

S E C R E T

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
VIA: Chief, Soviet Europe Division
SUBJECT: CIA Agents Imprisoned in the Soviet Union

1. In September 1957, the Soviets announced the capture in the USSR of five CIA REDSOX agents, (Project AECOB), whom we had dispatched in the early 1950's illegally ("black".) The Tass news release implied that two of these agents had been killed or had poisoned themselves during the apprehension. However, it appeared that the remaining three -- Andy Brombergs, Leonids Zarins, and Nikolai Balodis -- two of whom had permanent resident alien status in the USA, had been sentenced to long prison terms.
2. The undersigned believes that it is appropriate that these individuals who served willingly and loyally, although on an impossible mission, be considered for some humanitarian action. Our records should be checked to determine their current status and, if the men are alive, they should be considered for a possible future exchange with the Soviets.
3. The undersigned, who is retiring from CIA on 30 June 1978, believes this matter to be important enough to be brought to your attention.

Respectfully,

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

[DDO/FR Division]

S E C R E T

30 June 1978