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USSR

Ref. No: 3/NBF/T861 (of 15/10/1956)

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RE-ISSUE

"MAY" ORDERED BY "VIKTOR" TO ASCERTAIN ATTITUDE OF METROPOLITAN THEOPHILUS TO DECISION OF A SYNOD OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH (1945)

From: MOSCOW

To: NEW YORK

No: 267

23 Mar. 45

To MAY[MAJ]. [i]

Since his return to the United States, Metropolitan BENJAMIN[VENIAMIN] has been sending to Patriarch ALEXIS[ALEKSIJ] anxious and obscure telegrams about the attitude of Metropolitan THEOPHILUS PASHKOVSKY[TEOPIL PASHKOVSKIJ] towards the decision of the Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church concerning the conditions for uniting THEOPHILUS' Churches with the MOSCOW Patriarchy. Metropolitan BENJAMIN [8 groups unrecovered] sent [D% by post]

[38 groups unrecoverable]

Metropolitan THEOPHILUS, it is necessary to ascertain urgently through the agent network[AGENTURA]:

1. The attitude of Metropolitan T. [F.] and his closest supporters to the decision of the Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church concerning the conditions for uniting THEOPHILUS' Churches with the MOSCOW Patriarchy.
2. [11 groups unrecovered] supporters of THEOPHILUS [10 groups unrecovered] been put forward by the Synod of the Russian Church.
3. The contents of the report by THEOPHILUS, which he sent recently to Patriarch ALEXIS.

Distribution

[Continued overleaf]

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- 4. Between what dates do the supporters of THEOPHILUS intend to hold their council to discuss the MOSCOW conditions?
- 5. The behaviour of Metropolitan BENJAMIN and Bishop ALEXIS PANTELIEV and the results of the negotiations which have been going on [2 groups unrecovered] about this question.
- 6. [22 groups unrecovered] [31 groups unrecoverable] stopped.

No. 1803
22nd March

VIKTOR^[ii]

Comments: ^[i] MAY : Stepan Zakharovich APRESYAN, Soviet Vice-Consul in
NEW YORK.

^[ii] VIKTOR : Lt. Gen. P. M. FITIN.

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