

CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED
 SECURITY INFORMATION
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT
 CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY USSR
 SUBJECT Sociological - Religion
 HOW PUBLISHED Biweekly periodical
 WHERE PUBLISHED Athens
 DATE PUBLISHED 1 Nov 1952 - 15 Feb 1953
 LANGUAGE Greek

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952 - 1953

DATE DIST. *5 Aug* 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Ekklesia.

RUSSIAN PRELATE SAYS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM EXISTS IN USSR

STATES ALL RELIGIONS GIVEN EQUAL RIGHTS -- Athens, Ekklesia, 1 Nov 52

In an interview given by Nikolai, a Metropolitan of the Russian Orthodox Church, to Otechestven Front, a Bulgarian newspaper, the Metropolitan stated that there is complete religious freedom in the Soviet Union and that all religions are given equal rights. Relations between the Orthodox Church and the Soviet government are legal and within the framework of the Constitution. The clergy and various religious groups participate actively and of their own accord in the struggle for peace, the Metropolitan said.

COMMUNIST SOCIETY PUBLISHES RELIGIOUS BOOK -- Athens, Ekklesia, 15 Nov 52

During May 1952, the Communist Society for the Dissemination of Scientific and Political Knowledge, which has branches throughout the USSR and which aims at spreading antireligious propaganda through lectures and publications, published P. F. Kolovitskiy's book Communist and Religious Morality.

COMMUNIST BOOK RIDICULES CHRISTIANITY -- Athens, Ekklesia, 15 Feb 53

Last October, the Soviet Union's State Publishing House in Moscow published a study by N. K. Amosov, entitled The Origin and Class Essence of Christianity, which is an example of the method by which religion is being uprooted in Soviet Russia. It includes the text of a lecture on the "Reactionary Role of Christianity" and gives a guide to how the above-mentioned work should be studied.

In the preface, the author writes the following: "Christianity is one of the most wide-spread religions. It appeared during the period of the Roman Empire as a reflection of the weaknesses of the masses and an enslaved people against their rulers and exploiters. In their distress, the Roman slaves and poor people began to believe in religious illusions and in the Saviour who had promised to relieve their pains."

CLASSIFICATION		RESTRICTED												
STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB												
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI												

RESTRICTED

STAT

In the guide section, four points were indicated as most important: (a) Jesus Christ, who is believed to have established Christianity, never existed; (b) Christianity came into existence as a means of relieving the sufferings of slaves and poor people; (c) Christianity played a reactionary role since its very beginning, and its social principles justify the old form of slavery; and (d) in the Soviet Union, Christianity, because of its antiscientific views and reactionary morality, greatly injures the Communist education of the workers.

REPORT OF RELIGIOUS MEETINGS IN USSR -- Athens, Ekklisia, 15 Nov 52

The Athens Archdiocese has received a volume from Moscow, published in French by the Moscow Patriarchate, entitled Conference de toutes les Eglises et Associations Religieuses de l'U.R.S.S. pour la defence de la Paix dans le monde (Conference of All Churches and Religious Bodies in the USSR for the Defense of World Peace). The conference was held at the Zagorsk Troitse-Sergiyeva Monastery on 9 - 10 May 1952.

On the invitation of Aleksey, Patriarch of Moscow, the following representatives participated in this conference: the hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church; representatives of the Georgian Church, the Armenian Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Estonia and Latvia, and the Roman Catholic Church of Latvia (Bishop Peteris Strods) and Lithuania (Bishop Kazimieras Juozapo Paltarokas); representatives of the Methodists of Estonia and of the Council of Christian-Baptist Evangelists; representatives of the Church of the Old Believers of All Russia and of the All-Union Council of the Adventists of Russia; representatives of the Reformed (Calvinist) Church of Trans-Carpathia; representatives of the Molokanon [transliteration from the Greek, possibly followers of Moloch 27] of Baku and Tbilisi; representatives of the Moslems of the USSR, Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Dagestan, and Trans-Carpathia; representatives of the Buddhists in the USSR; and representatives of the Jewish community in Moscow and Kiev.

Moreover, two other volumes were received by the Archdiocese, entitled Actes de la Conference des chefs et des representants des Eglises Autocefales Orthodoxes reunis a Moscou a l'occasion de la celebration solennelle des fetes du 500eme anniversaire de l'autocephalie de l'Eglise Orthodoxe Russe 8-10 Juillet 1948 (Decisions of the Conference of the Autocephalous Orthodox Churches, which Took Place in Moscow on the Occasion of the 500th Anniversary Celebration of the Autocephaly of the Russian Orthodox Church, 8 - 10 July 1948).

Both volumes included the speeches, announcements, and reports made during the celebration on the following subjects: Papism and the Orthodox Church; the Vatican and the Orthodox Church; The Roman Church and the Union of the Church of Christ; Rome and Bulgaria; The Position of the Vatican Toward Orthodoxy During the Last 30 Years; Anglican Ordinations and Anglican Hierarchy; The Orthodox Church and the World Movement of Churches.

The Orthodox Churches of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Greece were represented at these celebrations but their representatives did not participate in the conference which followed.

- E N D -

- 2 -

RESTRICTED