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2 January 1957

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

MEMORANDUM FOR : RECORD

SUBJECT : AEQUOR TEAM II, Report of Surfacing

1. The undersigned case officer received a telephone call at 0930 hours on 2 January 1957 from Mykola ABRAMTCHIK, President of the Belorussian Natsionalnaya Rada. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK stated that he had news of the utmost urgency and requested that the undersigned meet with him at the Hotel Raleigh as soon as possible.
2. When the case officer met Mr. ABRAMTCHIK he was told that the Komsomolskaya Pravda had run a series of articles on the capture and "liquidation" of American trained Belorussian spies. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK did not have a copy of this article but stated that he had seen the printed matter in New York. He further stated that it was called to his attention by Mr. fru DALLIN. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK then asked whether or not we had any information. When he was told that we were completely unaware of the story, Mr. ABRAMTCHIK appeared somewhat disgusted. He said it was difficult for him to understand how an intelligence organization like ours was not in receipt of the details. The articles appeared in the 18-19-20-21 and 22 December issues. The undersigned asked Mr. ABRAMTCHIK if he could recall the details. He said he could not since he did not want to create the impression that he had any interest in the articles shown him by Mr. DALLIN. However, he did manage to retain some of the articles. In general, he said that the articles were an attempt by the Soviets to show the presence of American agents in the Soviet Union. He further indicated that the men captured were led into a trap when they attempted to contact anti-Soviet partisans. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK did not know the date.
3. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK stated that he and the undersigned should fly to Detroit and meet with Boris RAGULA, the operations chief on the AEQUOR Team II dispatch. He felt that this trip was necessary to arrange appropriate cover stories and rebuttals to the Soviet charge, since his name and the name of Boris RAGULA were mentioned. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK felt that the refutation could be made in one of the following ways:
 - a. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK could write an article for consumption of the Belorussian emigres and the western press stating that this charge was a typical Soviet provocation. He could enumerate several specific cases. He could add that everytime the Soviets

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apprehend a patriot discontented with the Soviet Regime they immediately label him a spy.

b. Since the name of KOSTIUK appeared in the articles Mr. ABRAMTCHIK stated that he could acknowledge the fact that he knew KOSTIUK but that KOSTIUK had returned to the Soviet Union, influenced by Soviet propaganda. When KOSTIUK became aware of true Soviet living conditions, he attempted to find a haven among the anti-Soviet partisans and was apprehended.

4. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK was assured by the undersigned that this would be given immediate consideration and the undersigned left. Upon the return to headquarters, the undersigned contacted Mr. Charles KATEK and explained the situation to him. Mr. KATEK felt that the best course of action would be to ignore the charges and not attempt to answer the Soviet allegations. He felt that any action on our part would add dignity to the Soviet charges. He stated that, "This thing should die a natural death". Further, he said, there was no need for the undersigned to go to Detroit.

5. The undersigned case officer returned to Mr. ABRAMTCHIK with this answer. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK did not endorse the action. He felt that since his name was so prominently mentioned in the articles and that since Boris RAGULA had given the name of his family as contact points in Byelorussia, we were obligated to deny these charges. He further stated that mention of these articles appeared in the New York Times, Herald Tribune and New York Post. However, the articles were written in such brief form that it was difficult to connect it with the AEQUOR Team II operation. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK strongly emphasized the fact that the Soviet charges against him must be answered since silence would indicate to the emigres that perhaps there is some truth to the Soviet allegation. He feels that he could deny with reasonable security any association with American intelligence and state that he read the articles in the Soviet press. He further felt that this charge must be answered since Mr. BARANOWSKI had told him earlier that the French intelligence was interested in his activities. Up to this time Mr. ABRAMTCHIK has successfully denied any affiliation with the Americans. He felt that the Soviet charge could foment an unpleasant situation. As a departing gesture, Mr. ABRAMTCHIK stated that he would like to meet with the undersigned's chiefs and discuss the answer.

6. As an incidental side line Mr. ABRAMTCHIK stated that his allegation that Alexander YATSEVITCH of Cleveland, Ohio, was a Soviet agent must be true since YATSEVITCH knew of the capture of the AEQUOR Team II before it appeared in the press. Mr. YATSEVITCH had been creating dissention among the Belorussian emigres in the Cleveland area with his pro-Soviet line and charges of Mr. ABRAMTCHIK's cooperation with American espionage in the recruitment of individuals who were sent on missions never to return, the money promised them as payment being pocketed by people like Boris RAGULA and Mr. ABRAMTCHIK.

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