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PROJECT LIFEAT

PROJECT REVIEW

JULY 62 THRU MAY 63

June 1963

I. Product of the Project

A. Soviet Coverage

Project LIFEAT has not provided coverage of the entire Soviet official installation in Mexico City since 22 June 1960 when Project LIENVOY assumed this responsibility. This freed LIFEAT to provide, with its unilateral coverage, home phones of selected Soviet officials which could better support not only the Station's CE effort but also other Station operations against the Soviet target. In this effort, LIFEAT covered the homes of four of the more active Soviet Intelligence Officers stationed in Mexico during the reporting period. Samples of the operational information provided by LIFEAT follows:

- HMM-6479, 15 June 1962 (Mexican Winners of Soviet Scholarships to Patrice Lamumba University)
- HMMA-19826, 21 September 1962 (Transmittal of LIFEAT Report - Vladilan I. SAMOKHIN)
- HMMA-19839, 21 September 1962 (Transmittal of LIFEAT Report - Aleksandr G. SIDOROV)
- HMMA-19879, 28 September 1962 (Aleksandr G. SIDOROV Tatiaya SOKOLOVSKAYA)
- HMMA-19996, 12 October 1962 (Soviet Personnel Assigned to Mexico City)

B. LIFEAT has remained a primary source on this target throughout the past project year. Further, LIFEAT information is considered a fruitful source of operational leads by the responsible Case Officer. Selected examples of the valuable intelligence product derived from the Polish coverage are:

- HMMA-19500, 3 August 1962 (BECHICK Telecon)
- HMMA-20896, 15 March 1963 (BEKNAVE Status Report)
- HMMA-19552, 10 August 1962 (BEKNAVE-BECHICK)
- HMM-7270, 14 May 1963, (Polish Ambassador to Mexico to Present credentials to Haitian Government.)

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C. Yugoslav Coverage

LIFEAT coverage of the Yugoslav official installation in Mexico City has provided a wealth of information on the contacts, activities, and travel of members of that mission. Since the Station's effort against this target was greatly increased within the last year, LIFEAT information has been used extensively to provide the basic operational and personality data necessary for this stepped-up program. Examples of LIFEAT produced positive intelligence and general operational information on this target are as follows:

- HMMA-19311, 10 July 1962 (Activity of the CP of Yugoslavia in Mexico City)
- HMMA-19344, 13 July 1962 (Yugoslav Embassy Mexico City)
- HMMA-19653, 24 August 1962 (Miodrag RADOVIC)
- HMMA-19689, 24 August 1962 (Yugoslav Travel)
- HMMA-19973, 9 October 1962 (Djordje VUJIC)
- HMMA-20016, 11 October 1962 (Gustav VLAHOV)
- HMM-6993, 8 February 1963 (Projected Travel to Yugoslavia of Emilio Portes Gil)
- HMM-7005, 8 February 1963 (Plan of Adolfo Lopez Mateos to Visit Yugoslavia)
- HMM-7011, 12 February 1963 (Possibility of New Mexican-Yugoslav Commercial Aid Treaty)
- HMM-7106, 19 March 1963 (Yugoslav Project to Promote Economic Relations with Mexico)
- HMMA-21005, 29 March 1963 (Zdenko HAS)
- HMM-7310, 24 May 1963 (Plan for Tito to sign New Mexican-Yugoslav Cultural Agreement During his visit to Mexico)

D. Cuban Coverage

During the reporting period LIFEAT coverage of the Cuban target was directed toward the support of KUBARK operations in this field and was not designed to provide positive intelligence. LIFEAT covered a total of 10 lines in direct support of operations in this field. Most of the product of this area of operation was forwarded by cable to JMWAVE and Headquarters. Examples of pouch communications in this field are:

- HMMA-20032, 16 October 1962 (AMSTRUT/LIFEAT Coverage)
- HMMA-20308, 4 December 1962 (AMSTRUT)
- HMMA-20425, 28 December 1962, (Jose ORDOQUI)

