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MGR-W-5802

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

11 August 1950

Deputy Chief, Foreign Division 3
Chief, Foreign Division M
Operational/CAUTERY
A Candidate for Defection Inducement Program

1. In para 7c of MGR-W 5725 we alluded to a possible candidate to help BOB in launching its defection inducement program. Identity of the person in question will follow in a separate touch.

2. The man we have in mind would be recruited for a covert assignment as a career or a contract agent at a salary equivalent to GS-11. He would not at present be available as a staff member, because of citizenship and other considerations.

3. Although we have other possibilities in mind for this candidate, it occurred to us that he might profitably be used in Berlin in the role of a "come-on" figure to induce Soviet defectors. We felt that he might act as a substitute for [] whose recruitment we were forced to drop because of his prior commitment to the State Department.

4. Naturally, the first point on which we need to be enlightened is your basic attitude toward Subject. No one here seems to know much about his record in Berlin as to both security and discretion. We should also need to know whether, in your opinion, he could assume an overt position which would enable him to cultivate social or official contacts with the Russians, similar to those which [] envisaged for [] Finally, if such a position could be mounted, would it require that the cover arrangements be laid on back here? As you are well aware, we have not had too much experience in mounting HICOG covers through the State Department at the Washington end, but we agree with [] view that it will have to be done if durable and opaque cover is to be achieved.

5. It is understood that a REDBIRD case officer will be available at Berlin to handle Subject's activities. This officer would either be a new recruit, filling one of the Berlin slots, or an experienced case officer transferred from MEB.

6. We would appreciate a cable reaction to this proposal, since, if your views are negative, we would like to consider him for a cover position

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elsewhere. We assume that a minimum of four months would be required to recruit him, give covert training in Washington and dispatch to the field.

[]

FLETCHER M. KNIGHT

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