

CONFIDENTIAL

13 July 1951

MEMORANDUM

Memorandum Setting Forth the Views of ABRAMCHIK, with
Regard to the Establishment of a Committee for the
Struggle Against Bolshevism

ABRAMCHIK, President of the Byelorussian National Council, comments as follows on his conversation with [] with regard to the possibility of creating a Committee for Struggle against Bolshevism, which would incorporate the representatives of all nationality groups now inhabiting the Soviet Union:

While he welcomes the program outlined by [] on general principles, Abramchik regards the manner in which [] tackles the formation of a Committee as not likely to achieve the results desired. Abramchik states that he believes most of the nationality groups in the territories occupied by the U.S.S.R. will accept the slogan of so-called "nepredreshimost" (non-predetermination). They will, however, be undoubtedly hostile to the "Russian" character of the Committee. As he sees it, this "Russian" character is clearly noticeable (a) in the constant use of the term "minority" when reference is made to the nationality groups other than the Great Russian, and (b) from the composition of the Committee as planned by [] and consisting of an overwhelming majority of Russian representatives (2 members from each of four Russian political parties, plus two independents, i.e., a total of 10 representatives, as against one member from each of five independent is., a total of 7).

In the opinion of Abramchik, the adherence of a nationality group to a predominantly Russian organization, such as the Committee in question, is bound to jeopardize the position of this group among its co-nationals. As an example, Abramchik suggests BAGRYANYI and his followers who, if they alone among the Ukrainian, give their support to the Committee, will immediately be denounced as American agents by other possibly more influential Ukrainian groups (Abramchik adds further, that the entourage of Bagryanyi is believed to harbor Soviet agents). According to Abramchik, in order to establish an effective Committee supported by nationality groups of some standing, it is necessary to comply with certain basic provisions. These are: (a) the omission of the word "Russia" from the title (Abramchik proposes "Committee for Struggle against Bolshevism in Eastern Europe" or a similar title; (b) the granting of equal representation to every nationality group "on democratic principles such as applied in UN"; and (c) the acceptance as a basis for conversations with nationality groups of the "maximum to which they are entitled on the basis of the Stalin Constitution." Taking into consideration the political backwardness of certain nationality groups which have been granted autonomy by Stalin, Abramchik is willing to concede that representation on the Committee be limited to those nationalities which have at some time obtained official recognition (Ukraine and Byelorussia), have enjoyed independence in the past, or are capable of political existence.

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DATE 2004 2005