

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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 SUBJECT Comments on Metropolitan Slipyy DATE DISTR. 5 November 1963  
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: An emigre residing in the West (B), from a Catholic clergyman close to Vatican sources. Appraisal of Content: 3.

1. During the lifetime of the late Pope, the Vatican concluded that Communism was definitely not a temporary phenomenon and was going to last. Hence some modus vivendi with Communism became mandatory for the Catholic Church and John XXIII had initiated a new policy towards Communism in general, and the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in particular.
2. Within the framework of the new Vatican policy the late Pope planned to establish a Patriarchate in Kiev upon reaching an understanding with Moscow. The talks on the subject that were already taking place between the Kremlin and the Holy See, were interrupted by the Pope's death.
3. The new Vatican policy was bound to introduce some very far-reaching changes in its attitude toward the Soviet Union aiming at real coexistence based on mutual tolerance and important concessions. After the Pope's death Khrushchev reportedly said that the former needed only three more months to implement his new policy.
4. The arrival of Metropolitan Slipyy in Rome can also be considered as an act of Moscow within the new course of relations between the Kremlin and the Vatican. Metropolitan Slipyy arrived on a Soviet diplomatic passport which enhanced his "official status" and thus guaranteed his maneuverability by relieving him of the technical requirements obligatory for normal Soviet citizens abroad. It has been thought by some a possibility that Metropolitan Slipyy brought some important messages and authorizations from the Soviet Government to the late Pope. It is known for instance that the Metropolitan is in regular contact with the Soviet Embassy in Rome. On the other hand, while he was in the USSR, Slipyy maintained contact with his hierarchy there. Then at an ordination performed by the Metropolitan, two representatives of the Soviet Embassy in Rome appeared on the scene.

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GROUP 1  
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(Note: Field distribution indicated by "#".)							

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DODS	1	CA/PROP	1	SR(1/2)FBBB	10	SX-4066
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TOTALS DISSEM SEC-1; IE-2; CI-2; FI-3; CA-1; DOBS-1; WE-1; SR-9(2)						LIAISON *
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They had been invited by the Metropolitan himself. He referred to them in his sermon as "to those among us who do not believe in God".

5. The Metropolitan's behavior in the aspect of a Soviet citizen does not affect his position as a Ukrainian Catholic patriarch. It is known that he categorically demanded from the Soviet Government the re-institution of the rights of the Greek-Catholic church in the West Ukraine and of his own status as Lvov-Metropolitan. His future position, however, will mainly depend on the policies of the present Pope. Slipyy's word as counsel counts very much in the Vatican at present but on the other hand he was so depressed by Pope John's death that he contemplated leaving Rome and returning to the Soviet Union. During his last meeting with the late Pope which was instigated by John XXIII, the Pope was unconscious and could not convey to Slipyy what he wanted to.
6. For the time being at least the Metropolitan is continuing his efforts to establish the Ukrainian Patriarchate and to organize a theological academy in Rome, partially affiliated with the Gregorian Institute. It is also known now that Slipyy has become a member of a very old Eastern order, the Studysts, and is going to re-establish this order in Rome by gathering all Ukrainian Studysts from all over the world.