

7 OCT 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Office of Legislative Liaison  
 THROUGH: Deputy Director for Operations  
 FROM: E J  
 Chief, Political and Psychological Staff  
 SUBJECT: GAO Report with Potential for Compromise of  
 QRPLUMB Operation

1. Purpose: The purpose of this memorandum is to bring to your attention a recent development which has a potential for a compromise of QRPLUMB operation. This is an Agency instrumentality, a Ukrainian group headquartered in New York, with its printing and publishing facility in Western Europe. The objective of the QRPLUMB activity is to produce and infiltrate into the Soviet Union material aimed at keeping alive the Ukrainian nationalist spirit while exploiting the vulnerabilities of the Soviet system.

2. Background:

a. The subject of our concern is a recently released study by the General Accounting Office (GAO) of the U.S. Congress describing alleged Nazis and Axis collaborators, some of whom U.S. intelligence organizations purportedly assisted in settling in the U.S. following World War II. The Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Congressman Peter W. Rodino, Jr., commissioned this study and reportedly intends to hold hearings based on the report this fall. Of the twelve individuals described (but not named) in the report as having had former Agency connections, only one has a continuing relationship with the Agency, Mykola Lebed, the founder and former head of QRPLUMB.

b. The GAO study is based on extensive review of DO files as well as those of other U.S. Government agencies (INS, FBI, DOD, National Archives). We have reviewed Mr. Lebed's 201 file and discussed this matter with Agency officers familiar with his

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background. From this, it would appear that Mr. Lebed has been placed by GAO investigators in the category of alleged Nazi collaborator based on allegations by known or suspected Soviet agents, or actions he committed before the war as a Ukrainian underground fighter. According to the record, he was not a Nazi collaborator and, in fact, was considered by the Nazis to be a fugitive.

c. The issue at hand is significant beyond the question of the report's accuracy. With the report in the public domain, and several newspaper articles have appeared, it seems only a matter of time until Mr. Lebed is mentioned by name. This could have a serious and possibly destructive effect on the QRPLUMB operations. Attendant publicity would strain the credibility of the organization. It can be assumed that investigative reporting would probe its contacts and sources of support and that Agency funding would soon become either apparent or widely speculated. At the same time, it can be expected that the Soviet Union would marshal its active measures capabilities in an attempt to destroy the organization, which has been a continuing target of Soviet intelligence services since its inception in 1949.

d. This office first learned of the GAO report on 29 June 1985 through an article in the New York Times, one day after the report had been made public. Neither the report itself nor the fact that it was being prepared had been coordinated with this office. We were, in fact, completely unaware that any such report was in preparation. When we looked into the matter, we were told by IMS that about two years ago the GAO had obtained authorization from the most senior DO level to have access to DO files for the purpose of compiling such a report. The DDO authorized the release of such documents and the preparation of the GAO report, apparently without requiring that this be coordinated with area divisions or staffs within the DO. The existence of the report thus came as a complete surprise to this office.

3. Action Taken: Subsequent to the appearance of the GAO report, we took the following preliminary actions designed to collect the facts surrounding this issue and forestall possible compromise of QRPLUMB :

a. Discussions were held with the DO legal staff and with the IMS staff which provided the Agency documents to the GAO investigative team. We also met with the head of the GAO investi-

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gative team. The latter admitted in these discussions that the allegations against Mr. Lebed were very weak and that had he known of Mr. Lebed's connection with QRPLUMB instrumentality, he would not have included the allegations against him in the unclassified GAO report.

b. Agency representatives from the Office of the General Counsel and this office met with the Head of the Office of Special Investigation (OSI) at the Department of Justice and apprised him of the case and our concern for the security of QRPLUMB operations. Chief, OSI stated that his office does not have a file on Mr. Lebed and at the moment has no basis for initiating an investigation of him; and if such investigation is warranted in the future, he will inform the Agency of his action. He advised against taking any action intended to correct the public GAO statement on Mr. Lebed lest it attract unfavorable media investigative reporting. Additionally, he recommended that we inform our Congressional oversight committees and Congressman Rodino of the case and our security concerns, especially since he had indications that Congressman Rodino was under pressure from certain quarters to hold a hearing on the GAO report.

4. Action Recommended: In light of the above, we recommend that the Director of Legislative Liaison inform the appropriate House and Senate oversight committees and that Congressman Rodino be apprised of our concerns for the security of the Agency's operational instrumentality.

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