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28 August 1950

PROJECT OUTLINE

Project OKDROOP No. _____

Type Operational

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3020
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. References

- a. NSC Directive 10/2.
- b. Memorandum from to CEE, dated 7 June 1950, concerning the utilization of Russian anti-Soviet emigre groups.
- c. Memorandum from to CEE, dated 23 June 1950, concerning penetration of the Soviet Union.
- d. report on the Russian emigration.

2. The Proposal

That OPC extend additional financial assistance, material support and operational guidance to NTS in order to facilitate expansion of its clandestine activities against the Soviet forces of occupation in Germany and Austria, and ultimately to facilitate penetration of the USSR.

a. Objectives

(1) The immediate objectives of this project are:

- (a) To provide NTS with sufficient funds and policy guidance to enable it to increase its ^{clandestine} ~~psychological warfare~~ activities directed against the Soviet regime and, specifically, the Soviet occupation forces in Germany and Austria. The

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purpose of this propaganda campaign would be to undermine the morale and encourage defection, when we are prepared to handle it, of the Soviet occupation forces. The assistance provided would allow NTS to increase the publication of clandestine propaganda material; and expand its covert dissemination facilities in the Soviet zones of Germany and Austria.

(b) To provide NTS with sufficient funds and/or equipment to enable it to operate clandestine mobile short wave stations along the border of the Soviet zones of Germany and Austria.

See Project Committee Meeting 26 Sept 56

(2) The maximum objectives of this project are:

(a) To assist NTS develop a clandestine apparatus capable of penetrating the USSR. Such aid would include training of agents, refining of covert operational techniques, and assembling the necessary documentation and equipment. In this regard, NTS activities in the Soviet zones of occupation should be considered, in part, as testing and training operations for eventual penetration of the Soviet Union itself.

(b) To help NTS prepare for activities designed to obstruct the advance of Soviet Armies

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in the event of open hostilities. Such activities would include training for sabotage, wartime political, psychological and guerrilla warfare.

b. Facts Bearing on the Problem

(1) NTS (Natsionalny Trudovoi Soyuz - National Labor Union) was ^{ORIGINATED} organized in Belgrade during ¹⁹²⁸ 1928 by the younger generation of the "old Russian emigration." Founded in opposition to the ^{EXISTING} Kerensky group, NTS was set up as an elite organization dominated by aggressive anti-Bolshevik intellectuals.

(2) Branches of NTS were soon formed in Poland, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, France and the Far East. Efforts were made to organize an underground movement in the USSR. Apparently NTS managed to penetrate the Soviet Union through Poland. NTS alleges that it established clandestine centers within the Soviet Union, particularly in Leningrad. Although these claims are probably true, it is doubtful if the NTS engaged in any systematic anti-Soviet operations.

(3) During World War II some NTS members entered the USSR in the wake of the German Armies. During this period, NTS agents managed to spread their propaganda pamphlets widely in the German occupied areas of the Soviet Union. Apparently NTS had some success in organizing several anti-Soviet and anti-German partisan

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groups. NTS claims to have left stay-behind agents in the USSR after the German retreat; and to have dispatched its representatives into the Soviet Union as repatriated DP's. Both groups are alleged to have received sufficient political and operational training to organize resistance groups within the Soviet Union without the need of constant communication with NTS headquarters. NTS states, however, that it maintains clandestine communication with these agents; but adds that it is more difficult to send messages into the USSR than to receive them. The validity of these claims cannot be accurately determined until closer operational contact with NTS has been established.

(4) At present NTS is a tightly integrated anti-^{Communist} Stalinist organization commanding strict allegiance of its 1200 members, of whom 60 percent are new emigres and 40 percent are old. NTS does not aspire to be a mass organization, placing a premium on loyalty and discipline rather than quantity. It accepts only young people who vigorously oppose the Soviet regime and agree to the political theory and practice of NTS. Before an individual is admitted as a full member, he must work for the organization from one to two years, pledge himself to absolute secrecy, agree to report all information,

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and adhere to a rigid organizational discipline. There is no evidence that NTS has been penetrated by Soviet or other communist agents.

(5) Located primarily in Western Germany, where its 800 members are grouped into small cells, NTS has branches in Belgium, France, Italy, Austria, England, Argentina and the United States. The governing body of NTS is a 12-man council (Soviet Soyuz), which delegates executive responsibility to a five-man Executive Committee headed by Victor Baydalakov, who has been President of NTS since it was founded. Headquarters of the organization is in Limburg in the American Zone of Germany, where the Executive Committee decides on political and operational policy in secrecy.

