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16 December 1946

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To : Mr. Paul C. Blum
From : Richard Helms
Subject: Kedia and the Georgians

Ref. MSB-77

With reference to your memorandum of 5 November enclosing Waetjen's report on his talks with Kedia, our present stand on the handling of Kedia and the Georgian group is, very simply, that every effort should be made to obtain as much additional information as possible on Kedia and his Georgian associates and that, for the time being, no action whatever be taken on the utilization of Kedia and his associates for operational purposes. We have prepared here a summary of all available information on the past activities of the Georgians and the current situation--fragmentary though our knowledge is on the latter point--and have called attention to those particular items of information we need in order to assess adequately both Kedia's security and the intelligence potentialities of himself and his associates. It is worth stressing that whether or not these lads are ever employed in any fashion for the procurement of intelligence, detailed coverage of their present and future activities represents a positive political intelligence target of interest in Washington not only to State but also to the Army and the Navy.

We agree most heartily with your reservations on keeping a potential Kedia operation completely away from Germany and from the White Russians; although in general terms and looking ahead for a few years, we can reasonably estimate that whatever anti-Soviet minority groups maintain their organization for the next year or two will inevitably coalesce into a more and more closely knit "bloc" and consequently make it extremely difficult to conduct any type of collaboration with one group unbeknownst to the others. One of the more disturbing factors in the Kedia case is his obviously close relationship with DB7/1 and his transmittal to the Ukrainians of the names of those Turkish contacts which represent a large part of his stock-in-trade. The general reflection also follows that Kedia can hardly be in a position to exploit those Turkish contacts more successfully than a direct American-Turkish collaboration.

This is by way of a summary reaction--these and other aspects of the case can be discussed by you and Rositzke during the January meeting. We consider it definitely worth

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ST while for the Kedia contact to be maintained, but would suggest that you do not establish it personally if you can possibly avoid it.

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