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DATE 2007

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NOTIFICATION OF PROJECT APPROVAL

PROJECT: **AEVIRGIL**

ACTION		AREA	
	NEW PROJECT	DIVISION	
	AMENDMENT NO.	SR	
X	RENEWAL (FY 1959)	BRANCH	
	TERMINATION	3	
	MEMO REQUEST	DESK	

AUTHORIZATION

APPROVING AUTHORITY CPP	18 FEB 1959	AMOUNT []	FISCAL YEAR 1959
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CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Renewal in the amount of [] for FY 1959 approved.

PP/OPS/PP REF. NO. JAN 5617	SIGNATURE PP/PRD/PP [SIGNED]	DATE 18 FEB 1959
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DISTRIBUTION

1	DD/P	1	SSA-DD/S	1	COVERT BUDGET BRANCH	1	AREA DIVISION CHIEF OF ADMIN.	1	PP/OPS/PR	2	PP/OPS/PP
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PP STAFF COORDINATION

PROJECT: AEVIRGIL

	AMENDMENT NO.	DIVISION	SR
X	RENEWAL (FY 1959)	BRANCH	3
	TERMINATION	DESK	

STAFF CONCURRENCE				MEMORANDUM ATTACHED		
ORGANIZATIONAL ELEMENT	SIGNATURE	COPY NO.	DATE	YES	NO	DATE
ASSA-DD/S	[Signature]	2	1/29/59			
PP/PRD/RB	[Signature]	1 & 3	17 Feb 59			
PP/Prop	[Signature]	3	29 Jan 59		✓	
PP/O/PRD		1				

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

CPP	[Signature]	DATE	18 Feb 59
A/DD/P/P	[Signature]	DATE	

(This space reserved for comments of SSA-DD/S; CPP; A/DD/P/P.)

Funds program of the consolidated budget DBA

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SUMMARY REQUEST FOR RENEWAL

DIVISION PROJECT CLEARANCE SHEET

1. Action: Request for Renewal Fiscal Year 1959

- A. Project Cryptonym: AEVIRGIL
- B. Division: SR
- C. Branch: SR/3
- D. Desk: PP

2. Division Concurrences:

CSR	15 Jan 59 DATE
COP	15 Jan 1959 DATE
COP/PP	14 January 1959 DATE
CSR/3	6 Jan 1959 DATE
SR/ADMIN	13 Jan 59 DATE
SR/BF	12 Jan 1959 DATE
TOG	12 Jan 1959 DATE

Case Officer: [1505 J
Extension 4387]

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RENEWAL PROJECT AEVIRGIL

I. DATES OF ORIGINAL APPROVAL, RENEWALS AND AMENDMENTS:

- A. HTBALDUR, approved 8 July 1952 by DD/P
- B. HBDUCKPIN, approved 10 April 1953 by DD/P
- C. AEBROOM, approved 22 May 1953 by DD/P
- D. AEVIRGIL, approved 30 December 1954 by DD/P
(includes former projects listed above and AEPAWN, AESCROLL and AECACOTOL)
 - 1. Amendment No. 1, dated 6 August 1954
 - 2. Amendment No. 2, dated 30 March 1955
 - 3. Amendment No. 3, dated 5 August 1955
 - 4. Amendment No. 4, dated 5 August 1955
 - 5. Amendment No. 5, dated 25 March 1957

II. FUNDS USED BY FISCAL YEAR SINCE INITIATION OF PROJECT:

AEPAWN	
AESCROLL	FY 54
AEBROOM	
AEVIRGIL	FY 55
AEVIRGIL	FY 56
AEVIRGIL	FY 57
AEVIRGIL	FY 58

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III. OBJECTIVE AND PROJECT PROPOSAL:

1. The objective of project AEVIRGIL is to conserve, utilize and develop the human resources as constituted by the Russian emigration in the West, in support of CIA's political and psychological efforts against the USSR. To this end the Central Association of Political Emigres (TsOPE) whose headquarters are in Munich, was organized and is being supported and controlled by CIA for exploitation as: a) a controlled organizational framework for Soviet emigres, b) a rallying point for new

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Soviet defectors, c) an attributable source for the conduct of PP operations against the USSR, its nationals and official representatives abroad, d) a controlled working group for the production and distribution of propaganda materials.

