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CONFIDENTIAL
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Turkey/Greece/Poland
SUBJECT Greek Orthodox Church Affairs;
Meeting of the Pan-Orthodox Council

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1. It is reported that the trip of Patriarch Maximos from Istanbul to Greece in May was not for reasons of ill-health but for consultation concerning three major issues:
 - (a) Whether Maximos should resign in favor of a stronger personality;
 - (b) If he should resign, what candidate would be favorable to Athens; and
 - (c) How can the Phanar deal with the increasing prestige of Patriarch Alexei of Moscow.
2. The Phanar in Istanbul is dominated financially by the Greek Government.
3. The Polish Church is the only church in Russian-occupied territory which has not been invited to attend the Pan-Orthodox Council scheduled in Moscow this fall. The church of Antioch, Syria, is expected to be the only church outside of Russian-occupied territory which will probably accept the invitation.
4. Archbishop Athenagoras, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America, is reported to have recently been made an honorary citizen of the city of Ankara by the Turks. This privilege has not yet been made public. 25X1A

Comment: Undoubtedly the church referred to above as the Polish Church is the Polish Uniat Church, the seat of which was in Lwow up to the time of the Russian occupation of Poland in 1939.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1970 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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NO CHANGE in Class.
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