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TOT: 100610Z MAR 95

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TO: [] INFO []

FROM: LIMIT CE/W/MB INFO EUR/GOPS C/CE/W CED/CIC PCS/DPG

SLUGS: WNINTEL RYBAT [] []

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON AECAMPOSANTO/6

REF: A. [] 42350 95 9536453
B. DIRECTOR 151839 95 9528478

TEXT:

1. ACTION REQUESTED: FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR USE IN DEBRIEFING AECAMPOSANTO/6 (IDEN A). ADDITIONAL INFO WILL FOLLOW.

2. HQS GREATLY APPRECIATES [] PROMPT REPLY AND WILLINGNESS TO DEBRIEF C/6. UPON RECEIPT OF REF A, NVTAG WAS ASKED TO CONTACT THEIR SOURCE TO DETERMINE BEST PLACE TO DEBRIEF C/6. SOURCE ADVISED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH C/6 RECENTLY, AND THAT HE HAD MENTIONED THAT FRANKFURT WAS CITY OF CHOICE. (BERLIN APPARENTLY HAD BEEN MENTIONED AS A POSSIBILITY, BUT C/6 FELT THAT WAS A LITTLE TOO CLOSE TO HOME FOR COMFORT.) SOURCE ALSO STATED THAT ONCE C/6 WAS TOLD TO TRAVEL TO FRANKFURT, HE WOULD NEED THREE TO FOUR WEEKS TO GET PAPERS, COVER STORY ETC. IN ORDER. NVTAG ADVISED ON 7 MARCH THAT CONTACT INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN PASSED TO THEIR SOURCE, WHO WILL ADVISE AS SOON AS HE IS ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH C/6.

3. C/6 WAS A MEMBER OF A FOUR-MAN WIRELESS/TELEGRAPHY (W/T) TEAM DISPATCHED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE REDSOX PROGRAM, AN EARLY-1950'S OFFSHOOT OF THE REDCAP PROGRAM. THE LATTER PROGRAM, ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO MONITOR SOVIET OFFICIALS STATIONED ABROAD AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO DEFECT, CREATED A BROAD FRAMEWORK FOR LONG-TERM OPERATIONS INTO THE USSR, CALLING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGENTS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CHAINS OF OBSERVERS, W/T-EQUIPPED, FOR IMMEDIATE ACTIVATION IN THE EVENT OF WAR. THE REDSOX PROGRAM DEALT WITH SPECIFIC EFFORTS TO INFILTRATE INDIVIDUAL AGENTS AND TEAMS INTO THE SOVIET UNION TO BUILD A CLANDESTINE SUPPORT APPARATUS ALONG THE LINES OF THOSE USED IN NAZI-OCCUPIED EUROPE IN WORLD WAR II. IT WAS DESIGNED IN PART TO FILL THE ENORMOUS INTEL GAPS THAT EXISTED DURING THIS PERIOD REGARDING THE SOVIET UNION.

4. AGENTS WERE FREQUENTLY RECRUITED THROUGH THEIR CONTACTS WITH ANTI-SOVIET EMIGRE GROUPS, AND C/6 AND THE REST OF HIS TEAM ENTERED THE REDSOX PROGRAM THROUGH THEIR CONTACT WITH AECAMBISTA/2 (IDEN B). THE TEAM WAS TRAINED IN MUNICH AND THEN PARACHUTED INTO THE FAR WESTERN SOVIET UNION VIA A "BLACK" FLIGHT IN LATE AUGUST 1952. THIS WAS A PARTICULARLY INAUSPICIOUS YEAR FOR THE PROGRAM; IN 1952, 18 REDSOX AGENTS WERE DISPATCHED, AND OF THESE, ALL BUT TWO WERE CONSIDERED CASUALTIES, INCLUDING C/6 AND HIS TEAM. C/6 MANAGED TO SEND A FEW MESSAGES BETWEEN 1952 AND 1954 BUT HIS USE OF HOSTILE CONTROL INDICATORS LED HQS TO BELIEVE THAT HE AND THE REST OF HIS TEAM HAD BEEN CAPTURED NOT LONG AFTER THEY LANDED. C/6 WAS NOT HEARD FROM AGAIN UNTIL 1983; HIS TEAMMATE, AECAMPOSANTO/9 (IDEN C), FIRST SHOWED UP AT OUR EMBASSY IN BELARUS IN DECEMBER 1992. (FYI, [] IS IN FINAL STAGES OF VERIFYING C/9'S BONA FIDES BASED ON FINGERPRINT COMPARISON. ASSUMING PRINTS MATCH, C/9 WILL BE OFFERED A CASH SETTLEMENT.)

