

11. b.

On the operational side [] has been active in contacting numerous individuals with a Baltic and/or Russian minority background. In addition to lengthy reports, largely dealing with personalities or operational information, he has brought to our attention a few people, among whom we are particularly interested in the following:

(1) Gerhard von MENDE, who was unable to find a reasonable excuse to make a visit to Munich on 9 March as expected (and as reported in MGMA-A-1006) but did arrive in the company of his British case officer on 17 March. We were notified through [] that von MENDE would be free on the evening of 18 March and in view of [] illness, it was decided that [] (using the name []) would have dinner with [] and von MENDE in a private dining room in the Conti-Keller that evening. We had also been encouraged in taking this decision to see von MENDE inasmuch as we had been informed casually through ODEUM channels that von MENDE was looking for new employers and would bring with him a large share of the loyalties and cooperation of the various minority groups; ODEUM also added that although von MENDE was not himself an intelligence operator, they considered he would be an excellent prize for any IS interested in Russian matters. It was against this background that we had informed [] that we would listen to von MENDE should he desire to discuss business with us; it was made clear to [] however, that in view of von MENDE's present British associations we ourselves would not take any initiative in meeting him. In the meantime, in answer to our general brief, von MENDE produced a short dissertation on Russian minorities the value of background research material, methods of operational approach, etc. [] examined this report carefully and concluded that von MENDE very obviously had no intention of disclosing any details regarding his association with the BIS, at least pending a firm agreement with the Americans. The dinner and evening discussion were planned, therefore, to emphasize the difference between our treatment of a man of his experience and that received from the British (see para 3.c@ MGMA-1006) and to indicate generally our conception of his future duties should he decide to transfer his allegiance. In respect to the latter, he was informed that the recency of American interest in Eastern questions put us strictly in an exploratory stage in which we required a top level advisor, possibly under University cover, who would not only establish and maintain contacts with various interesting minority groups but who would also have an advisory interest in a small research office and in such operations as we might in future mount against the Soviet Union. [] initial impression of von MENDE was distinctly favorable and the latter subsequently informed [] that he was definitely interested, would prepare lengthy and detailed answers to our initial brief (which, as noted above, he originally answered with considerable reserve and caution) and expected to return to Munich the week following Easter, at which time he hoped he could make a definite arrangement to transfer to US employment. In view of this development, [] is arranging to explore with GERLACH, Rector of Munich University, the possibility of von MENDE's

appointment to the University to conduct seminars on eastern questions. We should like to make it clear that the initiative to date has come from von MENDE; if a genuine desire is expressed by him, however, to transfer his allegiance from the British to us, we do not believe we should ignore the possibility of picking a man of his reputed caliber. It should also be pointed out that we have no intention in this case of "penetrating" British operations. On the other hand, for the security of our own future dealings with the various Russian minority groups, it will of course be necessary, should von MENDE come to us, to have him specify those groups and individuals with whom the British are already working.