

7 January 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: DC/SR/CA

SUBJECT: Cardinal Yosif SLIPYY's Reaction to Soviet  
Ukrainian Officials Comments Regarding  
Reestablishment of the Ukrainian Catholic  
Church in the Western Ukraine

SOURCE: AECASSOWARY/29 from [ ] [ ]

1. The source [ ] [ ] had four audiences with Cardinal SLIPYY in Rome during which they discussed conversations the source had with representatives of the Soviet Ukrainian Mission at the United Nations in New York in October and November of 1965. Victor CHERNYAVSKY [ ] [ ], Second Secretary of the Soviet Ukrainian Mission at the United Nations, suggested that the source tell the Cardinal to address a letter to P. Yu SHELEST (Secretary of the CC CP Ukraine) and V. SHCHERBITSKY (Chairman Ukrainian Council of Ministers), containing a request for establishment of a Ukrainian Catholic Patriarchate in Lvov and stating that he is ready to return to Lvov as its head (See SR/CA memorandum to SR/RR dated 8 December 1965).

2. Cardinal SLIPYY advised the source he would not make a written appeal to the Soviet Government but asked the source to convey verbally to Sergei T. SHEVCHENKO [ ] [ ], Head of the Ukrainian Mission at the United Nations, and/or Petro T. TRONKO [ ] [ ] Deputy Chairman, Ukrainian Council of Ministers and head of the Ukrainian delegation to the UN General Assembly, that he is willing to negotiate with the Soviet Ukrainian Government regarding reestablishment of the Ukrainian Catholic Church only after the following conditions have been met:

a. Nullification by the Soviet Government of the police prohibition of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the UkSSR.

b. Return to the Ukrainian Catholic Church by the Soviet Government of St. George's Cathedral and all its seminaries and monasteries.

c. ~~Permission given for~~ Ukrainian Catholics to take over their churches they had prior to arrival of the Soviet army to Western Ukraine and a promise from the Soviet Government that there will be no persecution of the faithful.

The source was also asked to explain to SHEVCHENKO and/or TRONKO that the Cardinal feels that any future negotiations might be

precluded if his appeal were denied at this time. He wants to see some definite positive action on the part of the Soviet Government before he appeals because there have been too many empty promises made to him in the past. Cardinal SLIPYY told the source it was possible the Soviet Government might be considering limited reestablishment of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the Ukraine but he saw no need for him to rush with any initiative so long as promises made by the Soviets in the past have not materialized. He told the source to convey to SHEVCHENKO that if the Church were reestablished it, of course, would be loyal to the Soviet Government and that instead of the letter they suggested he write at present, he would express his thanks to the Government for its new positive policy toward the church.

3. According to Cardinal SLIPYY, he met with Metropolitan NIKODYM during the Ecumenical Council and found that the attitude of the Russian Orthodox Church toward the Ukrainian Catholic Church had not become any friendlier than it had been in the past.

4. As far as the establishment of a Ukrainian Catholic Patriarchate in Lvov was concerned, the Cardinal said it was definitely not going to happen because the Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan, SENYSHYN, in the United States and his American friends had influenced the Eastern Congregation in Rome to the contrary. Cardinal SLIPYY expressed bitterness against Metropolitan SENYSHYN and his American friends, particularly Cardinal SPELLMAN, who he said convinced the Eastern Congregation that American Government circles were not in favor of establishing a Ukrainian Patriarchate in the Ukraine. He said the ~~American~~<sup>Vatican</sup> had plans to seek a ~~possible~~ solution with Moscow in the future and the Eastern Congregation considered the establishment of a Soviet Ukrainian Patriarchate would be an impediment in this regard.

5. Cardinal SLIPYY did not exclude completely his return to the UkSSR. He said it would depend on what concessions and guarantees the Soviet Government would make to the Ukrainian Catholics and to him personally. He was mainly interested in obtaining "necessary safeguards" for Ukrainian Catholics not only for the near future but also for the distant future, after his death. He said he expected there would be about one thousand priests in the Ukraine who would "return" to the Ukrainian Catholic Church if it were reestablished in the Ukrainian SSR, in addition to priests and religious in the Ukrainian Catholic religious orders. (Note: The priests referred to are those who under pressure from the Communist Government had accepted Orthodoxy when the Ukrainian Catholic Church was officially liquidated in the Ukraine in 1945.)

6. The letter of appeal from all Ukrainian Catholic Bishops in the West to the Ecumenical Council fathers concerning the fate of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in West Ukraine was not signed by the

Cardinal. He has retained his Soviet passport and recently had it extended. He was asked by the Soviet Embassy in Rome to come to the Embassy in order to get his passport renewed but he reminded the Embassy (by telephone) that they should be familiar with conventional procedure in such cases and sent his secretary to accomplish the chore for him.

7. The source was asked by Cardinal SLIPYY to inquire of SHEVCHENKO about the 7 volumes he said he had written on the history of the Ukrainian church which had been taken from him by the KGB in Siberia.

8. The Cardinal was hopeful that Ukrainian Catholics in Poland would soon have their own bishops assigned to them, although Cardinal WYSZYNSKI is not in favor of this move.

9. According to Cardinal SLIPYY, Metropolitan NIKODYM and Father BOROVYI of the Russian Orthodox Church had recently visited the Greek Basilians in Grotta Ferrata where they talked mostly with Father YOSYP, a Ukrainian.

10. On return to the United States the source was received at the Soviet Ukrainian Mission at the United Nations by SHEVCHENKO and Yuri N. KOCHUBEY [ ] 1st Secretary of the Ukrainian United Nations Delegation. When the source conveyed Cardinal SLIPYY's message, the two Soviets took detailed written notes. While SHEVCHENKO requested clarification on certain points, KOCHUBEY revealed a thorough knowledge about Lvov and the Church. KOCHUBEY said he understood and expressed agreement with Cardinal SLIPYY's reasons for not writing a letter of appeal to SHELEST and SHCHERBITSKY at present. Neither SHEVCHENKO nor KOCHUBEY speculated on what Kiev's reaction would be to the conditions enumerated by Cardinal SLIPYY. They made polite inquiries about his health. KOCHUBEY said that he had at one time served at the Soviet Embassy in Rome and was quite familiar with that city. He said he hoped he could be in Rome now and that he was sure he would be able to help in regard to the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

11. SHEVCHENKO said PODGORNYY's appointment to the presidency was definitely considered a promotion and that this was favorable for Ukrainians. He refused to comment on SHELEPIN's position, stating only that SHELEPIN was in his proper place and "why should we pay any attention to him? We better talk about Ukrainians." SHEVCHENKO said SHCHERBITSKY was a good politician and that Soviet Ukrainians were all very proud of him. To the source's comment that it would be nice to have PALAMARCHUK back in New York as the Ukrainian Foreign Minister. SHEVCHENKO replied that PALAMARCHUK should be left in peace to warm up his bones in Morocco.

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