

VIA: _____
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. EGMA-35530

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CLASSIFICATION

6-124-27/3

TO : Chief, EE (Attn: []
thru Chief of Station, Vienna
FROM : Chief of Base, Munich *BCW*

DATE: 2 July 1958

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational/GRBOUNCE/GRCROOND

SPECIFIC— Obtaining Small Arms for ARB Staybehind Agents

ACTION REQUESTED: Vienna and Headquarters approval of the following proposal.

1. Permission is requested to equip ARB staybehind organizers and W/T operators with small arms, e.g., a pistol to be cached in or near the individual agent's place of residence and a rifle to be cached in the agent's war-time area of operations. We further request permission to purchase pistols for the 2 active ARB agents who are expected to evacuate Austria in time of war and for GRLAUNCH-1. These pistols are to be legally purchased and retained by the agents in their homes so that they may be immediately available. Our purpose is to provide the agents concerned with some means of defense and/or a method of obtaining food (game) should they be forced to live black in the mountains. In addition, and probably equally important, providing agents with these weapons will do much to increase their morale in that it will indicate in a positive manner that we are sincerely concerned for their safety and that we are prepared to support them in wartime.

2. We propose eventually to obtain and cache a pistol and a small amount of ammunition (25 - 50 rounds) in or near the place of residence of each of the following agents: GRBLAMED-26, GRBLAMED-31, GRAVIMETRY-4, GRIMPASTE, GRLAUNCH-2, GRLAUNCH-A/9, GRREPAIR-6, GRREPAIR-7, GRREPAIR-9, GRREPAIR-18. By caching them in or near their places of residence the pistols will be almost immediately accessible should the situation in their areas necessitate moving into the mountains. The pistols thus would provide a preliminary means of defense until the agents could reach the rifles cached in their operational areas. ARB believes that a pistol of 9mm caliber is best suited for this purpose due to its superior accuracy and striking power, and because it would probably be relatively easy to obtain ammunition for it during wartime since it is a popular military caliber.

3. We propose to provide funds to GRREPAIR-3 and GRREPAIR-4 (who are to evacuate Austria in wartime) and to GRLAUNCH-1 (who will have to move from Munich to his family refuge area in the Tirol after the beginning of war) for the purpose of legally purchasing pistols for themselves which they will keep in their homes. Our reason for this proposal is that we feel these agents should have some means of defense during the time necessary to travel from their present locations to their evacuation points or refuge area in the case of GRLAUNCH-1, and that these weapons should be immediately available so that the agents can move out at a moment's notice without delaying to locate and dig up a cache. In this instance we also favor a pis-

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tol of 9mm caliber, but Austrian law (according to GRREPAIR-3) forbids the sale of anything larger than 7.65mm. GRRLAUNCH-1, being in Germany, is not under this restriction.

4. We lastly propose to cache a standard caliber bolt action rifle with ammunition for each of the following agents in a remote section of their respective wartime areas of operations: GRAVIMETRY-4, GRIMPASTE, GRBLAMED-26, GRBLAMED-31, GRRLAUNCH-1, GRRLAUNCH-2, GRRLAUNCH-A/9, GRREPAIR-3, GRREPAIR-6, GRREPAIR-7, GRREPAIR-9, GRREPAIR-8 (GRREPAIR-3 is included because he is temporarily assigned as the wartime organizer for UW Area #7). These rifles are to be used only if the agents are forced to "take to the hills" and live and operate black. They are to be used as "last resort" defensive weapons and as a means of obtaining food (wild game). A bolt action rifle is preferred because it is less complicated, easier to break down and clean, and less likely to jam than a semi-automatic weapon such as the U. S. Carbine which has been popular for caching in the past. A standard caliber such as 30.06 or other military caliber (perhaps the new NATO cartridge) is suggested primarily because of the availability factor. As can easily be inferred, ARB has in mind the Springfield 1903 Army Rifle or a similar weapon. Aside from being an excellent weapon for defense and hunting purposes, the '03 is a near perfect sniping rifle should such use of it by our agents ever become desirable or necessary. With regard to this latter possibility and also because it is a definite aid to hunting in this area, ARB tentatively suggests that these rifles be fitted with telescopic sights.

5. We do not propose to give these weapons to any agent (with the exception of GRREPAIR-4) who has not been fully trained and considered capable of carrying out his primary mission whether it be W/T operator or organizing general staybehind activities. On this basis, therefore, only 7 of the agents named are likely to be given weapons during this calendar year (GRAVIMETRY-4, GRIMPASTE, GRRLAUNCH-1, GRRLAUNCH-2, GRRLAUNCH-A/9, GRREPAIR-3, GRREPAIR-4). Furthermore, the agents concerned will be thoroughly instructed in the use of these weapons and that they are to be used only as a last resort to prevent capture or for hunting should they be forced to live black in the mountains.

6. We estimate that the cost of a pistol and of a rifle prepared for caching will not exceed \$60.00 and \$80.00 respectively. The estimated total costs would be \$780.00 for pistols (including GRREPAIR-4) and \$960.00 for rifles making a grand total of \$1,740.00. The additional cost of telescopic sights, should they be considered necessary, would be approximately \$360.00 at an estimated \$30.00 apiece.

7. For Vienna: If COS, Vienna, approves the preceding proposal, ARB requests that he so indicate and forward the appropriate number of copies to Headquarters.

Distribution:

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