(6) Realizing that the "Cold War" is primarily a war for men's minds, the NTS has forged a sharp weapon of persuasion in Possev, its weekly newspaper. Possev, edited by Dr. Eugene Ostrovsky, follows a propaganda line which is consistently and cleverly anti-Soviet. Not a partisan political organ, it is designed to have a universal appeal and is slanted to the more intelligent members of the Russian emigration and, particularly, the Soviet Army Officers. It is estimated that over 15,000 people read the 3000 copies sold weekly. Regularly about 850 copies are distributed covertly to

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Soviet military personnel in the Russian zones by utilizing direct mailing and the channels of DTLINEN and Daniel K. Rossen. The only serious Russian emigre newspaper in Germany, Possev has been self-supporting, but recently has had financial difficulties due to the emigration of its subscribers.

(7) In addition to Possev, various publications are issued which imitate the format of Soviet newspapers but contain anti-Soviet material. One such publication is Sovetskaya Armiya, which disguises anti-Soviet propaganda under the format and title of the regular Soviet Army newspaper for occupation troops in Germany. NTS also prints many anti-Soviet propaganda leaflets for distribution in the Soviet zones.

(8) Other than these propaganda endeavors, NTS publishes a strictly party organ, Volya, three times yearly (which is not available to the general public); and has been responsible for publishing a series of excellent Russian books and circulars.

(9) The political program of NTS is devoted to the overthrow of the Kremlin. Believing that freedom for the oppressed Russian peoples can be realized through revolution rather than Atomic War, the NTS has concluded that one of the best keys to a successful revolution is to persuade the Red Army to revolt. The

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NTS considers the Army Officers outside the USSR as the principal instruments of revolution. These officers, in contrast to those within the Soviet Union, are easier reached, more susceptible to propaganda and in a better position to act. For these reasons NTS' clandestine operations have been designed to undermine the morale of the Soviet officers commanding the occupation forces in Germany and Austria by exposing them to Possev and propaganda leaflets.

(10) Since the end of May 1950, OPC has given nominal financial assistance to NTS to help cover the expense of publishing Possev. OPC has arranged for the purchase of 1000 copies per week for a trial period of 90 days, which are then covertly distributed to the Soviet occupation forces in Germany. The funds for this operation, amounting to the D-Mark equivalent of no more than \$50 per week and not exceeding actual royalties, are transferred to Possev by the German publishers of Kenneth Hambley's recent book. The ostensible reason for this is that Hambley, unable to convert easily the D-Mark royalties from the German addition of his book, desired to give them to a good cause. Hambley is then reimbursed in dollars by OPC.

(11) On 27 July 1950 this interim aid was expanded to \$100 weekly, chargeable to JBEDICT until the completion

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of this project. The support of Possev will come from this project until such time as the United Front Organization project is ready to take it over. After that, the support will come from the sponsors of the United Front Organization and be charged to QKACTIVE. However, under this project every effort will be made to increase the distribution of Possev in areas under Soviet domination.

(12) Although NTS is able to infiltrate covert agents into the Soviet Zone of Germany, at present the organization does not have the funds necessary to establish an extensive agent network in either the Soviet Zone of Germany or Austria. To support an enlarged psychological warfare campaign and other clandestine operations against the Soviet occupation forces, it will be necessary to set up an agent network which operates continuously within the Soviet zones and maintains regular clandestine communication with NTS headquarters in Limburg. Such a program can be implemented if OPC gives NTS financial assistance and operational guidance.

c. Relationship between the United Front Organization and the separate support and development of NTS's clandestine operations called for in this project.

This relationship is clearly set forth in the project

QKACTIVE. The appropriate sections are quoted below:

"a. The United Front will not ^{AS A Rule} undertake clandestine operations in the Soviet Union or the Soviet Zones of Germany and Austria. This will be left to the individual refugee groups. However, the United Front will call upon the individual emigre organizations represented in it, particularly NTS and SBONR, to distribute its propaganda

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newspapers and leaflets in these areas and to carry on other clandestine operations for it.

"b. OPC will separately approach those emigre organizations represented in the United Front which have a clandestine operational potential for the purpose of supporting and developing their facilities in the Soviet Union and the Soviet Zones of Germany and Austria. There will be no known connection between this support and that granted the United Front by OPC through the American cover committee.

