primary objective of Project AEVIRGIL is to use a controlled anti-communist emigre organization and its assets to create or intensify and exploit evolutionary changes in the USSR favorable to ODYOKE policy objectives. To this end the group produces Russian-language propaganda materials and distributes them to Soviets by mail, by radio, and in personal contact with Soviets travelling abroad. Within the last few years the group has also been trying to prepare travellers to the Soviet Union with facts and figures of interest to Soviets.

A secondary objective of the project is to take advantage of the experience, cover, and geographical location of individual members of the organization to further other KUBARK objectives. Although very little progress has been made toward this objective during the past year, the possibility still exists that AEVIRGIL 1 representatives sent by the group's Munich Headquarters to other locales can be used to greater advantage by local KUBARK officers to support unilateral KUBARK operations. At the present time the only place where this concept has proven itself is Madrid. There the local AEVIRGIL 1 representative performs his assigned work in the Russian Section of Radio Nacional Espana and, at the same time, because of his accessibility to targets, supports operations and interests. In Austria, Belgium, and France, a similar cooperation was previously envisaged but has not yet materialized. The primary reason for this lack of success is the difficulty of finding suitable permanent AEVIRGIL 1 representatives for these areas, representatives who can organize and control a tightly-knit local AEVIRGIL 1 group and at the same time work with and for the KUBARK case officer.

2. Changes

a. Reduction in Subsidy. The amount which is being requested for the project in FY 1962, effects another major reduction in the subsidy which is extended to AEVIRGIL 1. It will be accomplished for the most part by discontinuing all AEVIRGIL 1 activities in Berlin. The erection of the wall between East and West Berlin cut off even the possibility of East Germans visiting the office in West Berlin which used AEVIRGIL 1 as a cover for its positive intelligence collection activities.

b. New Chapters. During the past year AEVIRGIL 1 has formed two new chapters, one in Sweden, the other in Australia. The Swedish group is comprised of a number of ex-ARGIDEON 1 members who broke away

SECRET

from that organization because of internal differences and applied to AEVIRGIL for membership in order to continue their efforts in the anti-Soviet cause. AEVIRGIL 1 has already received some contact reports from this group. The Australian Chapter consists of a group of previously unaffiliated Russian emigres who have agreed to mail AEVIRGIL 1 literature to Far Eastern points in the Soviet Union. So far, no reports on these mailing operations have been received.

3. Intelligence Production

During Fiscal Year 1961, Project AEVIRGIL produced only three disseminable reports, a drastic reduction compared with the fifty-six disseminations of FY 1960. Previously, the AEVIRGIL intelligence production came exclusively from the information-collection office in Berlin which attracted East German visitors by leaflets ballooned into East Germany. After the cessation of ballooning in March 1960, the office made no new contacts and gradually lost its old ones. Finally, at the end of the fiscal year, even before the erection of the wall, there was no longer any justification for the Berlin KUBARK office. During the entire year it had produced only one report.

The two other disseminations came from contact reports submitted by AEVIRGIL 1 members meeting with Soviets travelling in the West. While a record of two disseminable reports is hardly remarkable, it is worth noting that FY 1961 is the first year that any disseminable information at all came from AEVIRGIL 1's routine contact operations.

As mentioned in the preceding renewal, AEVIRGIL 1's greatest potential for the KUBARK intelligence collection effort may lie in the spotting and assessing of sources to be exploited by KUBARK or by the local liaison service in coordination with KUBARK. This year, for example, an AEVIRGIL 1 leader introduced his Munich case officer to a family friend working as an interpreter for Soviets visiting Milan. The Munich case officer then introduced the woman to a Milan case officer who can and will take advantage of the information to which she has access.

