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Chief of Station, Bern X

Chief of Base, Geneva

Chief, EE

LIEK/KUBARK-OLF/Chicom Activities
LA REVOLUTION AFRICAINE/Richard Thomas Gibson (201-306052)

REFERENCES: A. EECH 1059, 2 August 1963
B. EEBA 12659, 8 August 1963
C. EIR 64186, 27 August 1963

1. Transmitted herewith as attachment A is the KUBARK summary of the latest information available to Headquarters on subject journal and its English language editor, Richard T. Gibson. The material may be passed to the LIEANTICHS with the following changes in paragraph one:

a. Delete reference to Vergès' travel to China during June of this year to arrange backing for this venture.

b. Change the statement, "the English language edition of Revolution Africaine, published in Lausanne, was dropped by Mohamed Harbi...," to read that the English language edition of the Revolution Africaine, published in Lausanne, apparently has been dropped since the Lausanne office disappeared from the masthead of Revolution Africaine following publication of Volume I, No. 2 in June 1963.

c. Change the last sentence to read: "The French address is also new."

Headquarters would appreciate receiving any answers to the questions included in paragraph 2 of attachment A which the LIEANTICHS, the Bern Station or the Geneva Base are able to uncover. We are also interested in confirmation of the statement contained in paragraph 4 of PARI 0146, 9 August 1963, re purchase of a modern printing plant by the Chicoms, reportedly for use in Bern.

2. Attachment B is a summary of the KUBARK information on African Revolution and Richard Gibson which may be passed to the LIEANTICHS. It is a bit dated in that it describes the structure as it apparently existed prior to the dismissal of Vergès; however, it may be of interest to the LIEANTICHS as background information. Paragraph 1 of attachment B is information reported by the Algiers Station; paragraph 2 is quoted from a press release made from the Lausanne office of American Revolution.

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[redacted]

3. Attachment C is a summary of Paris and Brussels Station reporting on a publisher by the name of Francois [redacted] who is thought to be involved in the distribution of Revolution Africaine or other Chicom polemical materials. Both Station and Headquarters traces on [redacted] are requested. Attachment C has not been cleared for passing to the [redacted].

4. [redacted] on Gibson which can be passed to the [redacted] will be forwarded by a future pouch.

[redacted] R. [redacted]

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Attachment A

[redacted]

SUBJECT: REVOLUTION AFRICAINE

1. The most recent information available to Headquarters indicates that Jacques Vergès, following his dismissal as Director of the Algiers based Revolution Africaine, has moved to Paris where, with extensive financial backing believed to come from Chinese Communist sources, he is engaged in promoting a new journalistic venture aimed at supporting revolutionary movements in Asia, Latin America, and Africa. According to a reliable source in Algiers, Vergès actually travelled to China during June to arrange backing for this venture. Also, according to this same source, African Revolution, the monthly English language edition of the Algiers based Revolution Africaine, published in Lausanne, was dropped by Mohamed Harbi, Vergès replacement as Director of Revolution Africaine, following publication of Vol. I, No. 2 in June.

Headquarters has now received a copy of a journal called Africa Latin America Asia Revolution, whose first edition, in English is listed as Vol. I, No. 3, and is described as a continuation of African Revolution, broadening its scope. The masthead lists Vergès as Director and indicates that all enquiries concerning the journal should be addressed to:

Revolution
Metropole, 10-11
Lausanne, Switzerland
Tel: (021) 22 00 95

The following bureaus of the publication are listed:

Britain - c/o N.L.R., 7 Carlisle Street, London, W.1
distribution:
China - A.H. Khair, 9 Tai Chi Chang, Peking;/Cuoni Shudian,
P.O. Box 399, Peking (37)
Cuba - Revolucion, Plaza de la Revolution, Havana
France - 40, rue Francois 1er, Paris 8e
Italy - via Cola di Rienzo 28, Rome
Tanganyika - P.O. Box 807, Coronation House, Independence
Avenue, Dar es Salaam
U.S.A. - 244 East 46th Street, New York 17, N.Y.

It is noted that the bureaus listed in China, Cuba, Italy, Tanganyika, and the U. S. A. are identical with those still carried on the masthead of Revolution Africaine since Vergès dismissal. The British address, presumably referring to the New Left Review a semi-monthly review published at this address, is new. The French address, which has been independently reported to be that of Vergès in Paris, is also new.

