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ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

MMA-35656, dated 9 August 1961

- 1. Pursuant to our discussions in Frankfurt on the above subject last week, we have given close study to the points brought out there. Upon returning to Managuarters, I found that many of these problems had been receiving attention during my absence and that the available material at Managuarters was sufficiently complete and detailed to support certain conclusions. In particular, I am satisfied, on the basis of our own studies and of discussions at various EMMOVE levels, that AEVERGIL is a project worth continuing because:
 - a. It constitutes an action or support mechanism for propaganda activities of field stations involving printing, publication, preparation of scripts, personal contact with Soviets in the Free World, mailing and other methods of distribution.
 - b. It augments our capability to broadcast to the peoples of the Noviet Union at a cost far less than would be charged by the transmitting stations for the direct purchase of time and talent.
 - c. It augments considerably our capability to debrief travelers and repatriates from the Seviet Union, providing inexpensive information on conditions and attitudes in the Seviet Union and an occasional by-product of positive intelligence.
 - d. Its activities oblige the Soviet regime to go to considerable trouble and expense to neutralize or counteract them.
- 2. The project budget for FT 1962 was reduced to The project renewal action, delayed pending coordinated Readquarters'

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BGHY-11561

policy decision, is now being processed. Pursuant to that policy decision smother removal for FY 1963 will be prepared on a further reduced budget of FOR/MOG may expect the FY 1963 Project Outline in due time.

- 3. We recognize clearly that the attempt to exploit AEVIRGIL for purposes of ENTERS claudestine collection was a mistake. Therefore, EMBELIA activity has been drepped as an objective from the project outline. In the future, it is desired that any EMBELIA leads spotted in the course of other AEVIRGIL activities be referred somest to FUE/EDG for consideration of unilateral EURARE exploitation.
- 4. Headquarters is most eager to receive recommendations by the field as to how the other washnesses and deficiencies of the project, described in reference dispatch, can be corrected, diminished, or climinated. Certainly, deficiencies noted in training given, security gractices observed, and influence exarted upon the AEVINGIL-ites, by Minist case officers are a represch to supervision and it is assumed that you need ne help from Readquarters to take reacdial action. With regard to the caliber of organic AEVINGIL personnel, while we recognize that none of them has the record of purity and integrity that we should like, our best efforts to determine their trustworthiness for our purposes have failed to show that any of them is a hostile agent. If the field believes that further efforts along this line are in order, Meadquarters will appreciate appropriate recommendations. We should like to suggest, however, that in determining the trustworthiness of the AEVINGIL members it is possible to entertain too much concern about their human frailties. It seems to us that in AEVINGIL activity we can afford a great deal more tolerance of such frailties than we could possibly afford in persons engaged in truly clandestine operations. With the climination of the MEMBELL activity are few and relatively minor and that even a compromise of them would diminish very little the impact of a sound propaganda program by the AEVINGIL organization. In this sense, it seems to us that the personality reviews of the dispatch of reference neglect the most important criterion of the suitability of each individual, namely, his performance of the tasks assigned him in the Ca mechanism which AEVINGIL/l is.
- 5. In summation, we believe that, with certain redirection and re-emphasis and given effective staff support and guidance, the project can contribute constructively to the fulfillment of a major CA mission imposed upon us by higher authority. One necessary step in accomplishing the desired objectives will, in our opinion, involve the assignment to MOG of a qualified CA staff officer who will devote his full time to the direction and support of the project. We are presently assessing candidates for this position and will advise you of the results in the near future. Meanwhile, we question the necessity of a TMT visit by the chief of our CA Branch, as suggested during my Frankfurt conversations, at this particular time. However, we believe such a visit will be useful in the future, particularly for the purpose of reviewing breader aspects of the CA RESUMBLE program in your area. We will advise you shortly of specific arrangements in this regard.

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