E. American Communist Group in Mexico (ACGM)

As noted in past project reviews, most of the targets in this group have been covered at the request of ODENVY, and the raw take has been processed by them. During the period July 1962 through May 1963 approximately 390 reels of take were passed to the local ODENVY for their processing. On 23 August 1962 the local ODENVY advised, "This office feels the coverage mentioned is quite valuable and many useful leads are obtained from this coverage, particularly with regard to travel in and out of Mexico of American Communists who are in contact with individuals on whom coverage is maintained". Typical examples of reporting based on LIFEAT coverage of the ACGM are:

- HMMA-19531, 10 August 1962 (Albert MALTZ, Noah SEBORER, Charles SMALL)
- HMMA-19678, 24 August 1962 (Albert MALTZ-Margaret MALTZ)
- HMMA-19771, 7 September 1962 (Albert MALTZ and Charles SMALL)
- HMMA-20937, 22 March 1963 (Albert MALTZ, Noah SEBORER, Charles SMALL)
- HMMA-21299, 7 May 1963 (Charles SMALL and Noah SEBORER)

F. Exile and Revolutionary Activities

During the past year this area of activity, in addition to the already noted Cuban coverage, accounted for the greatest percentage of the LIFEAT effort. Most of the information provided by LIFEAT in its coverage of targets in this area was not available from other sources. While Coverage has been provided on Spanish Republican, Guatemalan, Costa Rican, and Nicaraguan exiles, the bulk of this product has resulted from the coverage of Juan Jose AREVALO Bermejo and various of his acquaintances, the "take" being forwarded to Headquarters and Station Guatemala by either weekly cable summaries or immediate action cables when warranted. It is noted that the coverage has been most rewarding in the case of AREVALO and the recent coverage of Judith FERRETO Segura. Examples of productivity in this area:

- HMM-6452, 3 June 1962 (Contacts of Juan Jose AREVALO in Mexico)
- HMM-6499, 22 June 1962 (Activities of Juan Jose AREVALO)
- HMMA-19499, 11 July 1962 (Mario MONTEFORTE Toledo)
- HMM-6565, 13 July 1962 (Meeting Between Fernando Aguero and Juan Jose AREVALO)
- HMMA-19805, 14 September 1962 (Coverage of Juan Jose AREVALO)
- HMM-6780, 9 October 1962 (Arrival in Mexico of Leading Arevalists)
- HMM-6914, 25 January 1963 (Appointment Between Juan Jose AREVALO and Adolfo LOPEZ Mateos)

- HMM 6935, 5 January 1963 (Planned Travel of Juan Jose AREVALO to Venezuela and Santo Domingo)
- HMM-6936, 15 January 1963 (Travel of Lic. Luis Jimenez de ASUA)
- HMM-6937, 15 January 1963 (Planned Meeting Between Juan Jose AREVALO Bermejo and Luis Jimenez de ASUA)
- HMM-20835, 5 March 1963 (Confersation - Juan Jose AREVALO and Sacha VOIMAN)
- HMM-21059, 8 April 1963 (Judith FERRETO Segura)
- HMM-7160, 9 April 1963 (Whereabouts of Juan Jose AREVALO)
- HMM-21087, 16 April 1963 (Judith FERRETO Segura)
- HMM-21338, 10 May 1963 (Judith FERRETO Segura)
- HMM-7330, 24 May 63 (Contacts of Angel MIDLAN in Mexico City)

G. Counter-Intelligence Information

Mexico City Station's Related Mission Directive places greatest emphasis on operations in the CI/CE area. LIFEAT was able to provide a continuing worthwhile contribution in the attainment of the Station's objectives in this field. Coverage included that on AEGENERATE, Carlos Humbert ILLESCAS (who acts in the capacity as covert liaison link between the CP and the Soviet Embassy), and a PCM safe house. In addition to the continuing operational support in the CI/CE field, the following informational reporting was provided.

