

SECRET

POUCH 727

14 October 1946

XARZ-28595

TO: CHIEF, FBI
 Attn:

FROM: Station

SUBJECT: Stefan BANDERA;
Ukrainian Nationalist Movements

1. Reference MEMO 1707 from requesting any information on Ukrainians. Also, reference 136, MEMO 1602 and MEMO 1636.

2. Attached is a copy of a report on Stefan BANDERA, Ukrainian Nationalist leader, prepared by Section V (SI-6).

3. This report came to us on 7 October 1946 with the statement that it might be of interest to General Edwin Sibert; and a request from the British for any information which our organization or General Sibert, G-2, USFEUR, might be able to supply concerning BANDERA's present whereabouts.

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According to our information, BANDERA was originally a member of the Galician Ukrainian Terrorist Organization, Ukrainiska Voennis Organizatsia (U.V.O.). The organization was anti-Soviet but primarily directed against the Polish authorities. In 1927 the Headquarters of the leader, Colonel KOROVANETS, were in Berlin, where he was supported and subsidized by the Germans.

BANDERA was arrested by the Poles in 1933 for his part in the murder of the Polish Minister, PIERSACKI. He is said to have been released with other Ukrainian terrorists when the Germans occupied Warsaw in 1939.

Colonel KOROVANETS, the leader of the U.V.O., had in the meantime been murdered and BANDERA appears to have assumed the leadership of O.U.M. (the National Ukrainian Union), a loosely knit organization designed to coordinate the activities of the principal Ukrainian nationalist organizations.

According to one report, BANDERA was sent, on his release, to the Soviet-occupied Polish Ukraine where he acted as a military espionage agent for the Germans and prepared the ground for a national rising to coincide with the forthcoming German attack on the U.S.S.R. In return for the organization of a rising the German Government repeated previous promises to recognize the independence of the Ukraine. However, after the capture of Lemberg, it became clear that the German Government had no intention of implementing their promise and BANDERA thereupon declared himself and his organization as hostile to the German occupying forces. He himself was arrested but a number of his staff escaped.

After BANDERA's arrest the O.U.M., always torn by internal squabbles, disintegrated further. The two main organizations which emerged were "BOHOVETS' TARA'S BULHA" Movement and the U.P.A. (Ukrainian Insurgent Army). Again information which depends upon a single report believed to be generally accurate, shows that BANDERA, always strongly anti-Soviet, accepted conditional release from the Germans on an agreement that he should organize Partisanen Jagdverbände for use against the Russian partisans. It appears however that BANDERA actually used his units to fight the Polish partisans whilst at the same time collaborating with Russian partisan bands against the German administration in the Ukraine.

BANDERA's whereabouts during the later years of the war are unknown, but it appears that his bands were actively engaged against the Red Army during the period of Soviet reoccupation of the Ukraine in 1944. A regimental order of the KHABAROV Rifle Regiment of 14 January 1944 states that the regiment may come into contact with anti-Soviet elements, the bands of BANDERA, and "must be prepared in the near future for acts of terrorism". Another order of January 1944 addressed to the Senior Commander of 935th Regiment from the Chief of the Divisional Counter-Espionage Section, "SNERSH", instructs him to examine carefully replacements to the regiment in certain districts as "it is not impossible that amongst the new replacements from those districts members of the O.U.M.-U.P.A. could infiltrate into our units".

According to the Polish newspaper, RZECZPOSPOLITA, No. 41, dated 14.2.46, Stefan BANDERA is one of "the Ukrainian fascists hiding under the mask of displaced persons" in one of the occupation zones. CS COPY

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ATT TO XARZ - 4375

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