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8 October 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, EE-4/0

SUBJECT: Summary of Byelorussian Project

The objective of this project is to mount clandestine operations in the Byelorussian SSR for the following purposes:

- a. Contact with and support of any existing resistance movement with the Byelorussian SSR, or development of such a movement for the purpose of carrying out CIA activities.
- b. Utilizing the facilities provided by the underground for further collection of positive and operational intelligence in the USSR.

The Agency is using the following organization to achieve these objectives:

Byelorussian National Council (BNR) - the center of this organization's activities is in Paris and it is considered by its followers to be an embryonic government-in-exile. The council, under the leadership of Nikolai Abramchik, consists of about 150 members residing in Western Europe, the US. and South America.

Such other affiliated Byelorussian organizations or individuals as may prove to be useful will be utilized in the accomplishment of CIA's objectives.

Although CIA has only dealt with the BNR during 1951 the results are indeed gratifying.

An outstanding agent was dropped into Byelorussia in September of this year. He will try to locate and establish contact with Byelorussian underground activity. He will also collect intelligence regarding specific targets, air-bases, etc., and investigate the possibilities of establishing our own agents to organize resistance and intelligence nets. Upon completion of his mission, he will exfiltrate overland back to Germany.

Field reports are highly optimistic regarding expansion of Byelorussian training and activities. This optimism is based primarily on the following:

- a. Abramchik's intelligence, demeanor and overall approach to collaboration with Americans in operations,
- b. The calibre and intellect of the agents in training at present is outstanding and Abramchik is apparently capable of producing other agent candidates of the same type,
- c. The modified anti-Russian "antagonism" and more moderate nationalism will present an easier basis for cooperation, both politically and in the training program. BNR's desire to work with Great Russians will prove beneficial to CIA.

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As soon as results are submitted early this fall on a student recruitment campaign for agents, we will undoubtedly be able to deal with the BNR on a much broader scale.

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