

24. Col. W.W. Quinn to Galloway, "Operation Rusty," 5 December 1946

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~~TO GERMANY ONLY~~

5 December 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL GALLOWAY

Subject: Operation RUSTY

My first knowledge of Operation RUSTY came as a result of my visit with General Sibert in Frankfurt this past July. Among other things discussed, General Sibert brought up the subject of the Group that he was currently exploiting. He stated that he thought that there were great possibilities in the utilization of this Group as an entity by virtue of their activities against the Russians during the war, as well as their professional qualifications. He stated that it was admittedly costly, but the dividends in intelligence would compensate for the overall cost.

He stated that G-2, of the War Department, had authorized the continuity of his operation until approximately June 1947, at which time he did not know what the future would bring. He asked me as to my reaction incident to SSU's taking over the project at that time, or prior thereto, placing the direction of the operation under the SSU German Mission. I told General Sibert that I was not prepared to discuss the possibilities of accepting the proposition; first, because as SSU was being liquidated we were in no position to make long-term commitments; further, that if CIG were to continue the activities of SSU, I could not commit CIG, as I did not know what their attitude would be towards this type of project. I inquired of Mr. Lewis, in the presence of General Sibert, as to his feeling in the matter. Lewis stated that in the event he was instructed to assume responsibility for the conduct of this Group, it would be necessary to thoroughly investigate the personalities involved, even though it would entail a detailed interrogation of the leaders of the Group. He stated that he had no knowledge of any such background material which he considered most important incident to making an assessment of the project itself.

General Sibert agreed that anyone taking the project over would have to know with whom he was dealing, but felt that no one had need to be worried about the integrity of the leaders

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of the Group, as he knew them personally, and as a result of daily intercourse with certain of his staff officers this Group had established a reputation among those staff officers for sincerity and responsibility.

The subject ended without any promises being made on anyone's part, and General Sibert said that he would pursue the matter further at such time as the future of SSU and the responsibilities of CIG had been determined.

Later, in talking with Lewis, he elaborated upon the requirements that anyone taking over this group must necessarily know everything about them in order to accurately determine their capabilities, as well as to determine the calculated risks that might have to be taken.

The subject did not come to my attention again until your return from Europe with the outline project as submitted by G-2, USFET.

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W. W. QUINN
Colonel, Inf.

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