

SECRET**Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

20 FEB 1962

TO : Chief, SR Division
ATTN: []/3
FROM : Chief, Contact Division, OO

DATE:**SUBJECT:** Mikola Abramtchik

1. Attached for your information and retention is a copy of Memorandum to File covering my discussion with Mr. "A.", and a copy of the paper in which he is prominently mentioned. He claims that the Soviets are publishing this paper twice weekly in order to negate the effectiveness of his organization.
2. Mr. "A." mentioned some personalities that are better not covered here.
3. I believe this is his swan song and that he is looking for a personal handout.
4. He is available if anyone desires to talk to him further.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3820
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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20 February 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: File

SUBJECT: Mikola Abramtchik

1. Mr. Abramtchik called me at 1630 hours on Monday, 19 February 1962, advising that he was in town and asking to see me. I arranged to visit with him at 0900 hours the following day. I reported the call to [] who had alerted me to the fact that Abramtchik was in town.

2. Mr. Abramtchik had nothing new to offer. He repeated his statement that in cutting out the subsidy for his paper, the Fatherland, we were opening up the way for the Soviets to eliminate him and his followers as an opposition movement to the march of Communism. He said that they were still able to print one issue monthly, but that their effectiveness was hurt. He pointed with pride to the fact that the Soviets were issuing a paper twice weekly to combat the effectiveness of his group's propaganda. He had several copies handy and gave me one. He felt that shortly they would have to discontinue publication of the paper. He asked if it was possible that the paper be subsidized at half the original subsidy. I told him that there had been no change in the decision. I also asked him about the prospects of getting support from his ethnic group. He advised that the pre-World War I immigration had been composed mainly of illiterate people who were hard put to make a living themselves, and were, in the main, poor people. The new, recent immigration was literate, had professionals, etc., but they were having a hard time making a living themselves. He cited the case of a Byelorussian general who had to run an elevator nights while writing a book days. He also said the emigres were building churches and had little extra money for other purposes. He said he was hard to put to make a living for himself and his family, that he had to exist on about \$200 monthly, which money he got from collections at meetings where he spoke. He said his transportation and board were paid for by the group before which he spoke, and that there would be a voluntary contribution made after the meeting in his and his outfits behalf. This rarely amounted to more than a couple hundred dollars.

3. I asked him about the letter he said that he would write to me. He said he saw no purpose in having another document about his problem. (I gathered that he meant another document in his personal file.) He also feared that such a letter would get into the wrong hands. He inferred that there was some traitor in our

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SECRET

midst (he called him a vrag), who was seeing to it that his movement expired. He said that if the "old man", meaning Mr. Dulles, were still in office he would get an audience with him regardless what we might do to prevent it. He also said he did not want to publicize his beefs as he did not want to embarrass anyone.

4. He produced a letter which one of the emigres received from a cousin from the homeland. He asked if I wanted to borrow it and reproduce it, as he felt that the contents would be of interest to us. He then launched into a statement on how he could still be useful, picking up letters from the emigres, how if he became aware of a new emigre, or knew of people traveling to the homeland and returning, he had no one to go to pass any of the information as we had turned away from him. He was particularly concerned as to what to do with "hot" information. He repeated his assertion that he had always done an honest job, had never accepted money from us personally, that he and his group did not arrange fake bombings as did the Tsops, NIS, and the Banderovchiy, that those who had been caught from his outfit still were heroes as they had never talked. He recalled the fact that his group identified an NKVD agent, Zarechniy, who had been active for some 20 years. He asked that I do what I could do to at least arrange for him to talk to someone.

5. I repeated that as far as I knew the decision stood, that there was nothing I could do. I told him I would pass his comments on elsewhere. I tried to cut down the discussion, as he was adding nothing new. I asked him what his plans were. He advised that he was visiting the State Department today, later USIA, that he planned to be in town until Saturday morning at which time he would depart for Cleveland, later Detroit. He said he was on a months swing through the United States, visiting various cities and speaking before his fellow Byelorussians.

6. He gave me a brief run down on his history. This came about when I asked him what his residency status was. He showed me a French travel document and said he traveled on that.

7. At parting, I told him that I would be in touch with him if anything came up. He asked that I call him in the morning, if there was need.

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