2. It is proposed that financial support of TsOPE be continued to enable TsOPE to carry on with its broad program of PP activities and permit CIA use of the organization as a PP mechanism. Included in the activities of TsOPE are the following: Editorial production of propaganda literature (leaflets, brochures, pamphlets etc.) - distribution of this material by means of balloons, by hand and through mail channels - publication of Russian translations of anti communist books - publication of TsOPE overt press organs, the Russian language journal "Svoboda" and the German language journal "Die Freie Rundschau" - periodic press conferences called in exploitation of specific events (ZRMIDWEST) or to surface new defectors - sponsorship of German language political seminars in Berlin and Munich to discuss and bring to light current Soviet events - provide suitable personnel and Russian language scripts to Western Radio Stations broadcasting to the Soviet Union (e.g. Radio Nacional de Espana, Radio Rome) - provide cover for a Berlin FI office to enable BOB to exploit REDCAP opportunities and collect military intelligence from sources developed through TsOPE propaganda distribution in the Soviet Zone of Germany - carry on contact operations against Soviet tourists travelling in the West.

IV. STATEMENT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE PAST YEAR AND ESTIMATE OF EFFECTIVENESS:

1. During FY 58 TsOPE went a long way towards becoming a more effective and at the same time more independent PP asset. While during the early years of its formation TsOPE had to be closely guided by field case officers and contract agents to enable CIA to derive the maximum benefit from this organization, in recent years TsOPE has matured enough to permit it to stand on its own feet. The groundwork for this maturing was laid when in 1957 TsOPE broadened its basic structure from an organization of "post-war emigres" to that of "political emigres", thus permitting inclusion in their ranks of capable native Russian propagandists previously not eligible for membership. At a general membership convention in the spring of 1958 TsOPE elected a more able chairman and board of directors under whose leadership the organization is capable of functioning effectively on a day-to-day basis without the degree of case officer guidance previously required while still submitting willingly to CIA control. The two contract officers originally assigned to the project in the field have been reassigned and it is not anticipated that these vacancies need be filled again. TsOPE achieved further independence as an operationally effective group through legal registration and recognition as a tax exempt "educational" institution in the German Federal Republic. This legal status assures the organization of receiving German government protection and places their existence on a sounder basis than heretofore.

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2. During the past year TsOPE has begun active participation in the Russian broadcast efforts of Radio Nacional de Espana, Radio Rome and Nationalist Radio on Formosa. Since initiation of these activities 62 15-minute TsOPE programs were broadcast over radio Formosa, 122 TsOPE scripts were broadcast over Radio Rome and 293 over Radio Nacional de Espana. In the latter case a TsOPE radio propagandist has been accepted as a regular employee of Radio Nacional and CIA is able to transmit guidance to the radio through this controlled asset.

3. TsOPE has during the preceding year proved its ability in the Russian language printing and publishing field and SR Division tends to lean more heavily on TsOPE to bring on the market suitable Russian language material which is not otherwise available. The following are some of the books printed and published by TsOPE during the past year: Howard Fast's The Naked God, Rays of Light (Prosveti) by TsOPE member Vladimir Rudolph, Telegram from Moscow by TsOPE member Stauffelberg. In addition TsOPE printed and published approximately 12 brochures written by Soviet defectors and Russian emigres dealing with a variety of subjects from Soviet agricultural problems to studies of current Soviet literature. This Russian language material is distributed to Soviet tourists and official representatives in the West not only by TsOPE but also by other SR Division assets as well as in REDSKIN operations. TsOPE continued to print and distribute approximately 3,500 copies each month of their Russian language magazine SVOBODA and 4,000 copies each of their bi-monthly appearing German language magazine Die Freie Rundschau.

