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SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 5828  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

Via Air Pouch

WSSA - 456  
10 May 1948

TO: Chief, Foreign Branch W  
FROM: [ ]  
SUBJECT - General: Tilestone Operation  
Specific: Dispatching of Personnel to the JIS  
Area

REFERENCES: (a) [ ] dated 20 April 1948  
(b) WSSA-421 dated 26 April 1948

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The following is a brief resume of the situation covering the plans and attempts at dispatching the interested persons to the JIS area under the Tilestone Operation.

1. As according to our reference (b), we were advised by [ ] on 26 April that the final plans for the dispatching of the persons in question had not been completed. At that time we were informed that the only feasible way to make the trip was by boat travel. [ ] had previously been informed by the Tiebars that he would be able to submit briefing instructions and they would forward to the proper parties. These briefing instructions were passed to [ ] as per Washington directive. At this time he still wanted our 5,000 kroner contribution and promised a full disclosure of all data and details.

The next development on this operation, from the side of the Tiebars, came on 3 May 1948, when Sackett was informed by [ ] that the expedition had been successfully completed; the persons having been safely put ashore and the boat returned from the mission. The following day this same information was confirmed by [ ], who unknown to [ ] further advised that radio contact with the group could be anticipated in about one month's time. [ ] had not previously been involved to our knowledge and he spoke to [ ] in confidence.

[ ] was indicated to [ ] our displeasure at not being kept currently advised of the developments in this operation. His excuse has been pressure of business which has kept him travelling. The Tiebars have informed us that our 5,000 kroner contribution is not necessary so no such payment will be made.

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2. On the afternoon of 5 May we received, through our cutout channel, the following report from Tilestone, which you will note is contrary to the information furnished by the Tiebars.

Tilestone's report is as follows:

"The expedition which had been planned by the Tiebars in cooperation with the Baltic groups in Stockholm, was to consist of 10 members, 6 to be landed on the Baltic mainland and 4 members of the crew. Among the group to be landed was to be 3 Estonians, 2 Lithuanians, and 1 Latvian. In addition to other necessary paraphernalia, 5 W/T sets were to be landed with the group, each member having been previously instructed by the Swedes and given proper cipher pads, schedules, etc. (Actual transmission to begin at a later date--all times, frequencies, ciphers, etc. known to Tilestone and to be received by us.)

"On 28 April the departing group met at Tilestone's office, in downtown Stockholm, and were there met by [ ] and a Captain Andersson, who accompanied them to Löftahammar, a small seacoast town approximately 200 klm south of Stockholm. Travel from Stockholm was made by 3 automobiles furnished by the Tiebars.

"At 23:30 hours on 29 April the expedition, including 10 men and equipment, departed from Löftahammar for its destination on the northern Estonian coast. The landing was to be made at a point approximately 50 klm east of Tallinn, where the Estonians have friends living along the coast. The landing was scheduled to take place o/a 23-2400 hours on 1 May. All members of the landing group carried documents which were believed sufficient to pass any routine check. It was planned that the Latvian and the Lithuanians would use regular train service in traveling to their respective areas.

"On 4 May Tilestone was advised by Captain Valdin, Estonian representative, that the landing had failed and the details of the trip were given as follows: After leaving Löftahammar the group proceeded to a small uninhabited island approximately 200 sea miles to the northeast, remaining there until the early morning of 1 May and at that time began proceeding toward the Gulf of Finland. By evening the sea had become very stormy, resulting in the loss of 2 rubber boats and the reduction in the boat's speed to such an extent that it became impossible to proceed into the Gulf of Finland. As an alternate destination it was decided to attempt a landing

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approximately 50 klm to the south of Paldiski. (Searchlight installations were visible at Vormsi, Nackoe and Spithami). At 0010 hours on 2 May they moved into the small bay of Reihu; approximately 50 meters from the shore they suddenly encountered a small Russian patrol boat. The Russians immediately shot 3 alarm flares which in turn alerted the searchlight stations along both shorelines. The group immediately proceeded full speed toward the open sea and are unable to say how long they were followed due to the dark and stormy night.

"At 0700 hours on 2 May the boat, with all personnel and crew and equipment, returned to Lõftahammar."

3. In the same report Tilestone advised that the group was standing by for another trip -- this time to attempt a landing on the Latvian coast to the south of Libau. (Exact point unknown to Tilestone at the time of his report.)

For the purpose of assisting in the outfitting of this second trip Tilestone asked that we provide him with 1500 kroner. (It appeared the Tiebars had charged the group with providing 1000 liters of gasoline, plus personal needs such as food, cigarettes and miscellaneous necessities.) Tilestone claims the possession of such funds could be justified by claiming them to be private donations or funds formerly belonging to the Lithuanian-American Group in the U.S.

The 1500 Swedish kroner requested were furnished for the operation and delivered to Tilestone via [redacted]. A tentative departure date for the new venture was set at 9 May, but no definite information has yet been received from Tilestone.

4. At such time as the final plans are established all personalia on the members of the group, together with complete ciphers, transmission schedules, frequencies to be used, etc. known to Tilestone will be passed to us.

5. We are at a complete loss to understand the motive of [redacted] in lying as to the success of the mission. (We are convinced that Tilestone is telling the truth.) There is no possibility of two separate ventures being involved as Tilestone has been reporting in a fashion similar to Tiebar 11 and the similarity of detail has eliminated coincidence. We are now in the peculiar position of following this project from three different sources, two of which are apparently being something less than completely candid.

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It will be significant to see how the Tiebars explain future development with reference to the impending radio traffic. We will follow the situation closely and endeavor to properly assess the presently inexplicable motives of the Tiebars.

You will be kept currently informed of all developments.

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