2. It appears from the above that Vergès has now taken over the former Lausanne operation of Revolution Africaine and is using it as the basis for a new and independent journal with presumptive Chinese Communist backing. In view of its potential usefulness

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to the Chinese as both a propaganda outlet and as a channel for reaching revolutionary groups in underdeveloped areas, Headquarters is most interested in developing further information on this venture on the following lines:

a. What is the source of funds for the journal and by what channels are these obtained? In view of the record of Chinese contacts of both Verges and Fredy Anderson, the Chinese embassies in France or Switzerland appear the most likely sources, with the HCEA office in Paris probably participating at some point. Confirmation on these lines and specific details of transactions would be most useful.

b. Where and by whom is the editorial work done? Although all enquiries are directed to Lausanne, Verges himself appears to be based in Paris. There is no current information on identities of other staff members.

What is the current location and status of Richard Gibson? The traces forwarded with EXBA-12659 appear to describe the situation prior to Verges dismissal, and the dropping of African Revolution. Can INSERTION confirm that Gibson is still in Lausanne and working on the new journal? Also, the statement that Gibson was employed by Anderson is interesting as prior information indicated that he was employed by the Algiers based Revolution Africaine and assigned to Lausanne by this journal in March 1963.

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Attachment B

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: LA REVOLUTION AFRICAINE/RICHARD THOMAS GIBSON

1. LA REVOLUTION AFRICAINE appeared for the first time in Algiers on February 2, 1963. Editors of the magazine are Jacques VERGES, a known Communist, and Zohra DRIF, wife of the Vice Premier of Algeria Rabah BITAT. SINÉ, a well-known French leftist cartoonist, does the political cartoons for the magazine. The magazine claims to have offices in New York City, Paris, London, Dar-es-Salaam, Havana and Lausanne. The address for the New York City office of the magazine is 244 East 46th Street.

2. FIRST ISSUE OF ALGERIAN REVOLUTIONARY MAGAZINE IN ENGLISH

LAUSANNE--the first issue of AFRICAN REVOLUTION, Algeria's first magazine in English and designed as a rallying point for the continent-wide political, economic and social revolution now underway in Africa, has been published here. The 144-page, pocket-sized illustrated monthly magazine consists of selections from REVOLUTION, the French-language weekly edited and published in Algeria since 2 February 1963, as well as original material.

The director of AFRICAN REVOLUTION is Jacques M. VERGES, the lawyer who directed the legal defense of Algerian prisoners in French courts during Algeria's War of Liberation. Editor-in-chief is Mme. Zohra Drif, one of the outstanding women fighters in the struggle for independence. In charge of the English edition is Richard Gibson, an Afro-American newsman, former CBS news writer and executive secretary of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in the U. S. A.

AFRICAN REVOLUTION is edited in Algiers, printed in Switzerland and distributed throughout Africa, Asia, Europe and North America by Ekis Andersson, Editions de la Cite, Metropole, 10-11 Lausanne, Switzerland.

AFRICAN REVOLUTION sells for 30 U. S. cents a copy in Africa, 3,50 F and 3s 6d in Europe and 75 cents in North America.

The first (May) issue of AFRICAN REVOLUTION contains a statement by Algeria's President Ahmed Ben Bella calling for the liberation of South Africa and pledging his government's support for that task. It also contains articles by Oliver Tambo, Vice President of the African National Congress of South Africa, and Agostinho Neto, President of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (M.P.L.A.), as well as well-as first-hand reports of the fighting in Angola and the "undeclared" war in South Vietnam. There is also a report on the war of liberation in Borneo and an account of the Afro-American struggle by Robert F. Williams, former leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People in Monroe, North Carolina, who was forced to seek asylum in Cuba. The magazine contains hitherto unpublished documents concerning agrarian reform in Morocco and relevant texts concerning the ideological dispute between Moscow and Peking as it affects the Third World in its struggle against colonialist and neo-colonialism. Besides numerous photographs and maps, AFRICAN REVOLUTION also contains drawings and cartoons by Siné, Strelkoff and Lanifeld, and a study of one of the most urgent economic problems of the Third World ("Hammer or Sickle?") by Professor Charles Bettelheim of the Ecole des Hautes Etudes in Paris.

GROUP 1
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