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NRKA-12373

Chief, Foreign Branch "M"

23 November 1949

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

Operational

Establishment of Amateur Radio Station

Ref: NRKA-10814, NRKW-3272

1. In answer to your query in last reference above, we wish to state that current thinking here strongly favors the recruitment of one or more reliable German hams who will recruit the actual short range W/T operators. This would of course entail the evacuation of the recruiters on our part. By this means we would be able to procure W/T operators exactly where we want them, especially if we use as recruiter a well-known ham who has wide contacts. We will of course obtain personalia and institute record checks with CIO and conduct whatever local investigations are feasible. These hams would be ready after 2 weeks training to take the air at any time.

2. The above is to be our main approach to the recruitment of short term W/Ts. However, we feel that German-American radio contacts would be of value as a recruiting means. The advantages of having an American do the recruiting of hams is that the Americans will undoubtedly normally be evacuated in case of hostilities, not entailing the additional evacuation invariably involved in using German recruiters. In spite of the slightly worse security inherent in direct personal contacts by Americans, we feel that it is of value to do some of this ham recruiting directly by Americans.

3. We realize that most American amateurs in Germany are on the air for DX and if our station were set up as indicated we would use DX sufficiently to preserve our cover but we do not agree that every American ham in Germany is exclusively on the air for DX, and especially not during the daytime hours when DX is impossible. Contacts could we believe be made with German hams without attracting attention. We do not contemplate overtures for personal meetings on the air but as it is the custom to exchange cards after communications we would have Rossiter, accompanied by Plaine, be simply driving through a town where a ham lives with whom they had had contact and stop in to pay him a friendly visit.

4. It is planned that we would assist these German hams in the procurement

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of parts in order to develop these "friendships." Gonne has assured us that they can procure surplus equipment to fill this need. CW only would be used since [ ] has explained to us at some length of the security danger of voice communication. We would operate on standard amateur bands in Germany, on 20 meters for long range German contacts and Cover DX and primarily the 40 meter band.

5. We have discussed the program at length with [ ] and while [ ] naturally prefers the approach of using reliable German hams to do our recruiting, as do we in EOB, he concedes that it would be most useful to us to have a licensed operator in our midst who would be able to talk the trade talk with the recruits when necessary and to keep [ ] advised in this respect. He also concedes to us the favorable aspect of direct American recruiting, i.e. it would be unnecessary to evacuate additional German personnel in time of crisis. [ ] has passed to us the list of licensed German amateurs and we are currently investigating those in Karlsruhe through the [ ] and will try to get an entree to a figure suitable for a recruiter.

6. Another aspect of value in the establishment of a ham station is that for training of approved VULTURES and for periodic practice on their signal plans we could conceivably use this equipment. We admit, however, that security measures may mitigate strongly against this last proposal.

[ ]  
Chief, EOB

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