4. Although technical difficulties and political considerations have forced the Berlin based TsOPE balloon team to move its launching site to the territory of the Federal Republic, for the present both TsOPE teams continue their large volume of ballooning directed at the Soviet occupation forces in the DDR. As a direct result of this effort the Berlin office of TsOPE, which interviews and debriefs East Zone visitors, has been able to produce over 55 positive intelligence reports and has contributed a considerable amount of raw material to the CIA collection effort in the form of expended ammunition, Soviet mail, etc. (NOTE: Up until 1 January 1958 the Berlin FI office of TsOPE was carried under a separate FI Project AECARRERA. At that time the project was terminated and the activities continued under project AEVIRGIL).

5. A Soviet private crossed the Berlin sector border in recent months seeking the address of the TsOPE office in Berlin which he claimed to have seen on a leaflet. Another indication of effectiveness of TsOPE balloon operations are frequent letters received from East Zone residents informing that they have found TsOPE leaflets and have noticed that these were read by Soviet soldiers. A number of letters were received from a Soviet soldier stationed in Weimar who claims to be writing on behalf of many of his soldier friends. The writer expresses his satisfaction with these leaflets and goes on to say that after reading this material every realistic individual has a desire to live as a free man in a free society even if just for a few days. The soldier admits that

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living under the reins of Communism means "to have a human body, to own it, but not to own one's soul". It would of course be wrong to assume that the feeling as expressed above is prevalent among the Soviet occupation forces in East Germany but it is heartening to know that it does exist and that TsOPE literature helps to crystallize the feelings of those who harbor a kernel of dissatisfaction with the Soviet system.

6. TsOPE's regularly conducted seminars on current Soviet political and economic problems are attracting an increasing number of well known emigres and German youths interested in Soviet affairs. TsOPE speakers are sought by German military and political organizations. A recent defector, a Georgian writer and winner of the Stalin prize, although not a TsOPE-induced defection, was able to contact CIA officers in the field through the existence of the TsOPE office in Berlin where he was taken by his West Berlin friend, a regular attendant of the TsOPE sponsored seminars.

7. A team of TsOPE operators were active in Brussels on the occasion of the World's Fair. Contact operations were carried on against Soviet visitors to the Fair and TsOPE literature distributed at numerous local bookstands, the Vatican Pavillion and by hand through local residents recruited for this purpose. TsOPE published two special brochures for distribution at the Fair, a Russian language guide book on Belgium and a Sears-&-Roebuck type of catalogue depicting merchandise available on the western market and its cost. The latter was especially well received.

V. BRIEF STATEMENT OF PLANS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

1. With an increase in propaganda opportunities as represented by the Soviet traveller in the West, more emphasis will be placed on TsOPE's contact operations directed against this target. TsOPE gained initial experience in this field of activity during the past year both on the occasion of the Brussels Fair and with selected Soviet groups visiting Germany. Making use of this experience TsOPE is now building a trained cadre of personnel for contact operations who will attempt to draw out the Soviet visitor in conversation and pass suitable Russian language material. Whenever possible it is intended to use this vehicle to pass selected rumors from the emigre contact to the Soviet visitor. To accomplish fuller coverage of these contact operations, plans are now underway to open new chapters in several Western European and Near Eastern countries, drawing on the local Russian emigre community for membership. It is also envisaged to make use of this native Russian talent in the briefing of third country nationals planning to visit the Soviet Union.

2. In addition to an expansion of contact operations coupled with the opening of new chapters in various countries of the western world, a broadening of TsOPE's publishing activities is envisaged to include a greater number of books suitable for propaganda distribution and not available in the Soviet Union. Another objective TsOPE is currently striving for is active participation in the Russian language broadcasting

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operations of existing western radio stations. In this regard discussions are now underway with the Vatican radio.

3. Fiscal Year 1959 renewal is requested in the amount of [] AEVIRGIL is included in the FY 1959 SR Division Operational Program in the amount of []

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