4. Effectiveness

A year ago it was envisioned that AEVIRGIL 1, in addition to its primary propaganda mission, might develop its intelligence collection potential to the point where it could successfully run legal travel operations into the Soviet Union or provide KUBARK a number of leads and assessments on agent traveller candidates. To this end the junior case officer in Munich initiated a training program. Experience has shown, however, that the plan to develop the leading AEVIRGIL 1 personalities into trained and sophisticated operators to establish and direct this intelligence collection mechanism was somewhat overly ambitious. A marked improvement in the quality of the reporting on contact operations bears testimony to the fact that the people benefited from the training. But in most cases they were expected to take on the new task in addition to their basic propaganda work. There simply was not enough time to accomplish this without seriously hampering the

primary objective of the project. Nor did any of those trained show enough marked aptitude to warrant the hopes which were entertained earlier. In the future every effort will be made to indoctrinate the AEVIRGIL 1 leaders in sound operational practices so that advantage can be taken of FI possibilities incidental to AEVIRGIL 1's primary mission, but the effectiveness of the organization should be judged only by covert action standards.

A review of the group's activities during the past year reveals distinct and encouraging progress in its efforts to reach Soviet citizens with its propaganda and in its ability to respond to KUBARK direction. One notable improvement which covers all aspects of the group's work is the quality of the reporting. AEVIRGIL 1 members are now submitting more and better reports on their conversations with Soviet citizens. Fifty such documents were received within the last year. Similarly, as the group expanded its mailing operations, it also developed a detailed system of reporting thereon which provides us with titles, number of copies, and addresses on all correspondence directed to the Soviet Union.

Following below is an account of the AEVIRGIL 1 activities during FY 1961 and, where evidenced, the target reaction.

a. Radio.

During FY 1961 AEVIRGIL 1 contributions to Radio Rome and the Broadcast Corporation of China remained at the same level as during FY 1960. The Munich Radio Section produced an average of thirty-seven scripts a month for Radio Rome out of which an average of twenty-one monthly were broadcast. For the Taiwan Radio four fifteen-minute programs were taped and transmitted monthly. At RNE, however, the AEVIRGIL 1 Madrid Representative's gradually increasing influence on the program content can be noted by the following figures on the radio's use of AEVIRGIL 1 material.

	<u>FY 1960</u>	<u>FY 1961</u>
No. of Scripts sent from Munich to Madrid	432	607
Russian Section Broadcasts	277	417
Bulgarian Section Broadcasts	249	350
Estonian Section Broadcasts	81	57
Polish Section Broadcasts	6	6
Latvian Section Broadcasts	5	2
AEVIRGIL 1 Broadcasts	12	12
Items in RNE foreign section bulletin	148	292

b. Propaganda Production.

During FY 1961 AEVIRGIL 1's propaganda production figures ranged slightly higher than during FY 1960. The group continued to publish their periodicals,* and their Belgian branch bi-monthly information bulletin in approximately the same number of copies and number of pages as during the previous year. As contrasted with FY 1960,

however, when the total number of books, brochures and pamphlets produced was fifteen, the group this year issued twenty-seven separate comparable publications.

c. Propaganda Distribution.

As in FY 1960, most of the AEVIRGIL 70's were distributed overtly to AEVIRGIL 1 members, institutions, organizations and media in forty-one countries (not including the Soviet Union). AEVIRGIL 74 was primarily distributed among citizens and organizations in Germany. To get its literature to Soviets, AEVIRGIL 1 continued to sponsor its sale in the local bookstores and kiosks of Paris, Vienna and Israel; the group's taxi-driver contacts in Paris continued to pass the material to likely fares; contacts in Belgium and Austria continued to insert brochures into packing cases destined for the Soviet Union; and AEVIRGIL 1 members distributed literature during face-to-face meetings with Soviets at every possible opportunity. During the past year, however, the most notable increase of the AEVIRGIL 1 distribution capacity came in the field of mailing operations. From 1 July 1960 to 30 June 1961, AEVIRGIL 1 members in Germany, France, Belgium and the United States mailed a total of 10,851 pieces to the USSR and to Soviets stationed abroad. These pieces ranged in size from large books to leaflets. They included mimeographed and personal letters. In addition, there are ten instances in which regular continuing correspondence has been established by AEVIRGIL 1 sympathizers in Paris with representatives of the Soviet Scientific/Literary intelligentsia.

