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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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COUNTRY France/USSR  
SUBJECT Anti-Soviet Council of Western Europe

DATE: 25X1X6  
DIST. 6 December 1946  
PAGES 3  
SUPPLEMENT

This document is to be read in accordance with the letter of the Director of Central Intelligence, Archivist of the United States.  
Next Review Date: 2000

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ORIGIN 25X1X6

1. A meeting of representatives of the Russian Church of Western Europe was held in Paris at the Theological Institute, 93 rue de Grimee, from 16 to 20 October.
2. Forty-eight of the 54 parishes constituting the Western Orthodox Exarchate sent delegates to the meeting. Those present constituted an impressive quorum which, for the first time accurately reflected the state of mind of the Russian emigration. The pro-Soviet parishes sent a delegation led by Father Constantin Zambjitsky bearing a note of protest, which was read to the assembled group. Later a UPS contingent tried to disrupt the meeting, but it was ejected.
3. The following is the text of the declaration which the pro-Soviet delegation submitted to Archbishop Vladimir, functional head of the Paris Orthodox Church:

"We, the undersigned clergy and laymen, representing the parishes which are under the canonical jurisdiction of the Patriarchate of Moscow, consider it our duty to protest solemnly against the council called by Archbishop Vladimir in Paris, 16 October 1946. This act was committed by Archbishop Vladimir in defiance of the orders of the Most Reverend Patriarch Alexis, dated 17 September 1946. We point out the following:

- (1) the anti-canonical spirit of the council;
- (2) the fact that not all of the representatives of all the parishes were admitted to sit in the council;
- (3) the fact that the organizers of the council demanded that the priests who were admitted sign a declaration of fidelity to the Patriarchate of Constantinople. This is a fact which proves that the resolutions of the council were determined in advance."

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The following signatures were attached to this document:

Archpriest Simon Velikanov, of the Parish of Nilvange  
(Moselle);

Canon Serbe, vicar of the parish of Vanves;

Archimandrite Dyonises;

Father Nicolas Maloletenkov, vicar of the parish of Grenoble;

Archpriest Michel Belsky, vicar of the parish of Notre-Dame;

Archpriest Jean Zeretelli, of the parish of Garenne-  
Colombes;

Archpriest Basile Timofeev, vicar of the parish of rue Michel-  
Ange in Paris;

Archpriest A. Serguenko, vicar of the parish of Meudon (Seine);

Father Victor Kepp, vicar of the parish of Petit Clamart  
(Seine).

4. The protest, however, was fruitless. The principal problems discussed before the council were solved very rapidly during the first two days. Unanimity of opinion was evident from the beginning. During the evening of 17 October, an important resolution was adopted, extracts of which follow:

"The Council bows with profound moral satisfaction and with gratitude before the courageous decision made by the Provisional Chief of our Exarchate, His Eminence, Archbishop Vladimir, not to carry out the ukase of the of the Patriarch of Moscow, who, in an anti-canonical fashion is attempting to annul the power of the Ecumenical Patriarch. The Council of the Archdiocese unanimously supports Archbishop Vladimir's decision. The Council of the Archdiocese solicits Archbishop Vladimir to present to the Ecumenical Patriarch our plea to preserve the former status of our Exarchate as an autonomous Russian Exarchate within the Ecumenical Patriarchate in conformity with the Ukases of Patriarch Photius II (of 17 February 1931) and Patriarch Benjamin I (of 29 December 1939)."

Attached to this document is a plea addressed to Patriarch Maximo of Constantinople to retain Archbishop Vladimir as head of the Russian Exarchate of Western Europe.

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5. By 20 October the Russian Churches of Western Europe, as well as the large majority of the emigration, had officially broken all ties with Moscow. However, the calm which has returned to Russian religious life in Western Europe has incensed pro-Soviet circles.
6. Archbishop Photius, Patriarch Alexis' representative in Paris, left by plane for Moscow early in November. He is to report on the ecclesiastical situation in France in the light of the failure of Soviet religious policy and the results of the above-mentioned council. Photius was accompanied by S.N. Philipov, representative of the Soviet Ministry of Cults.

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