

18 December 1952

R-22

SUBJECT: Thumb Nail Sketch on Father Marcel van CUTSEM.

1. Father Marcel van CUTSEM springs from a Belgian aristocrat family and is 42 years old. He joined the Jesuits and became a priest and as such received an assignment to the Vatican Congregation for Eastern Churches during World War II. During such work which he performed mostly in Rome, he came into contact with anti-German Russian circles whom he assisted through underground work. In 1945, Cardinal TISSERANT gave him an assignment as his representative first in the British Zone and later on in all Austria and Germany, whereby he represents the above Congregation in this area.

2. In his capacity Father van CUTSEM was frequently approached by western intelligence, BIS, FIS, and U.S. IS, with the main object of giving advice on personalities.

3. He was indirectly introduced to me by EE 1 and I had CC 2 contact him in 1948 on political questions concerning the eastern denominations. Father van CUTSEM was willing to give all information requested. When the problem arose to work on the sector of Soviet defectors, I switched Father van CUTSEM from CC 2 to XX 1 and soon came into contact with him personally. Through his large-scale church operations, where he has to fight continuously for financial support, he is in contact with a vast circle of Russians. His main capability to my belief rests with the task as a personality spotter. Although conscientious, willing, unselfish, and definitely pro-western, with a heart line favoring the French and a brain line favoring the U.S., he lacks scrutiny and experience. Considering this drawback, I nevertheless believe that he is a valuable collaborator. Handling him requires considerable time and a philosophical touch, because he loves to discuss general problems, which kind of discussion is the only remuneration that he personally asks for. Regarding the

23. Dez. 1952

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Russian problem, he fosters Greater-Russian ideas. Under prevailing circumstances I do not think that his very intimate ties to Cardinal TISSERANT, the Rome Jesuits, and the Vatican in general could cause any disagreement with regard to a collaboration. In practice I would think it necessary to limit his activities to the chore of personality and talent spotter.