Two general observations can be made from a review of the AEVIRGIL 1 monthly mailing reports for FY 1961. First, at the beginning of the period the bulk of the mail was sent to Soviets abroad rather than inside the USSR; by June 1961, by far the greater part of the mail was being directed to the Soviet Union. Secondly, each month of the year showed an increase in the number of pieces mailed.

d. Contact Operations.

Although the AEVIRGIL 1 members have improved considerably on their reporting of contact operations with Soviets travelling in the West, the reporting level has not by any means reached the point where one can state with any certainty the total number of contacts made during the past year or, perhaps more important, make any statistical judgements on the types of contacts. Nevertheless, in contrast with FY 1960, reports submitted during FY 1961 do reflect both an attempt on the part of the AEVIRGIL 1 members to meet as many Soviets as possible and, in some cases, considerable success in making significant contacts with these Soviets. These reports are rarely of intelligence value, but they do show the propaganda effect a Russian-speaking emigre can have on a travelling Soviet and provide highly revealing propaganda material and background information on the opinions and feelings of Soviet citizens.

In general, AEVIRGIL 1 members during FY 1961 met almost all Soviets visiting Germany and many travelling in France, Belgium, Italy (Olympics) and Austria. In the latter part of the year the new Swedish chapter also began to contact Soviet seamen on ships docking at Swedish ports. The majority of these meetings were of short duration and consisted of exchanges on the different conditions in the West and the "homeland"; a few were more meaningful. Below are several examples of the latter category.

(1) In Kornasburg Austria, AEVIRGIL 1 member AEVIRGIL 32 met a group of Soviet sailors from a ship then docked at the Danube port. One of the group made arrangements to meet the AEVIRGIL 1 man alone later. During the ensuing conversation the Soviet, the party representative on the ship, confessed complete disaffection with the regime and a strong belief in God. The Soviet stressed that if he had not had a wife and child at home he would certainly have defected.

(2) In Belgium, AEVIRGIL 1 members AEVIRGIL 115 and AEVIRGIL 113 met for two days with a Soviet engineer who was visiting his daughter and Belgian son-in-law. In these two days the Soviet proved himself an outspoken anti-communist and, again, a man of strong religious beliefs. He told the AEVIRGIL 1 members that he listens to the Voice of America, Radio Liberty, the BBC and, occasionally, to Radio Madrid and gave them an anti-communist poem with the request that it be broadcast to the Soviet Union by a friendly foreign radio station. He volunteered to help the group in any way he could upon his return to the Soviet Union and promised to correspond with them. However, danger signals were exchanged and, sometime after, were used by the Soviet's wife in a letter to the West.

(3) In Paris, AEVIRGIL 1 member AEVIRGIL 225 spent five days with a Soviet football team as their interpreter. During this time he made no converts to the anti-communist cause, but his account of the period shows that this intelligent, well-educated emigre writer left the young Soviets with many new ideas on politics, literature, religion and other fields.

e. Debriefings of Travellers to or Repatriates from the Soviet Union.

As mentioned above, last year's hopes of AEVIRGIL 1's conducting sophisticated information-collection legal travel operations to the Soviet Union have not yet materialized. Although the AEVIRGIL 1 members have shown complete willingness to enter into this field, have compiled a briefing guide to be used by their operators, and have even talked to travellers before and after trips to the Soviet Union, the information resulting has been extremely interesting from the standpoint of Soviet realities but of no intelligence value. During FY 1961, nine debriefings, some of considerable length, were submitted by AEVIRGIL 1 members. The individuals interviewed included Belgian housewives who had travelled to the Soviet Union to see their relatives, Israeli repatriates, and Westerners who had

SECRET

studied in the USSR. Even though these documents fulfilled no requirements of the intelligence community, they did provide the AEVIRGIL 1 propagandists some greater insight into popular feelings and current conditions in the Soviet Union.

f. Local Activities.

