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Chief of Station, Mexico City
 LIEMPTY Progress Report/Second Quarter 1963

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

Action: For your information.

Ref : HMMA-21060

1. BACKGROUND

The LIEMPTY Project is designed to collect operational information on the LIMERICK installation and personnel, as well as targets of opportunity, through stationary and mobile photographic coverage. In addition, the project provides the means for investigating leads from both the above noted coverages and other Station sources. It supports other Station operations through the renting of safehouses, providing and servicing post office box mail drops, conducting countersurveillances and pretext investigations and performing related tasks.

2. OPERATIONS

LIEMPTY provides the majority of photographs used by the Station in its CE operations against the LIMERICK target. In this phase of the operation the LIEMPTY basehouses and photo truck produced approximately 140 rolls of operational photos in support of the Station's CE program during the reporting period. The Station considers the photo coverage of the LIMERICK installation as essential tool in following the daily activities of the personnel of that installation, including known and suspected intelligence officers, and individuals visiting the establishment.

Selected examples of the LIEMPTY contribution to the Station's CE program and its support of other Station operations are as follows:

a. The support provided by the two LIEMPTY cutouts, Oliver G. SCANTLING and Raymond H. GERENDE, in the AMROD operation was essential to this operation. Due to the long operational experience of these agents in the Mexico City operational environment their aid in both the planning and execution stages of the AMROD

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operation has been unique. The cutouts provided professional level countersurveillance during the actual meetings between AMRIFT-1 and Oliver E. FORTSON (ps), passed letters to the LIERODE installation, wrote many letters and placed numerous phone calls in support of this operation and have actually carried on the daily activity of the operation.

b. In the Soviet area the activities under this project have been many and varied. Examples of this are: Stake out of a meeting between a Soviet intelligence officer and LISTEED-1; reporting of LICAL on the agitation of Aleksandr SIDOROV, Soviet Military Attache and known intelligence officer, following a Station provocation of him; LIENTRAP coverage of Lorenzo CARDENAS Barrajas, a Soviet contact; a stake out of a bowling alley popular with PBPRIME citizens and officials living in Mexico to determine the extent of a Soviet intelligence officer's attempts to cultivate these individuals; and LIMITED's radio dispatching of the LIEMBRACE team when this team was assigned to surveillance of LIMERICK targets.

c. Oliver G. SCANTLING greatly aided the Station's operation to discredit and harass ESLARD-1 when ESLARD-1 returned to Mexico from his native country. On one occasion SCANTLING made anonymous phone calls to all major wire services informing them of the location of ESLARD-1 who at that time was in hiding under an alias.

d. In the Station's continuing attempt to provide greater coverage of the outlying states of Mexico, GERENDE has been assigned to develop contacts in Zacatecas and Aguascalientes which can be activated into operational assets in future. GERENDE has already met with some success in this area, but due to his heavy workload in the operational role assigned him in the Station's support mechanism, continued exploitation of these contacts probably will be a slow process.

e. LILYRIC reporting has been of great interest in a matter of LAURICLE concern.

f. In the general support of other Station operations, tasks of the cutouts continue as reported in reference. SCANTLING performs as alternate cutout to LICASA-1 in a sensitive LAURICLE operation. The project cutouts service 18 P. O. Box drops used not only for Station operations but also in support of Headquarters, JMWAVE, and other Station requirements. The completion of a new 4.5 meter security wall at the LIMERICK installation was fully reported on by the LICALI basehouse operator.

g. Numerous investigations and miscellaneous assignments were conducted by the project agents; a sampling of these follows: an investigation of a contact of the Cuban Consul in Merida, a casing of the site ESLARD-1 had planned to use as a secluded retreat (including picture support of the DMHULK operation in arranging by telephone the contact between DMHULK and a KUBARK staff officer, investigation in Cuernavaca of the purchaser of the Alfred STERN property located there, and a report by LIEMPT-13 of the support of former Mexican president Lazaro CARDENAS among the troop command officers of the Mexican Army.

3. SECURITY

No security incidents directly effecting the security of the LIEMPT operation occurred during the reporting period.

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The security wall recently erected to the height of 4.5 meters around the perimeter of the LIMERICK installation has reduced somewhat the area of coverage of the LICALLA base. Certain interior arrangements have been made, such as raising the floor of the operating room at LICALLA, which will allow continued operation of the base. However, if some sort of vegetation grows over the wire strands at the top of the fence, the view of the base will be shut off completely and other arrangements for photo coverage of the LICALLA area of responsibility will have to be made.

4. EQUIPMENT

No new equipment was purchased during the reporting period nor is any such purchase presently planned. All assigned equipment functioned normally during this period.

5. PERSONNEL

No change in personnel assignments, recruitments or terminations was experienced during the reporting period. The performance of all personnel in the project continued to be completely satisfactory during this period. The support rendered by SCANTLING and GERENDE to the AMROD operation deserves particular mention and their superior performance in that operation was noted in paragraph 2a above.

In recognition of his continued good all round performance the Station recently requested that GERENDE's contract be amended to provide for an increase in annual salary from \$US 5,500 to \$US 6,000. This raise is not only desired, it is considered necessary to offset the continued inflationary trend of the Mexican economy.

6. TRAINING

As in the previous reporting period, no training other than continued review of tradecraft principles was conducted during this period. Photographic product continues to be reviewed daily and the action agents are instructed as necessary in order to improve or correct their technique in both the taking and processing of this product.

7. PLANS

Since the Station considers that this project is operating at optimum size, it does not plan to expand it at the present time. Efforts will continue to refine and better utilize the existing operational mechanism.

Willard C. Curtis
Willard C. CURTIS

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