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Chief, EE Division

INFO. Chief, WH Division

FROM Chief of Station, Mexico City

SUBJECT: BEDOX/OKROW -- Woodrow D. GABBOTT - Review of Performance

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

Action: See para 5 below.

1. There follows the case officer's evaluation of GABBOTT during the past year, proposals for the future, and a request for Headquarters decision.

2. Evaluation of Specific Duties

a. LIFEAT monitoring and processing. For the past year GABBOTT has continued performing his main function, that of listening to, transcribing and typing the take from LIFEAT coverage of various BEDOX targets. This has included LIFEAT/LITMUS -- an average of three tapes a day, plus sporadic coverage of targets of operational interest such as BECOMPLEX and individual BEDOX officials' homes. Although case officer pressure must be regularly applied to keep GABBOTT up to date on this work, he does do a commendable job, not only in his selection of pertinent traffic, but in terms of the light he often sheds on the significance of conversations recorded. The very fact that he has a continuity in the field, plus knowing some of the people involved, has been of real operational assistance.

b. Operational Development of and Elicitation from BESEAL. During the past year, GABBOTT has been in contact with BESEAL on an average of a little less than once a month. In addition to two positive intelligence reports

(continued)

Distribution:
2 - EE
1 - WH

GROUP 1
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that were put out on the basis of these contacts, GABBOTT has been able to develop a relatively close personal relationship with BESEAL. The word "relatively" is used because, although the frequency of BESEAL's contact with GABBOTT leaves something to be desired, we are not aware that BESEAL spends more time with any other local contact.

Although not the subject of this dispatch, it should be noted in passing that BESEAL does not give any indication, at the present time, of being recruitable. Nevertheless, the Station plans to continue BESEAL/GABBOTT contact to give us a continuing assessment of him, plus affording us a source of information on other official BEDOX personnel and of positive intelligence.

c. Contact with BECOMPLEX and Family. GABBOTT has been used in a minor role in the investigation of BECOMPLEX, a possible BEDOX illegal agent in Mexico City. GABBOTT has known BECOMPLEX slightly for several years. He has been able to provide us with background information on BECOMPLEX, his present whereabouts and activities, and leads to others in the local community that know more about BECOMPLEX's past and present.

d. BECATCH. GABBOTT provided the Station with the first assessment of BECATCH, which in turn led to BECATCH's recruitment by the case officer, independently of GABBOTT.

3. Evaluation of Overall Performance

a. The Station evaluates GABBOTT's overall performance as being adequate in most respects and only weak or proficient (by fitness report standards) in a few aspects. More important, there has been general improvement in almost every report respect during the past year.

b. GABBOTT's outstanding positive attributes are his knowledge of the local scene, his ability to spot worthwhile operational information in the large amount of garbage to be found in the LIFEAT material, and his ability to develop personal relationships with targets of interest.

c. His weaknesses, more thoroughly examined below (under Problems) are a need for close supervision (daily meetings), a lack of organization leading to occasional tardiness in submitting his work, and difficulty in handling his personal affairs (finances and marriage), which in turn affects his production. Finally, his incomplete command of English limits his present and future potential.

d. In rating GABBOTT in the range of generalist/specialist, GABBOTT clearly emerges as a specialist. The Station believes that his activities should be limited to LIFEAT type processing and the development and assessment of operational targets. It is clear that he should not be considered for recruitment or agent handling. His psychological makeup, plus his lack of desire for such work makes this point obvious.

4. Problems. A review of the problems that affect GABBOTT's utilization is in order.

a. Need for Close Supervision. Without daily contact, it has been proven that GABBOTT procrastinates with his work and inevitably falls behind. At best, constant pressure must be applied to keep him current. This tendency toward tardiness in submitting his work is in turn partially based on several other problems noted below: namely, marital difficulties, occasional illness, plus the rather romantic, impractical nature of the man. It should be stressed, however, that the last year has witnessed a marked, if not remarkable improvement in the timeliness of GABBOTT's reporting. Although this has not resulted in lessening the need for close supervision, at least we have a more productive asset than at this time last year.