As during FY 1960, AEVIRGIL 1 members continued in FY 1961 to work with the local populations "to alert vulnerable Free World nations to the methods and dangers of Communist subversion". In Germany they continued to publish and distribute AEVIRGIL 74; they conducted some fifty lectures and seminars among German groups; and, in collaboration with a German labor organization, they gave free showings of twenty-two anti-Soviet films during the month of December 1960. In France, they prepared for distribution a brochure entitled "The USSR and its Achievements". This twenty-four page pamphlet contained actual Soviet newspaper quotations contradicting the exaggerated claims made at the Soviet exhibition in Paris about the Soviet standard of living. In Israel, the AEVIRGIL 1 representative continued to speak at schools and kibbutzes and distribute translated AEVIRGIL 1 literature to the local population. In Spain, five AEVIRGIL 1 articles were published in the Documentary References of the Trade Union Research Center; one article from an AEVIRGIL 1 brochure was published in the most important journal of opinion of the Spanish trade unions, Estudios; several AEVIRGIL 1 articles appeared in the newspaper Arriba, the organ of the Falange; and, at the request of the Ministry of the Navy, the AEVIRGIL 1 brochure, "The Soviet Naval Officer", was translated into Spanish. At the end of the year, five other translated AEVIRGIL 1 pieces were awaiting publication. In addition, the material prepared for and presented by the trade union, the Sindicatos, at the First Trade Union Congress in Spain consisted of two articles from AEVIRGIL 70 concerning taxes in the USSR.

g. Target Reaction.

Although the instances were necessarily few, some indications of AEVIRGIL 1 progress in their propaganda mission were evidenced during FY 1961. At least ten Soviets exchanged addresses with AEVIRGIL 1 members during their meetings in the West and promised to correspond. Many Soviets commented favorably on AEVIRGIL 1 literature. One, a correspondent for Literary Gazette visiting Paris, mentioned that he had received AEVIRGIL 75 by mail and that the magazine had been read so much it was falling apart. He added that he would appreciate receiving future issues. Another, a professor at Moscow University, asked one of his students, a French citizen, to go to AEVIRGIL 1 upon her return to Paris and request the group to send their literature to him. Still another requested a Paris librarian for copies of AEVIRGIL 75. The Soviets who correspond with the AEVIRGIL 1 members and sympathizers in Paris all request AEVIRGIL 1 and other literature as well. Even AEGIDEON 1, another Russian emigre organization, reported that many Soviets were asking for AEVIRGIL 1 literature. Finally, as an indication that mail does get through rather than as an example of any particular effectiveness of AEVIRGIL 1 literature, there is the letter

SECRET

received from the Library of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR accepting AEVIRGIL's offer (on behalf of a fictitious organization) to exchange books and requesting that the recipient become the exchange center for all other inquiring organizations.

On the other side of the coin, Soviet harrassment tactics attested to the seriousness with which Soviet authorities regard the AEVIRGIL 1 operations. The Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs protested the mailing from Belgium of AEVIRGIL 1 literature, using as evidence letters showing postmarks from all over the Soviet Union. Bookstores in Germany, Sweden, Paris and Finland have received large orders for books to be delivered to the fictitious address AEVIRGIL 1 uses in its mailing from Germany. Moreover, AEVIRGIL 1 members often receive anonymous letters requesting them to stop their anti-Soviet political activities, or else. Other anonymous letters were circulated in the emigration trying to discredit AEVIRGIL 1 or specific members thereof.