5. OUR INFO ON WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TEAM AFTER THEIR DISPATCH IS EXTREMELY LIMITED. FOLLOWING SUMMARY COMES FROM RECENT DEBRIEFING OF C/9 BY [] ONCE THE TEAM LANDED IN THE SOVIET UNION, THEY BURIED THEIR PARACHUTES AND HID FOR THREE DAYS WHILE ATTEMPTING, APPARENTLY SUCCESSFULLY, TO MAKE RADIO

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CONTACT BACK TO GERMANY. C/6 AND AECAMPOSANTO/8 (C/8) (IDEN D) THEN LEFT FOR NOVODRUODK, ACCORDING TO THE OPS PLAN, ON A RECONNAISSANCE OF THE TOWN AND SURROUNDING ENVIRONS. C/9 AND AECAMPOSANTO/4 (C/4) (IDEN E) WERE TO MEET THEM AFTER A WEEK AT A DESIGNATED RENDEZVOUS POINT. WHEN C/9 AND C/4 RETURNED TO THIS POINT, SOVIET FORCES HAD THE AREA COMPLETELY SURROUNDED AND ALL ROADS COVERED. C/9 AND C/4 CONCLUDED THAT C/6 AND C/8 HAD BEEN CAPTURED AND THE RENDEZVOUS SITE COMPROMISED. C/9 AND C/4 THEN ESCAPED CAPTURE FOR THREE WEEKS, DITCHING MOST OF THEIR EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS ALONG THE WAY. EVENTUALLY THEY WERE AMBUSHED BY KGB AND MILITIA TROOPS. C/9 CLAIMS THAT HE WITNESSED C/4'S CAPTURE BY THE KGB, AND THAT C/4 THEN PULLED THE PIN ON HIS SOLE REMAINING GRENADE, KILLING HIMSELF AND TWO KGB SOLDIERS. (HQS FILES ON TEAM MEMBERS INDICATE THAT C/4 WAS KILLED IN A FIRE FIGHT WHILE ATTEMPTING TO EVADE CAPTURE AND WAS NEVER OUT OF THE CONTROL OF THE TEAM MEMBERS, WHO BURIED HIS BODY, BUT W/T MESSAGES REPORTING THIS INFO MAY HAVE BEEN SENT UNDER HOSTILE CONTROL.) C/9 WAS CAPTURED 2-3 WEEKS LATER AT ONE OF THE DESIGNATED RENDEZVOUS SITES AND WAS INTERROGATED AND JAILED. HE BELIEVES THAT ALL OF THE SITES MUST HAVE BEEN COMPROMISED WITH THE CAPTURE OF C/6 AND C/8. C/8 REMAINS THE ONLY TEAM MEMBER UNACCOUNTED-FOR, THOUGH C/9 WAS TOLD BY A KGB OFFICER THAT C/8 WAS SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN PRISON AND EVENTUALLY DIED THERE.

6. C/9 STATED THAT AFTER HE AND C/6 WERE CAPTURED, THEY WERE RECRUITED BY THE KGB TO SERVE AS DOUBLE AGENTS. C/9 SAID THAT HE WENT ALONG WITH THIS PLAN IN ORDER TO SAVE HIS OWN LIFE, BUT USED HOSTILE CONTROL INDICATORS IN HIS TELEGRAMS TO ALERT NMBOLTON. (FILE ON C/9, WHICH IS RATHER SLIM, DOES NOT REFLECT RECEIPT OF ANY TELEGRAMS SPECIFICALLY FROM C/9, BUT AN OCTOBER 53 HQS REVIEW OF THE CASE REFERS TO W/T TRAFFIC FROM THIS PERIOD HAVING A 50/50 CHANCE OF BEING CONTROLLED, A TOTAL OF 43 W/T MESSAGES WERE ATTRIBUTED TO THE TEAM.) IN THE END, C/9 DECIDED NOT TO CARRY OUT THIS DOUBLE AGENT ROLE AND FLED TO HIS HOME IN BELARUS, WHERE HE WAS ARRESTED BY THE KGB. C/9 CLAIMS THAT HE HAS NOT SEEN C/6 SINCE THIS TIME, AND SUSPECTS THAT C/6 WAS EXECUTED.

7. A SERIES OF ARTICLES APPEARING IN KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA BEGINNING 19 DEC 1956 REPORTED THAT ONE OF THREE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE TEAM, C/9, HAD BEEN CAPTURED BUT WAS NOW "GAINFULLY EMPLOYED" IN THE USSR AFTER HAVING RECAPTURED HIS TRAITOROUS "SINS." THE STORY VAGUELY REFERRED TO C/6 AND C/8 IN SUCH A WAY AS TO INDICATE THAT THE SOVIETS WERE AWARE OF THEM, BUT THEIR STATUS WAS NOT REVEALED, AND IT WAS ASSUMED THAT THEY HAD BEEN EXECUTED.

8. OBVIOUSLY WE WOULD FIND C/6'S COMMENTS ON THE FATE OF HIS OTHER TEAM MEMBERS VERY INTERESTING, TO SEE IF HIS INFO TRACKS WITH WHAT C/9 TOLD US. SINCE BOTH C/9 AND C/6 STILL LIVE IN BELARUS, C/9 IN MINSK AND C/6 WITH FRIENDS IN MINSK, AND BOTH GAVE THE SAME DEADLINE FOR A RESPONSE, 1 MARCH 1995, IN THEIR MOST RECENT COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE USG, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE TWO HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH AND HAVE ORCHESTRATED THEIR ATTEMPTS TO MAKE CONTACT WITH NMBOLTON.

9. FYI, SHOE BOXES IN CE/R VAULT WERE CHECKED PER REF A PARA 7 SUGGESTION. ONE BOX WAS CLEARLY MARKED WITH CRYPT OF ANOTHER ASSET FROM SAME TIME PERIOD, THE OTHER HELD PAIR OF VERY OLD SHOES. WE FANTASIZED A FAIRY-TALE ENDING, WITH C... DEBRIEFER TRYING SHOES ON C/6, BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO TIE SHOES TO C/6.

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