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DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

PROCESSING

TO
Chief, WII Division

INFO

FROM

Chief of Station, Mexico City

SUBJECT

LIFEAT Progress Report, January 1963

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

Action: See paragraph G.

Ref : HMMA-20531

DESENSITIZED

per CSN 43-43

INFO
POSED

ACTION

ACCT
PUSH

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MARKED FOR INDEXING

NO INDEXING REQUIRED

ONLY QUALIFIED
HEADQUARTERS DESK
CAN JUDGE INDEXING

ABSTRACT

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1. The following report is submitted in accordance with CSFHB-F 52-6-1, section V, paragraph 2 (d) (1).

A. EXPLOITATION OF LEADS**1) LIFEAT/SOVIET**

Continued coverage of the home of Aleksandr G. SIDOROV provided valuable material concerning the activities and routine of SIDOROV, his wife and his maid. This information is considered essential for a planned re-entry of Subject's quarters in connection with the MKCHARITY-20 operation.

2) LIFEAT/POLISH

Provided continuing information on the daily activities and contacts of the Polish Embassy personnel in Mexico City.

3) LIFEAT/YUGOSLAV

During the reporting period, LIFEAT provided information that gave timely warning of the possibility of gaining access to Yugoslav official correspondence. LIFEAT information enabled the Station to plan this attempt in detail and remain abreast of developments in this case while awaiting Headquarters's decision whether or not to proceed with this effort. LIFEAT also provided travel information on a Yugoslav TDY intelligence officer which was very useful to ODENVY.

(Continued)

Remove from Project

CS Classification:

JOB #

Box:

Fold:

CROSS REFERENCE TO

RECORD COPY

DATE TYPED

DATE DISPATCHED

7 Mar. 1963

8 Mar. 1963

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER

HMMA-20873

HEADQUARTERS FILE NUMBER

50-6-32/3

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CONTINUATION OF
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HMMa-20873

4) LIFEAT/CUBAN

LIFEAT coverage of two relatives of AMSTRUT-2 provides an "essential" check on the activities of AMSTRUT-2, and particular information which aids the interested case officers plan the actual contacts with AMSTRUT-2 plus the progress of the AMSTRUT operation. The value of LIFEAT providing an unilateral check on the activities of AMSTRUT-2 and her relatives during critical periods of the AMSTRUT operation cannot be over emphasized. Copies of the daily take from the two lines covered by LIFEAT for the AMSTRUT operation are forwarded twice a week to WAVE.

5) LIFEAT/EXILE

LIFEAT information is drawn on heavily both for the present harassment campaign directed against ESLARD-1 as well as for daily intelligence on the activities and contacts of this target. Weekly summaries of LIFEAT provided material are cabled directly to Headquarters and Station Guatemala City.

6) LIFEAT/AMERICAN COMMUNISTS

As per reference, coverage in this area was resumed on 22 January 1963 with the return from home leave of the ODENVY processor of these lines. Travel and contacts of the American Communist Group in Mexico (ACGM) provided by the LIFEAT take are of particular interest to ODENVY.

B. PROCESSING OF TAPES

Only change noted in paragraph 1.A (6) above.

C. LIAISON

Resumption of local liaison with ODENVY as noted in paragraph 1.A (6) above.

D. SECURITY

i) The installation of new municipal lighting for many areas in Mexico City noted in reference continued during January 1963, but at a reduced scale. Some areas covered by LIFEAT basehouses are now free of the installation crews.

ii) Due to the circumstances under which most of the LIFEAT basehouse keepers were originally recruited or shifted from other projects to employment in LIFEAT (in most cases at least ten years ago) they are either aware or have reason to suspect that they are now, or at one time were, employed by KUBARK working out of the local ODACID installation. LIFEAT outside principal agent, David M. WILSTED, (at Station direction) is making a major and continuing effort to orient the LIFEAT personnel toward the idea that there is no present contact with the ODACID installation, that WILSTED and Wayne C. DRABAND (under alia) are solely responsible for the operation and that they report directly to "Headquarters" in PBPRIME. When and if necessary for the Station Case Officer in charge of LIFEAT to meet any of the local agents under LIFEAT, it is under alia. If protracted meetings of this type become necessary a cover story will be developed for the Case Officer's continued presence in Mexico... such as "tourist" status or commercial employment with an unnamed PBPRIME firm doing business in Mexico.

E. TECHNICAL

An additional six Revere audio recorders were received during the month of January 1963 for the LIFEAT operation. These have been placed in operation and are performing well.

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F. COVERAGE

During the month of January 1963 LIFEAT provided unilateral coverage on a total of 13 target lines. Coverage by target was as follows:

1. Aleksandr G. SIDOROV
2. and 3. Polish Embassy
- 4, 5, and 6. Yugoslav Embassy
7. and 8. AMSTRUT Operation
9. [REDACTED]
10. [REDACTED]
11. Home of a Czech Intelligence Officer
12. [REDACTED]
13. ALBERT MALIZ

G. PERSONNEL

David M. WILSTED returned from home leave on 1 February 1963 and assumed full responsibilities as LIFEAT outside Case Officer. Wayne C. DRABAND and LIEMBRACE-8 who substituted for WILSTED in the LIFEAT operational and technical phases respectively during WILSTED's absence are to be commended for their maintaining LIFEAT at the high level of efficiency and security normally enjoyed by the operation. DRABAND's performance was the subject of separate correspondence (see HMMT-3469).

As presently projected, Wayne C. DRABAND will be leaving Mexico on or about 1 November 1963. The responsible Station Case Officer and WILSTED are attempting to resolve the problem of a replacement for DRABAND at the local level, primarily from the pool of agents already employed under the project. This would have the advantage of not further disseminating the fact that LIFEAT does exist, but would have the serious drawback of giving knowledge of the whole operation (i. e. all basehouses) to another Mexican national. (Note: At present LIFEUD-2 and LIFEUD-3, the two [REDACTED] who now connect the tap lines to the basehouses, are the only Mexican nationals who know of the location of all LIFEAT basehouses.)

The Station does not desire another staff employee to fill this position, but would prefer a U.S. citizen, technically competent, with some working knowledge of Spanish or ability to acquire a working knowledge of Spanish. Since working papers are extremely difficult to obtain at present, for cover purposes anyone coming into Mexico to fill the LIFEAT position would probably have to come as a retired person with a guaranteed income. It is thought that perhaps an individual retiring from one of the Armed Forces in a technical rating might have the best possibilities of filling all the requirements noted.

Although the Station will continue to explore all possible solutions to the problem, it is requested that Headquarters' views and, if possible, assistance be given the Station in this matter.

2. During the reporting period a number of memoranda were prepared by the Station for passing to local ODACID and ODENVY based in whole or in part on LIFEAT provided material. The following HMMs were provided as a by-product of the LIFEAT Operation:

HMM-6993
HMM-7011

HMM-7005
HMM-7048

HMM-7073

Distribution: 13 - C/WHB; 2 - Files

Willard C. CURTIS

57-6-32/3