"c. It is very important that there be no conflict between these two types of projects. This will be avoided by having a single OPC command in Germany over all Russian operations. All Russian projects will be under the command of the Chief, USSR Group, OPC Station Germany, whose responsibility it will be to coordinate them so that they supplement each other. Under his command and coordination, individual emigre underground projects and the United Front project will be operated by different personnel completely separate from each other. The Chief, USSR Group is in turn under the command of the OPC Chief of Station Germany. By so operating, several advantages will be gained:

"(1) Full coordination is provided for by the single command at the top.

"(2) The security of both operations will be improved.

"(3) The development of a close operational relationship between OPC agents and the operational facilities of the emigre groups will give a constant check on how well they carry out the distribution of propaganda and other projects which the United Front asks of them.

"(4) The operational relationship with and support of individual emigre groups can be used to influence them to cooperate in the United Front.

"(5) Additional clandestine facilities can be established to distribute United Front propaganda without involving the American cover committee in clandestine operations."

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d. Recommendations:

(1) That OPC provide NTS with sufficient funds and operational guidance to

(a) enable it to expand its clandestine psychological warfare activities directed against the Soviet occupation forces in Germany and Austria; and

(b) establish an extensive agent network in the Soviet Zones of Germany and Austria.

(2) That OPC, through the Principal Agent, investigate the NTS present facilities for penetration of the Soviet Union. On the basis of this investigation decision will be made concerning means for expansion and development of this penetration.

3. Operational Control

a. Policy guidance and overall operational direction will be provided by Headquarters, Washington, through the Chief, Eastern European Division. [] (SP/POLAD will act as political adviser.

b. The Principal Agent has been recruited and security cleared and is now undergoing covert operational training prior to dispatch to the Field. He will be responsible to the Chief of Station in Germany.

4. Area of Operation

Germany and Austria will be the primary area of operation. Whenever possible, operations should be extended into the adjacent satellite countries, and, eventually, into the Soviet Union proper.

5. Cover

The Principal Agent has published a novel dealing with Soviet refugees. It is presently intended that his cover will be that of a writer residing in Germany to gather material for a new novel, and

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and meanwhile writing free-lance articles for publication.

6. Security

Necessary steps to preserve complete security shall be the responsibility of the Chief, OPC Mission Germany.

7. Staff

- a. Plans and Operations Officer -
- b. Area Branch Chief •
- c. Fiscal Approving Officer -
- d. Political Adviser -
- e. Principal Agent •

8. Communications Plan

Existing OPC and OSO facilities in Germany and Austria will be utilized for the purpose of this project. NTS will provide for clandestine communication between its headquarters and the covert agents in the Soviet Zones of Germany and Austria.

9. Support to be furnished by Headquarters

a. Financing

It is estimated that an initial sum of \$3,000 a month will be sufficient to realize the immediate objectives of this project. This support will be rendered for a trial period of eight months. At the end of Fiscal 1951, OPC will decide on the basis of what NTS has been able to accomplish whether to sustain, increase, decrease or cut off this support.

10. Support to be furnished in the Field

a. Special Equipment

OPC Field Station in Germany will help NTS procure such equipment as:

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- (1) Clandestine communication equipment
- (2) Printing equipment and paper

b. Such additional support as is needed and authorized for operational purposes.

11. Support to be furnished outside CIA

None is anticipated.

12. Coordination

a. Within CIA

(1) OSO

(a) OSO has had some contact with NTS in the past and may still maintain sporadic contact. However, since OSO is not now actively working with NTS the present project will not conflict with their operations.

OSO will be apprised of the general nature of the project.

13. Reports Procedure

Bi-weekly reports on the progress of activities will be sent by the OPC Case Officer in the Field through the Chief of Station, Germany, to OPC Headquarters in Washington. In addition, the Principal Agent will keep the Washington office constantly informed of the developments in the operation, by cable through the Chief of Station, Germany.

14. Disaster Plan

The Principal Agent will prepare disaster and evacuation plans for approval by the Chief of Station, Germany, and for inclusion as part of the overall disaster and evacuation plans for Germany.

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Such plans will provide for the evacuation of certain key NTS individuals as well as American personnel; they will further include such arrangements as may be appropriate for placing of stay-behind agents and destruction of evidence of American interests in NTS.

15. Budget Estimate

See OPC form 404 attached.

16. Current Status

Since the end of May, 1950, OPC has given nominal financial assistance to NTS to help cover the expense of publishing Possev. OPC has arranged for the purchase of 1,000 copies weekly for 90 days; and these are then covertly distributed to the Soviet occupation forces in Germany. On 27 July 1950, this interim aid was increased by \$50 weekly to act as a stop-gap until this project has been approved.

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