5. Problems of Security, Cover or Control

Through double agent instructions we are aware of continuing RIS interest in AEVIRGIL 1. Similarly, through reports of the AEVIRGIL 1 members themselves, we have learned of legitimate UPHILL efforts to find out something of what is going on within this emigre organization based in Germany. During the past year, an UPHILL agent made an unsuccessful attempt to recruit AEVIRGIL 1 member AEVIRGIL 115. Because of this event and because AEVIRGIL 115 was the one AEVIRGIL 1 leader who had never been submitted to the test, AEVIRGIL 115 was polygraphed with no unfavorable results. At other times, when AEVIRGIL 1 has suggested drawing into its ranks individuals whom KUBARK considered suspect, the group has very willingly followed our suggestion that such individuals be excluded entirely from the organization or be allowed to take only unwitting or minor roles in the general and unclassified anti-communist effort. At the moment, therefore, no serious or specific threat to the group's security is apparent. AEVIRGIL 1 operators, as members of an anti-communist emigre organization approved as a tax-free group by the West German government, have a natural cover for their activities. KUBARK control of the organization is based on the group's complete financial dependence, but the witting members of AEVIRGIL 1 are, within their capabilities, willing and eager to accept all KUBARK guidance and help.

One continuing problem to which there is no easy solution is the lack of qualified personnel in the emigration who can be recruited into the ranks of AEVIRGIL 1.

6. Liaison

On Project AEVIRGIL KUBARK maintains no liaison relations with other governments and intelligence or security services. AEVIRGIL 1 itself has informal liaison with West German services and occasionally fulfills small requests or accepts appropriate advice in other countries where the group's continued activity depends on the sufferance of the local government.

SECRET

- 8 -

When the Belgian government received the Soviet protest on AEVIRGIL 1 mailing, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested AEVIRGIL 1 thereafter to use actual rather than fictitious addresses in order that the Belgians could plead their inability to interfere with private correspondence. AEVIRGIL 1 naturally complied.

7. Interagency Coordination

Not applicable.

8. Plans

Operational achievements possible and, in fact, now being carried out in FY 1962 are:

a. Continued production of literature, including Russian-language publication of original and translated material.

b. Increased literature distribution, particularly in the field of mailing operations.

c. Continued cooperation with radios in Rome, Madrid and Taiwan.

d. Improved and increased contact operations including better reporting thereon.

Kubark
During FY 1962 also, Agency personnel will continue to be concerned with the problem of reorganizing AEVIRGIL 1 itself and its activities in such a way as to derive the maximum benefit for KUBARK from this propaganda organization.

9. Costs

a. For the past period: For Fiscal Year 1961 the total subsidy allocated to Project AEVIRGIL was [] An itemized breakdown of the expenditures made is as follows:

Personnel	[]
Supplies, Material, Equipment	5,000.00
Other Operational Expenses	
Radio	10,000.00
Publications	65,000.00
Berlin KUTUBE Office	20,000.00
Local Chapters	15,000.00
Travel	17,500.00
Interviews	1,500.00

SECRET

Other Payments

Compulsory Employees' Taxes	5,000.00
Bank Charges and Miscellaneous Fees	4,500.00
Rent and Utilities	27,500.00
Headquarters and Field Expenses	10,000.00

TOTAL

[]

During this period the project was supported by two full-time case officers in Munich; part-time case officers in Berlin, Paris and Madrid; and one full-time case officer at Headquarters. The senior Munich case officer, [] is a contract agent funded under Project ASENOR.

b. For the ensuing period: For Fiscal Year 1962 the total subsidy requested for Project ARVIGIL is [] an estimated breakdown of expenditures to be made (some, in fact, already made) is:

Personnel

[]

Supplies, Material, Equipment

5,000.00

Operational Expenses

Radio	10,000.00
Publications	50,000.00
Berlin KUTUBE Office	12,000.00
Local Chapters	8,000.00
Travel	8,000.00

Other Payments

Compulsory Employees' Taxes	5,000.00
Bank Charges and Miscellaneous Fees	4,500.00
Rent and Utilities	27,500.00
Headquarters and Field Expenses	1,000.00

[]