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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

PROJECT: AEVIRGIL

1. Project AEVIRGIL subsidizes the anti-communist propaganda activities of the Russian emigre organization, the Central Association of Political Emigres from the USSR (TsOPE). The organization was created in 1952 by CIA in an attempt to lessen our dependence on organizations already existing but not subject to strict control. Within a few years a propaganda mechanism had been formed which, while not completely viable as a self-sustaining emigre organization, produced and distributed propaganda primarily for the Soviet troops in the DDR. Our complete control enabled us to use the organization in Berlin as a cover for a productive FI operation. For several years, tons of TsOPE leaflets were ballooned annually to the DDR.

2. By the time we decided to cease ballooning in 1960, TsOPE had developed as an organization sufficiently so that its branches in various Western European countries were capable of exploiting the new opportunities to contact Soviet citizens presented by Soviets traveling in the West, the possibilities to send mail to the Soviet Union and radio.

3. A summary of TsOPE's activities during the past year is as follows:
LITERATURE PRODUCTION. The group produced three periodicals as well as approximately 20 Russian-language books, brochures and pamphlets. The periodicals are: Syoboda, a monthly magazine circulated primarily to TsOPE members; Die Freie Rundschau, a bi-monthly German-language magazine which presents the Russian emigre viewpoint on current affairs; and Mosby, a literary journal issued three times yearly and designed for Soviets. The group has received many favorable comments on this latter publication both in personal meetings with Soviets and in correspondence.

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MAILING OPERATIONS. TsOPE mails its literature to the USSR and to Soviets stationed abroad from Germany, Belgium, France, and the United States. Since November of 1960 over 8,000 publications were mailed from the first three countries. In addition, ten regular correspondences have grown up between TsOPE sympathisers in Paris and representatives of the Soviet scientific/literary intelligentsia. Official Soviet protests regarding TsOPE's mailing from Belgium attest to the seriousness with which Soviet authorities regard these operations.

CONTACT OPERATIONS. During the past year TsOPE members met almost all Soviets visiting Germany and many traveling in France and Belgium. In a period of three months, CIA received forty reports on such meetings, one of the more significant of which described a two-day meeting with a Soviet visiting Belgium who agreed to correspond with and accept direction from TsOPE upon his return to the Soviet Union. Such reports are rarely of intelligence value, but they show the effect a Russian-speaking emigre can have on a traveling Soviet and provide highly revealing propaganda material and background. During these contacts, literature is passed to every Soviet who will accept it.

RADIO. The TsOPE Munich Radio Section produced approximately 1,200 scripts and 72 15-minute taped programs. The latter were broadcast by the BCC in Taiwan while the former served as a basis for approximately 30 broadcasts a month over Radio Rome and 40 Russian-language broadcasts monthly over Radio Madrid. At Radio Madrid much of the TsOPE material is also translated and used for broadcasts to Satellite countries.

4. During the past year the group has also made some attempt to contact and brief persons of Russian extraction traveling to the Soviet Union and to debrief others who have made such trips. There has been no intelligence

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production from these contacts but background information on the Soviet Union has been acquired.

5. During FY 1961 our subsidy to TsCPE totaled [] For FY 1962, the budget was reduced to []

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