- HMM-6626, 10 August 1962 (Soviet Scholarship for the Daughter of David Alfaro Siqueiros, Imprisoned Communist)
- HMM-667, 24 August 1962 (Mexican Delegates to Technical Movie Congress in Moscow)
- HMM-20140, 6 November 1962 (LISTEED-1 and 2)
- HMM-20721, 14 February 1963 (AEGENERATE)
- HMM-21109, 19 April 1963 (Dr. Jesus LOZOYA Solis)

H. Operational Support and Leads Provided other Station Operations


During the past project year LIFEAT continued actively supporting the operations of Mexico City Station through the production of leads and the providing of information on selected targets in the manner available only through the use of a unilateral telephone tap operation. Indeed, it is in this area, secure support to the Station's operations, that LIFEAT is of greatest and unique value to the Station. The following is a list of selected contributions by LIFEAT of operational support and leads provided to the various Station Case Officers and Station operations as a whole:

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LIFEAT/Soviet: The valuable assistance which LIFEAT rendered Station efforts in this area was amply displayed in its support of Station assets mounting a technical surveillance operation targeted against the home of a known Soviet intelligence officer stationed in Mexico City under official cover. LIFEAT information provided vital information which enabled the Station to establish a pattern of action of both the family of the Soviet officer and his maid. This information made possible the setting of a time for the actual entry into the target, and continuing coverage (including live monitoring of the target line immediately preceding the operation) by LIFEAT made possible a degree of security for this operation which would not have been possible without the support of a unilateral tap operation. Further LIFEAT coverage has, in addition to giving information on the daily activities and contacts of Soviet officials, provided an excellent check on the contacts of three KUBARK controlled double agents with their Soviet Case Officers. This coverage has enabled the responsible Case Officer to guide his operations with increased assurance that his agents continue to be fully cooperative and under his control.

LIFEAT/Cuban: LIFEAT activities in this area were concerned primarily with support to the AMSTRUT operation. Coverage of relatives of AMSTRUT-2 provided an excellent "window" into the operation which enabled the responsible Case Officers to move with more certainty and security in developing this operation. The Case Officers involved considered the LIFEAT coverage an essential check on the activities of the principals in the case which was especially valuable during the initial stages of the operation. Travel plans of AMSTRUT-2 provided by LIFEAT were also essential to the timing of the operation. Also in the Cuban area LIFEAT coverage of G-2 agent enabled the Station to gain an insight into his contacts and activities. Further, recent initiation of coverage of a Cuban Commercial Official gives evidence of producing solid information of commercial transactions and Mexican Commercial contacts of the Cuban Government.

LIFEAT/Polish: LIFEAT continued its coverage in the BEKNAVE/BECHICK operation. (See previous project renewal for background of this case and the LIFEAT participation in it.) Of great interest to this operation was LIFEAT information indicating that the wife of BEKNAVE had become aware of his interest in another woman, and later revelation of reassignment and travel plans of BEKNAVE.



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LIFEAT/Yugoslav: In addition to the usual information concerning the Yugoslav officials and their daily contacts and activities, LIFEAT provided leads which could pay off in future operations. One example was a lead which revealed that a diplomatic courier would be travelling alone and taking a new travel route while carrying an official pouch. With this early warning, the Station was able to plan an operation to provide access to this correspondence. Although Headquarters finally vetoed this particular operation, sufficient early warning was given by LIFEAT so that the operation could have been carried out. Another example of this type of lead was the data available from LIFEAT coverage that a new location was being sought for the Yugoslav Embassy, and which specific locations were under consideration. Armed with this information the Station has been able to make a technical casing of one of the prospective sites and obtain information necessary for entry into the other sites.

LIFEAT/Exile: As noted previously, LIFEAT coverage of the exile activities was the single major effort by LIFEAT during the project year. In particular, LIFEAT coverage of Juan Jose AREVALO Bermejo, which included lengthy periods of "live-monitoring", on occasion called for coverage of five lines. Cabled summaries of LIFEAT information were provided Headquarters and Station Guatemala. It is believed that the importance of this LIFEAT coverage can not be stressed too much. LIFEAT Coverage of a Costa Rican Communist exile resident in Mexico City has lead to a wealth of operational leads including the discovery of this person's involvement in a Communist funding mechanism. Also, LIFEAT was active in covering the Spanish Republican exile community in Mexico City during the GPIDEAL visit to Mexico. LIFEAT coverage in this case was considered necessary to reveal immediately any renewal of an earlier planned attempt on the life of an ODYOKE official by one group of the Republican Exiles. Ultimately, LIFEAT revealed the departure from Mexico of two of the ringleaders in the plot.

