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FY 66

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Plans

1 JULY '65
- JUNE 66

SUBJECT : Request for Renewal of Project LIFEAT

1. Renewal is requested of Mexico City Project LIFEAT for the period 1 July 1965 through 30 June 1966 for a total of \$107,200.00. This fiscal year we have combined with LIFEAT the LINGO Project which has always covered David M. WILSTED, a Career Agent who is the outside Case Officer for LIFEAT. This combination will reduce administrative work and will give a clearer picture of the total cost involved with LIFEAT. Last year LIFEAT was approved for \$84,741.00 and LINGO for \$19,330.00 for the 1965 Fiscal Year, a total of \$104,071.00 compared to \$107,200.00 requested this year. The WH Division 1966 Operational Program provided \$111,000.00 for Project LIFEAT. Funds are available.

2. The LIFEAT Project is one of two telephone tap operations of the Mexico City Station. The other one, LIENVOY, is run jointly with the Mexicans and all take is shared by both KUBARK and the Mexicans. LIENVOY covers 30 lines, and LIFEAT averages about 22 lines at a time. The LIFEAT coverage is closely coordinated with other operations run by the Station in the SR, EE, FE, CP and CA fields. It is responsive to virtually every primary objective in the recently revised RMD.

3. LIFEAT's main value lay in the fact that the Station has access to a unilateral technical surveillance capability for use in the CE field and in support of Station operations. It is used in specially sensitive cases directly affecting the security of the United States, such as in the case of a former employee of GFLOGIC who is known to be in contact with the Soviets. It is used for checking on agents such as LITAMIL-9 in the Cuban Embassy, and DMPETAL in the Yugoslav Embassy. The tap on the Yugoslavs was particularly valuable last year when the Yugoslavs discovered a microphone which we had planted in the Embassy. Through LIFEAT we were able to monitor the reaction of the Yugoslavs. It has also been of use in the CA field, in an operation mounted against a Communist Party bookstore. Through LIFEAT the Station was able to monitor

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the effectiveness of the operation and to plan follow-up action. In the field of Political Action the LIFEAT coverage of a Cuban target has been invaluable in the planning and execution of a denigration operation (AMROD). The Station also uses LIFEAT to cover agents who have been terminated under circumstances which we feel might lead the particular agent to blackmail or cooperation with the opposition. Personality data is also gathered on Soviets, Cubans and Communists for assessing purposes for possible future recruitment. The FBI also takes advantage of our unilateral capability, and we cover selected American Communists for them.

4. LIFEAT also produces some positive intelligence. During the period 1 July 1964 to 21 June 1965, 26 positive intelligence reports have been received which are partly or wholly attributable to this project. Very many of these reports are only in part based on LIFEAT coverage, many others consist of short messages which are not of great intelligence value when taken by themselves. However, the operation fulfills a very essential function in the intelligence field by confirming other intelligence reports made by agents. HMM 9689 which reproduced a telephone conversation of Victor RICO Galan had a great impact in Headquarters since it pointed up an important feature of Communist policy in the Dominican Republic. From the positive intelligence point of view, one report of this calibre goes a long way to justify even an expensive project.

5. There are no security control problems. During the past year when a Headquarters trainer was in Mexico on another case, the Station took advantage of his presence to give instruction to WILSTED in clandestine communications, operational security, and reporting. Three agents under this project were given LCFLUTTER examinations last year. When WILSTED comes to Headquarters during his home leave this coming year, he also will be given an LCFLUTTER.

6. The operational reporting on this project has been good. Quarterly progress reports have been received on both Project LIFEAT and Project LINGO. The latest reports covered the period through March 1965.

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7. WH Division supports the Mexico City Station's request for renewal of the LIFEAT Project. In view of the importance and variety of the CE targets in Mexico, the common border between Mexico and the United States, and the resulting security considerations, it is believed imperative that KUBARK have access to a unilateral technical surveillance capability such as that provided under LIFEAT.

William V. Bree
Chief
Western Hemisphere Division