INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT NO.	CS-3/549,330
SUBJECT	Comments of Metropolitan Yosif Slipyy on his Imprisonment in the USSR and Possibilities for Re-establishment of Ukrainian Catholic Church in USSR	DATE DISTR.	6 June 1963
		NO. PAGES	1
		REFERENCES	RD
DATE OF INFO.	Early April 1963		
PLACE & DATE ACQ.	Italy, Rome (19 April 1963)	FIELD REPORT NO.	

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: A Western-European church layman (B) who, as part of a delegation, was received by Metropolitan Slipyy. Appraisal of Content: 2.

1. During his years of imprisonment in the USSR, Metropolitan Yosif Slipyy was moved from one location to another, and estimated that he had traveled over 100,000 miles by train. It was during a number of these train trips that the Soviets tried to persuade the Metropolitan to renounce his Roman Catholic faith and accept Russian Orthodoxy. He was kept in a separate car from the other travelers but usually was brought to the Soviet officers' lounge for dinner where he would be wined and dined and then asked to sign documents renouncing his Catholic faith. He was told that by doing so he would receive the patriarchy of Moscow. He was also told that his priests already had become Orthodox.

2. Metropolitan Slipyy expressed the opinion that Rome seemed quite hopeful that he would be permitted to return to the UkSSR and that there would be some form of re-establishment of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the Soviet Union.

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	SR (½ 36 FFTF 9) 13							
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TOTALS	DISSEM SEC-1; IE-2; CI-2; FI-3; CA-1; DODS-1; SR-12(1)				LIAISON	*		RC: BSB ~~EFE~~: MC:

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