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b. Marriage. GABBOTT married a Mexican girl, 25 years his junior, in April 1963. It has come as no great surprise to the Station that this marriage, between a high-strung middle aged Pole to a high-strung young Latina, has resulted in a delicate situation. GABBOTT has been reporting to the case officer from time to time on his fights with his wife. They have covered a wide range of issues, but mostly base themselves on finances. The case officer recently witnessed what must have been one of the more hair-raising of these marital feuds. Although difficult to believe, the next day saw GABBOTT making up with his wife. Despite this apparent reconciliation, the case officer thought it necessary to speak with both parties, separately, to try to determine the implications of these marital feuds as regards the security and efficiency of GABBOTT's employment with KUBARK. The result of these talks was that the case officer believes that, although flareups such as he witnessed will almost inevitably recur from time to time, there is little doubt that the two partners are in love and are equipped to reconcile after even the most vituperative exchanges. Of the two, GABBOTT's wife appears to be the more willing to give (and forgive).

The mother-in-law, who lives with GABBOTT and his wife, does not in the case seem to be the problem that one would imagine. GABBOTT insists that he likes her very much and that she often takes his side of the argument. His wife confirmed this claim to the case officer.

There does not appear to be much the case officer can do except monitor this marriage in order to be able to continually assess the possible chance of permanent estrangement and its subsequent effects on GABBOTT's KUBARK status. At the present time, the caseofficer does not believe the situation to be insupportable.

c. Finances. For the past year, GABBOTT has been forced to repay regularly to KUBARK the relatively large amount of money he owed from his last trip to Headquarters. As of 1 December 1963, he will be out of debt. His inability to make payments on a voluntary basis, tried for several months, together with the financial burden of repayment (at the rate of $150 US per month for some 10 months), has been the cause of considerable concern to GABBOTT and has on occasion sent him into depths of despondency and self-pity. His inability, at least until recently, to "budget" his wife has added to his problems. It is hoped, now that he has, with the case officer's guidance, established some elementary arrangements for a household budget, and will momentarily be out of debt, that this particular problem will become alleviated. On the other hand, the case officer realistically must admit that he does not foresee the day when GABBOTT will become able to control his financial life in a completely competent manner. He is simply not enough "of this world" to ever get completely on top of this situation. That he can, with supervision, maintain an acceptable financial condition is our fervent hope and cautious belief.

5. Conclusions and Proposals.

a. In the preceding paragraphs, the case officer has attempted to lay on the line his exact evaluation of GABBOTT's present performance, his strengths and weaknesses. The conclusion is that theStation is satisfied, that he meets KUBARK employment standards. Although fully realising that he does not represent one of the organizations outstanding assets, he does not fall into the category of those that should be fired. If this proposition is accepted, the next question is whether or not his abilities are being utilized as fully as possible in Mexico.

b. Obviously, the Station is not in as good a position as Headquarters to answer this question. If, however, our ability to see the full range of opportunities for GABBOTT's utilization is limited, our ability to stack up

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GABBOTT against the usual run of activities is fairly good. The Station would exclude from consideration, for example, any job that required good to excellent command of written English. This would immediately knock out any finished translation work. In addition, GABBOTT should not be considered for any creative (KUWOLF) writing. He is just a little too romantic and impractical to work in this field. Previously mentioned but worth repeating is our firm belief that GABBOTT should not be used as an agent handler or recruiter.

c. This, then, as far as the Station can analyze the problem, brings us to the conclusion that GABBOTT is doing here in Mexico the kind of work he is best suited for. The next question is whether or not he should be sent elsewhere. There is the usual argument that a man should not serve in the area that is his wife's native country. Balanced against this perfectly sound theoretical judgement is the fact, noted at least by inference above, that much of GABBOTT's present value is based on his long term (4 years) acquaintance with the local scene, people, language, area. Of some importance is the fact that both GABBOTT and his wife have evidenced a desire to remain in Mexico.

d. From our limited vantage point, there appears a slight advantage to KUBARK in retaining GABBOTT in Mexico for the foreseeable future, barring any worsening of the problems noted in paragraph 4 above. Obviously, this is a Headquarters decision and the Station requests that Headquarters inform us of that decision.

e. GABBOTT presumably has about 10 more years of service remaining before retirement. The Station submits that Headquarters now make some kind of general plan for these ten years. The options that occur to us are:

(1) to transfer GABBOTT to some other post within a year or so;

(2) to plan on making GABBOTT a long-term Mexican resident complete with "rentista" status;

(3) to recall GABBOTT and terminate his contract.

f. The Station would opt for taking steps to make it possible for GABBOTT to remain in Mexico for a long period of time (rentista status), but with the clear understanding that if he becomes any more of a handling problem than he is now, he would be transferred to Headquarters for other duty or termination.

g. Headquarters comments and decision in this regard are requested.

Willard C. CURTIS

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