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16 August 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing by ANGLASSONARY/15 of Joseph Lesawyer

1. ANGLASSONARY/15 has learned from Joseph Lesawyer that he and seven other individuals are going as a group on a visit to the USSR in September of this year. The group includes Mr. Lesawyer's wife, Mary, who sings with the New York City Center Opera Company; Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Stameyko, who operate the KOMBASHNIK travel agency at 206 East 10th Street in New York (Mrs. Stameyko is the former Vera Kowbanskiuk); Mr. Lesawyer's brother; and three other girls whose names A/15 did not remember. All eight individuals are of Ukrainian extraction, and they all speak the Ukrainian language in various degrees of proficiency.
2. This group of eight is traveling via the KLM Airline, which airline has been trying to instigate among Ukrainian circles in the New York area an interest in group trips to the USSR. In this regard, Mrs. Stameyko was given a complimentary trip via KLM to Moscow and Kiev early last spring.
3. Mr. Lesawyer told A/15 about the proposed trip and asked A/15 whether there might be anything of particular interest the A/1 organization would like him to look for, questions to ask Ukrainians or Russians with whom he might have occasion to speak, etc. A/15 told Mr. Lesawyer that he would be very happy to talk to him and brief him on realities in the USSR.
4. A Covert Security Approval (G-178905) was issued Joseph Lesawyer on 24 June 1959 to permit his use as administrator of a fund drive in New York City to benefit the A/1 Project AEROSKEAMIC cover company in New York. [] (as []) had contact with Subject to discuss the fund drive. Subject was at that time made witting of Agency interest in the ANGLASSONARY organization and was asked to sign a Secrecy Agreement.
5. Mr. Lesawyer is a former officer of the Ukrainian Youth League of North America, a former officer of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and an officer of the Ukrainian National Association. He is an American born citizen and a Reserve Officer in the U. S. Army. He continues to be active in and enjoys respect and a wide acquaintanceship in the Ukrainian community in the United States. Mr. Lesawyer is employed by a realty firm in New York City.

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6. In accordance with the conversation between Messers. [] and [] and the undersigned on 16 August, A/15 will be told to limit his discussions with Mr. Leszyer to an informal briefing on realties in the USSR, and on elicitation of positive intelligence and biographic information from Soviet Ukrainians with whom he may have opportunity to talk. He will not brief Mr. Leszyer on any intelligence requirements which might indicate interest by an intelligence organization of U. S. Government. There will be no Agency funds involved. He is aware of A/1 political and anti-communist activities and their interest in the USSR. Name of the other members of the group will be briefed by A/15.

7. Mr. Leszyer told A/15 that during the time he was stationed with the U. S. Army in the Lins area in Austria in 1945, he had frequent contact with Soviet officers stationed in the area. He became quite friendly with a General Drishkin or Drishkin, who was in charge of the First Parachute Division in Lins. DRISHKIN spoke Ukrainian in his meetings with Mr. Leszyer. DRISHKIN and Leszyer parted great friends and promised to visit each other some day. Leszyer said he wasn't sure DRISHKIN was even alive (he was ca. 50 in 1945) but that he might try looking him up when he is in the Soviet Union. A/15 did not have specifics about whether Leszyer had an address for DRISHKIN or not. There is no record of the name in SR/6, SR/CS, or SR/Reports card files.

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