LIFEAT/CI/CE: At Headquarters request LIFEAT coverage was established on a former SMOTH agent whose past actions gave ^{reason} for some suspicion of his present activities. Product from this line has revealed an effort by a group of this individual's friends to discredit the senior ODACID official in Mexico. Early warning by LIFEAT has made possible the preparation of counter action (see HMMA-21364). LIFEAT has also provided coverage of a suspected RIS support agent. This coverage had provided the background material necessary for checking on the activities of this suspect agent. Continuing LIFEAT reporting on the American Communist Group in Mexico (ACGM) has provided ODENVY with great quantities of information on activities of leftist friends of

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of the ACGM including their travel plans to Mexico and in some cases Cuba. As noted in paragraph I. E. above, the local office of ODENVY considers this coverage "quite valuable". As also noted in previous renewals, LIFEAT ability to give the interested case officers a check on active and former agents increases the security of present operations and provides greater security for long term assets who may have been in contact with now terminated agents.

H. Conclusion

It is the opinion of the Mexico City Station that the support provided other Station operations, the CI/CE information and leads, and the ability of the unilateral LIFEAT operation to cover sensitive targets without revealing Station interest to the liaison forces, well justify the expenditure of funds, time, personnel and security risk. As it has been noted in the past, that even with the Station's involvement in the parallel, but liaison-type LIENVOY operation, a change in attitude by the present local government administration or a change in government administrations could end KUBARK participation in that liaison project. For that reason, LIFEAT, in addition to maintaining its present heavy coverage, must be available to once again undertake coverage of the official Soviet and Czech official targets in Mexico City. Therefore, LIFEAT's present orientation, though toward supporting Station operations and CI/CE mission rather than toward targets which would provide positive intelligence, leaves it readily available for recall into the Soviet-Czech coverage. It is the Station's firm opinion that the LIFEAT project provides a substantial and vital contribution in fulfillment the several priority objectives of the Station's Related Mission Directive.

- I. There is attached a list of the HMMs produced from LIFEAT provided material during the period July 1962 through May 1963, as a by-product of the project's prime responsibility of providing support to Station operations.

II. Progress of the Operation

The objectives of the LIFEAT Project are of a continuing nature and are therefore not considered for fulfillment during any given period of time. For this reason percentage figures as to completion of project objectives cannot be drawn. However, an indication of the coverage provided in working toward fulfillment of the objectives can be noted in that approximately 12,500 pages of raw text were produced in the period July 1961 through April 1963. LIFEAT has been in daily operation during the review period with the average number of lines covered per month being 18, and a high in October 1962 of 25 lines covered.

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III. Planning for the Future

As was indicated at the time of the last project renewal, LIFEAT hopes to remain uncommitted to coverages that require the expenditures of a great portion of LIFEAT resources but provide coverage of but one target...such as Soviet Embassy coverage. It is added emphatically, however, that should the need arise for LIFEAT to again assume such responsibilities, it is fully able to do so. Until such time LIFEAT will continue to enjoy greater flexibility in the employment of its assets, especially in the areas in which the Station does not wish to reveal its interest or operations to the liaison forces involved in the LIENVOY operation.

V. Expenditures

Approval for renewal of Project LIFEAT was granted 8 August 1962 for FY 1963 in the amount of \$99,000.00. The proposed budget for FY 1964 is broken down in the attached Field Project Outline Renewal Request, Part II, and totals \$83,808.

VI. Status of Commitments

There are no commitments other than those noted in the project outline submitted herewith and in the individual contracts and oral agreements (memoranda of oral agreements were forwarded as necessary) of the various LIFEAT personnel.