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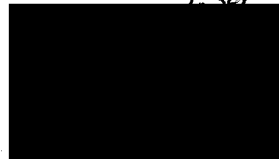
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INTELLIGENCE REPORT



COUNTRY France

DATE: 25X1A

SUBJECT Father Dumont and Catholic-Orthodox  
Unity  
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INFO. [Redacted]

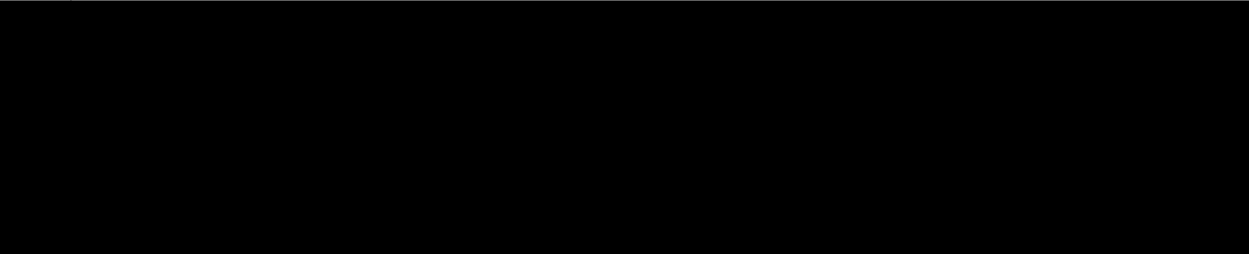
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PAGES 2

ORIGIN [Redacted]

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1. The Institute Saint-Denis in Paris now is serving as meeting ground, [Redacted] for the Catholic and Orthodox Churches in France. Here Father Jean Christophe Dumont, head of the Dominican Studies Center, Istina (The Truth), keeps in close touch with Abbe Eugraphie Kovalevsky, director and guiding spirit of the Institute.
2. Back of these meetings is the story of Kovalevsky's attempt to use the St. Photius Brotherhood, of which he is said to be one of the leaders, to spread Communist propaganda in Western Europe (see A-70085). The Brotherhood, which is connected with the Moscow Patriarchate, organized the Church of the Western Rite of the Orthodox Religion to group Catholic dissenters who adopted Orthodoxy.
3. Also there is the story of Dominican Father Dumont's staff of Russians who produced Istina in Lille for three years before World War II (see SO-2321). Among his collaborators was Nicolas Maklakov, son of the former Minister of the Interior of Imperial Russia whose name was given in SO-2321 as Georges Maklakov, nephew of the former Russian Ambassador to Paris.
4. In an interview with source, Father Dumont said that the Istina group is encouraging collaboration between Christian churches, but is mainly interested in making many connections with Russian Orthodoxy. With this in mind the Istina group has published the first issue of Russia and Christianity which will appear four times a year. Father Dumont says that he wants to help the Orthodox Church, because he feels that the interests of his church are identical with it. He says that this attitude makes the Catholic Church show great sympathy for the Patriarchal Church of Russia which he says is the only promoter of Christian ideology in the USSR.

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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

Date: 1009/96 Approved For Release 1999/09/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R000400620002-1

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
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- 25X1X 5. Father Dumont said he opposed the Catholic Church's taking a position regarding the emigre' faction of the Patriarchal Church, as he says his role is merely to maintain contact with all branches of the Russian Church. But, [REDACTED] 25X1X  
[REDACTED] Father Dumont still praises Serafim Nedimov and Serge Chevich of the pro-Soviet parish of the rue Petel in Paris.
6. Some of his collaborators have gone too far in their loyalty to the Soviet Government, Father Dumont observed in the interview, but he says that charge cannot be made of him. In his lectures throughout France, he said, he explains the Soviet Government's attitude towards the church as a mere political expediency and not as the result of moral or spiritual considerations. [REDACTED] when the two high dignitaries of the Moscow Church, Archbishops Photius and Gregory were in Paris last summer, Father Dumont saw them frequently. Father Dumont said that he thought Gregory was a spiritual man sincerely devoted to the work of rebuilding the Russian Church. He believed that Photius was willing to make many compromises with the Soviet Government. Father Dumont said that the Moscow clergymen were powerless to make the slightest decision without the approval of the Government's representatives in the group directed by Karpov charged with Orthodox Church affairs. 25X1X
7. Father Dumont said that he believed the Vatican has not yet fully realized the need to abandon its secular attitude of treating other denominations as rivals, but that, while withholding its approval, it still has not interfered with him.

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