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1664 CFCGWU

1951

SUBJECT: Labor Service Companies, Current Status

TO : Chief, ZACACTUS  
Washington, D. C.

INFO: Chief, ZACABIN  
Washington, D. C.

ATTN:

Chief of Mission  
Karlsruhe, Germany

Chief of Mission  
Vienna, Austria

Station Chief,

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

REF : WASHFG 07208

1. On 14 September 1951, EUCOM approved the organization of one Bulgarian and one Czechoslovakian Labor Service Company along the same lines as the Albanian Company which was organized by ZACABAL in 1950. (See Attachment 1.) The OKSTAIR project officer is now organizing sources of recruits for the Bulgarian Company which will probably be activated about 1 November 1951.

2. A formal request to EUCOM to approve the organization of one Hungarian, one Albanian, one Russian, one Ukrainian, and one Rumanian Labor Service Company was initiated on 10 September 1951, after preliminary conversations with Brigadier General Edward T. Williams, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, and Colonel Busbee, Chief of the Labor Services Division. During these conversations, both officers reacted favorably to our oral request and foresaw no difficulty in obtaining a formal approval for the organization of the above listed Labor Service Companies. (See Attachment 2.)

3. The following pertinent facts should be noted:

a. The several Labor Service Companies which will be organized at our request will in effect be manpower pools for ZACABAL covert operations.

b. ZACABAL will be expected to provide for each Company one U. S. Army Captain and one NCO who speak the language of the men who are enlisted in any given Company.

c. The Labor Service Division will rely heavily upon ZACABAL to provide the bulk of recruits for each of the Companies established at our request.

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d. No new Company will be activated without a cadre of at least forty men.

e. The normal strength of a Labor Service Company is 200 foreign national officers and men.

f. The Labor Supervisory Company (which is attached to each Labor Service Company) is made up of two U. S. Army officers and 5 U. S. Army NCOs.

g. A plan exists to step up the para-military training of all Labor Service Companies, but for political reasons this plan has not yet been implemented.

h. The T/O of the Labor Service Division is now completely full. However, there are two possible courses of action which will make possible the activation of additional Labor Service Companies:

(1) The present limit of 31 companies for Germany may be raised.

(2) Some Companies now in Germany may be transferred to duty in HBFARRY, thus vacating slots which they now fill on the T/O for Germany.

4.   a ZACACTUS officer attached to the BGMIDDY office, will effect all ZACABAL liaison with EUCCOM for the organization and activation of the several Labor Service Companies.

Distribution:

- 3 - Chief, ZACACTUS, Washington, D. C. - W/Encls
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- 1 - Station Chief,

2 Enclosures: SEPARATE COVER

- 1 Letr to Gen. Truscott dtd 14 Sept 51
- 1 Letr to Comdr. in Chief, EC, dtd 10 Sept 51

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S/C Enclosure 1 to 1664 CFCWU

HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN COMMAND  
Office of the Chief of Staff

AFO 403  
11 September 1951

Dear General Truscott,

This headquarters has recently approved the organization of one Bulgarian and one Czechoslovakian Labor Service Company along the same lines as the Albanian Company now in existence. Colonel Busbee, Labor Services Division, and Lt. Colonel Chandler, OPOT Division, have discussed the organization of these companies with you.

To implement this program, two Polish Labor Service Companies will be transferred to the Communications Zone to provide spaces in EUCOM for the formation of these two companies. Before the Polish companies can be transferred to the Communications Zone, the Bulgarian and Czechoslovakian companies must be prepared to take over the guard functions now being performed by the Polish companies. The Bulgarian and Czechoslovakian companies will perform normal labor service functions as determined by the command to which they are assigned. These companies will not be used as rallying points for refugees from behind the Iron Curtain, since it is not their purpose to provide a nucleus for foreign armies of liberation.

We would like to organize the Bulgarian and Czechoslovakian Labor Service companies as soon as possible since the Communications Zone is in urgent need of additional Labor Service personnel. We would appreciate it, therefore, if you would undertake the recruitment and screening of men for these organizations at your earliest convenience. Colonel Busbee and Lt. Colonel Chandler will assist you in carrying this project to completion.

Sincerely,

/s/ EDWARD T. WILLIAMS  
Brigadier General, GS  
Deputy Chief of Staff for Opns

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Lieutenant General L. K. Truscott  
Coordinator and Special Adviser, HICOG  
APO 757-A, U. S. Army

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s/c Enclosure 2 to 1664 CFCWU

10 September 1951

TO: Commander-in-Chief  
European Command  
APO 403, U. S. Army

Attn: Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations

SUBJECT: Labor Service Companies

1. It is requested that you explore the possibility of establishing Labor Service Companies with an authorized strength of 200 men for the following foreign nationals: Hungarian, Albanian, Russian, Ukrainian, and Rumanian.

2. The establishment of these units would facilitate the recruiting, holding, and training of volunteers who would be used on intelligence and special operations missions in accordance with approved plans.

3. The CIA would assume responsibility in whatever measure is required for the recruiting and screening of all personnel assigned to such Labor Service Companies. For operational reasons, it would be desirable that these Companies be stationed in Germany. It is also understood that personnel assigned to such Labor Service Companies would carry out the normal Labor Service duties.

Chief  
Plans and Policy Division

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