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Document No. 010
004
NO CHANGE in Class
~~DECLASSIFIED~~
Class. CHANGED TO: TS
Auth: DDA Memo: 4 APR 77
Auth: DDA REG. 171/17631
Date: 06 APR 1978 By: ou

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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY France/Belgium/USSR

DATE: 25X1X6
INFO. [REDACTED]

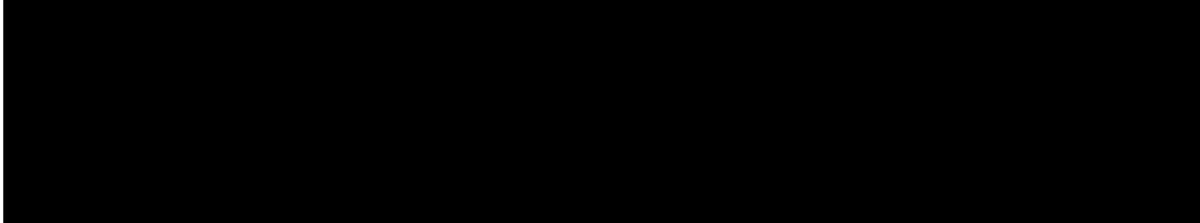
SUBJECT Russian Church of Western Europe:
Maximos' Decision

DIST. 3 February 1947

ORIGIN 25X1A6a

PAGES 2
SUPPLEMENT

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1. The arrival of Archbishop Alexander, sent by Moscow to organize parishes in accordance with Moscow directives, has complicated the ecclesiastical situation in Brussels, reports. Alexander, former Archbishop of Belgium, left there before the war. 25X1X6
2. Bishop Nikone Grave, present head of the Russian Church of Belgium, while awaiting the decision to be given by the Constantinople Patriarchate in the ecclesiastical conflict, is said to have spent a great deal of time with Archbishop Vladimir in Paris.
3. The following is the decision which Patriarch Maximos is reported to have reached but which will be withheld from official publication for reasons of international politics:

The Russian Church of Western Europe will remain under the jurisdiction of Constantinople; directives for all important ecclesiastical affairs will be issued by the Constantinople Patriarchate. Archbishop Vladimir will head the Russian Church of Western Europe but will not receive from Constantinople the title of Exarch which was given to the late Metropolitan Eulogius. Monseigneur Germanos, the Greek Orthodox bishop now residing in London, will report on Russian ecclesiastical affairs to Constantinople, and at the same time be the "eye" of the Patriarch.

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- 2 -

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4. Two factors are believed to have figured in Maximos' decision: (a) the desire of the Patriarch to solve the problem as quickly as possible and with the least publicity possible (probably, [REDACTED] states, to prevent Moscow's pursuit of the controversy); and (b) the desire of the Ecumenical Patriarch to keep better in hand the affairs of the Russian Church of Europe.

 5. Meanwhile, Archbishop Seraphim, representative of Patriarch Alexei of Moscow, who is staying at 59 rue Boileau, Paris, 16eme, is attempting by every possible means to strengthen his tottering position. With this in mind he is penetrating French Orthodox milieux, specifically the group centered in the Eglise Sainte Genevieve, 36 rue de la Montagne Sainte Genevieve, Paris, 5eme. In this vicinity the Brotherhood of Saint Photius has headquarters located in a church.

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