

SECRET

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODSEXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

16 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: SR/ACOP/PP

SUBJECT : Request for Partial Subsidy for Research on and Writing of
a Book for Use in PP Activities

1. Attached is a review of the following Soviet anti-American propaganda book by R.H. ~~SYMONE~~ SYMONENKO, published in the USSR in 1957.

IMPERIALISTYCNA POLITYKA SSha SCODO UKRAJINY v 1917-1918 rr.
(THE IMPERIALISTIC POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TOWARDS
THE UKRAINE IN THE YEARS 1917-1918: By R.H. SYMONENKO. 303 pp,
Kiev 1957, Academy of Sciences, Ukrainian SSR, Institute of History.)

2. AECASSOWARY 2 has informed this office that Yaroslav ~~PELENSKY~~ PELENSKY has expressed an interest in writing an objective, impartial study for publication on American-Ukrainian relations during and just after the Bolshevik Revolution. The purpose of the study would be to give a truthful account of U.S. policy toward the Ukraine.

3. The PELENSKY study, when completed and published in Ukrainian, could be used for distribution to U.S. REDSKIN travelers and for distribution to Soviet tourists in the West. The AECASSOWARIES also would include it in their distribution to Poland and the USSR via overt mails from various countries in the Free World.

4. Yaroslav PELENSKY was born 12 April 1929 in Warsaw, Poland. He studied history, philosophy and German philology at the University of Würzburg, Germany, in 1949-56 and received his PhD "cum laude" on 27 February 1957 from the University of Munich, Germany. From 1946 to 1949 he worked as interpreter and supervisor at Headquarters, Würzburg U.S. Military Post. From 1950 to 1952 he worked as court interpreter for the United States Court of the Allied High Commission for Germany. From 1954 to 1957 he was co-editor of SUCHASNA UKRAINA, the AECASSOWARY newspaper in Munich. PELENSKY arrived in the United States from Munich, Germany, in 1957. His present home address is 126 North Main Street, Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, where he is employed as a teacher of the German language at Kings College. PELENSKY will be free to work full time on the book in late June, July and August. He expects it could be completed in six months and he would need about \$1500 as a "cost of living" allowance while he is working on the book.

5. In the opinion of AECASSOWARY 2 and of SR/3-PP, SYMONENKO's book demands a published reply. The SYMONENKO book is a very clever bit of Soviet

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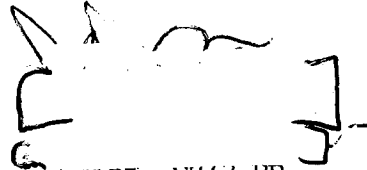
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psychological warfare which seeks to show the Soviet Ukrainian people that United States' aims vis-a-vis the Ukraine were purely selfish dollar imperialism even as early as 1917.

6. Your approval is requested to have the foregoing charged to SR Division's []


CHIEF, SR/3-PP

Attachment:
Review

Distribution:
Orig & 1 - Addressee, w/att. a/s

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att.
16 June 59

UNITED STATES POLICY AND THE UKRAINE

~~R.H.~~ SYMONENKO, IMPERIALISTYONA POLITYKA SSHA SCODO UKRAJINY v 1917-1918
rr. AN URSR, Instytut istoriji, Kyjiv 1957, stor. 303

THE IMPERIALISTIC POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TOWARDS THE UKRAINE
IN THE YEARS 1917-1918: By R.H. Symonenko. 303 pp. Kyjiv 1957, Academy of
Sciences, Ukrainian SSR, Institute of History.

The book of R.H. Symonenko which deals with the subject of American-Ukrainian relations is the first Soviet publication in this field. This is admitted by the Soviet Ukrainian author (p.16). It represents an attempt to show that the United States and its leading politicians in the years of 1917-1918 intentionally, wilfully and by means of imperialistic tactics did try to make out of the Ukraine a field for reckless capitalistic expansion. "The imperialistic policy of the American capitalism towards the Ukraine is characterized by the same main purposes, goals and tactical approaches as those which characterized the policy of the United States towards our whole country. The imperialistic policy of the United States in the Ukraine was a part of the entire struggle of the U.S.A. against the great socialist October Revolution (pp.298,299). To prove those allegations the author attempts to show the intentions of different American capitalists to take the Ukrainian railways, coal mines and other economic resources. The foundations for these allegations are rather doubtful. They should however be refuted by impartial and real scholarly research.

Far more interesting is the political side of this publication. Particular emphasis is put on the problem of intervention. The author wants to point out that starting with the second part of 1917 and through 1918 the American Government made all preparations for an intervention in the

Ukraine. One of the most important topics of the book is the problem of the relationship between U.S. policy and the Ukrainian independence movement and in consequence the Ukrainian Government. In one of the chapters the author broadly discusses the topic "U.S.A. and the recognition of the Centralna Rada (the Ukrainian national government)" (pp.226-238). "The financial capital of the U.S.A. desired a decisive strengthening of its positions in entire Russia. It did not mean that the U.S.A. did not wish to see a Russia which the interventionists did attempt to revive - a Russia of landowners and capitalists - divided and weakened. However, relying mainly on the decisive factor of the reaction in our country - the Russian counterrevolution, ruling American circles did not consider it clever to propagate broadly the plans for a division of our country. For this reason the U.S.A. not only did not join their allies of the Entente in the recognition of the Centralna Rada (the Ukrainian Government), but attempted to put on the mask of the defender of the territorial integrity of our country. Formally refraining from the recognition of the Centralna Rada the U.S.A. took an active part in further encouraging the separatistic activity of the Ukrainian nationalistic counterrevolution" (pp. 231,236,237). The only basis for the last statement is the allegation that a sum of 100,000 rubles was transmitted to the Ukrainian government in the fall of 1917 by the Mechanic Metal Bank in New York. The money came actually from Ukrainian emigrants living in United States.

Symonenko sees additional evidence for the American interventionist policy in the activity of different American citizens in the Ukraine, particularly counsel Jenkins in Kiev. All the American diplomatic personal that had any dealings with the Ukrainian officials are referred to as "imperialistic

and capitalistic agents", the same as the American Ambassador in Russia, D. Francis.

It is worth mentioning that the author studied all published American documents, memoirs and publications in connection with the Soviet - American relations including the last one; i.e. George F. Kennan, SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, vol. 1, 1956. He is familiar with the Ukrainian emigree literature pertinent to the matter in question.

It may be assumed that the problem of recognition received this particular attention due to recent American - Ukrainian discussions about the recognition of the Ukrainian SSR and possibilities of diplomatic relations with the Ukrainian SSR. The author points out that there is a great interest for the Ukrainian problem in the U.S.A.

Symonenko indicates that not all problems were discussed in his book and that he will make additional research about the "question of expansionistic activity of overseas monopolies (American) on the territory of the Western Ukraine" (p.16). Other recent Soviet Ukrainian publications show much interest in the problems of American policy towards Eastern Europe in the years 1917-1920 (UKRAJINSKYJ ISTORYCNYJ ZHURNAL - Ukrainian Historical Journal Nr. 4 1958).

It is evident that by such publications, which will be continued, the Soviet Government intends to compromise the United States policy towards the Ukraine and to show to the Ukrainian people that only the Communist Party was the true defender of the Ukrainian national independence and sovereignty, whereas the U.S.A. had and have only an imperialistic program.