

SECRET

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SOURCE METHOOSEXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

22 March 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: SB/RR

SUBJECT : Visit of Nikolai PODGORNYY at the Vatican

SOURCE : AECASSOWARY/54 (usually reliable) from a well-informed Ukrainian Catholic priest in Rome

1. During the recent visit of Nikolai PODGORNYY to Rome, Pope Paul discussed with him matters concerning reestablishment of Roman Catholic (Latin Rite) diocese in the Soviet Union. The matter concerning reestablishment of the Ukrainian Catholic (or Uniate) Church was not considered. On the contrary, as one of the conditions for further negotiations with the Vatican, PODGORNYY demanded liquidation of the Ukrainian Catholic Small Seminary in Rome. The source said there are indeed certain circles in the Vatican inclined to sacrifice (on the surface) the Uniate Church, in an effort to obtain from Moscow maximum privileges for the Latin Rite Church, and at the same time secretly to strengthen the Uniate Church to be retained in a sleeper status. In this respect, for bargaining purposes in their negotiations with Moscow, the Vatican plans to emphasize the statue of Cardinal Yosip SLIPYY vis-a-vis the Vatican. It was assumed that it was with this in mind, that the Vatican instigated the plans Cardinal SLIPYY has to purchase the Small Seminary from the Slesian Fathers and have it subordinated to himself. The Vatican could then disclaim any legal rights to the seminary.

2. The Reverend Myroslav MARUSYN, Secretary to Archbishop Ivan BUCHKO, was PODGORNYY's official guide during PODGORNYY's visit to the Vatican Museum. Vatican officials instructed Reverend MARUSYN to introduce himself to PODGORNYY as the secretary of Cardinal SLIPYY, and to speak to PODGORNYY only in Ukrainian. PODGORNYY spoke Ukrainian to Father MARUSYN. It was not known what all PODGORNYY discussed with MARUSYN because immediately following his report to his superiors at the Vatican, MARUSYN was sworn to keep his conversation with PODGORNYY secret.

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