

13 January 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Contact with AECASSOWARY/2 and 29 in New York
on 15 and 16 December 1964.

1. The trip to New York was made by me to deliver a tape recording of poetry by Soviet Ukrainian poets received via BERRETTA in Paris (OFPA-77336). Additional details about the tape received are in dispatch OFPW-38534, dated 7 January 1965. A/2 had received several tapes of poetry by the same poets through a U. S. citizen presently in the Soviet Union with a U. S. exhibit. She mailed the tapes to her parents via her U. S. Embassy address but she did not send along any instructions or any details about how and from whom she had received the tapes. The SIMONENKO poems had been brought out in manuscript form about a year ago by fnu ZIELINSKY of Prague who forwarded them to A. HORBACH in Munich who turned them over to AECASSOWARY/30 for publication. A/30 was against publishing them at the time because he felt it would endanger the poet in the Soviet Union. When the poems were first received, ZIELINSKY sent word that they were poems written by L. KOSTENKO but A/30 felt they were written by SIMONENKO as it was his style of writing. Along with the tapes received by A/2 was a photostatic copy of SIMONENKO's diary and a photostatic copy of the original manuscript (with pencilled corrections) of a book of poetry by Lena KOSTENKO submitted for publication in the Soviet Union in 1963 but not yet published. Several of the poems heard on the tapes have already appeared in Soviet publications. It will take time to have the tapes transcribed and to determine which have appeared in the Soviet press and which have not.

2. MAMAJSUR (listed in OFPA-77336 as one of the poets whose poems appear on the tape) is believed to be a pseudonym, possibly KOROTYCH's. Although KOROTYCH is known to belong to the same group of poets, none of his poems is heard on the tapes received.

3. There was much thinking out loud done by A/2 and 29 about the pros and cons of how the poetry should appear in the West if at all. It was decided that no action should be taken at least not until the return to the West of the U. S. traveller from whom they were received. She is expected in Vienna on the 15th of January from where she plans to go to Czechoslovakia and Poland on vacation. A/29 or A/26 may go to Vienna to debrief her before she continues on for her vacation and perhaps even try to persuade her to return home first.

4. If the poetry or any other documents received by the AECASSOWARIES are published in the Western press at this time

the true source would be protected. The finger of accusation for their appearance in the West could be pointed at a member of the group of Soviet Ukrainian "writers and artists" who have been visiting here lately and who are still in Canada.

5. When A/2 and 29 were first told about the tape received via [] the source was not revealed. I told them that we would try to use our influence to prevent publication of the poems by the source but that we could not guarantee that the source would comply. A/29 asked whether the language of the source's press was Russian or German to which I replied in the negative. Later the following day when I was alone with A/2 he told me that A/29 decided the source must be [] and asked me if it was true. I saw no point in denying it since this would be revealed if the poems were published anyway so I admitted that [] was the source. A/2 said he felt sure [] would be willing to discuss with them how and by whom the poems should be published and that he would probably respect AECASSOWARY recommendations. It was pointed out to A/2 that no approach could be made by his group to [] at this time for obvious reasons and he agreed. Because of the nature of the poetry, A/2 felt quite strongly that they should not be published by anyone at the present time and requested that we use whatever influence we had to get [] to hold off at present. I promised this would be done.

6. Although I did not see the document itself, A/2 said that they had obtained part of a 15 page German language letter to Metropolitan SLIPYY from a priest in the Soviet Union in which he urges the Metropolitan to issue a statement urging concessions by the West in return for Soviet promises to reestablish the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the Soviet Union. The document was mailed along with the tapes by the U. S. traveller mentioned in paragraph 1 of this report. Her father was reluctant to release the document because it was addressed to SLIPYY and finally gave them only the hand-written latter portion of it keeping the first several typed pages for himself to read and "study." Details of the document will be reported by A/29 when they have been able to obtain the whole document.

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