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DD/O 85-1794

21 OCT 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Operations  
FROM: [ I  
Chief, Political and Psychological Staff  
SUBJECT: OSI Investigation with Potential for Compromise  
of QRPLUMB Operation

1. Purpose: The purpose of this memorandum is to bring to your attention recent developments which have potential for the compromise of the 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 national spirit while exploiting the vulnerabilities of the Soviet system.

2. Background:

a. The subject of our concern is Mr. Mykola Lebed, founder and long-term head of QRPLUMB (1952-1979), who has recently been the object of investigations by the General Administration Office (GAO) and the Department of Justice.

b. Last June, after a two-year review of U.S. Government files, including this Agency, GAO published a report on alleged Nazi and Axis collaborators who purportedly were assisted by U.S. intelligence agencies in settling in the U.S. after World War II. Of twelve individuals described in the report (but not named), only Mr. Lebed has a continuing relationship with the Agency.

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c. Based on our review of Mr. Lebed's 201 file and corroboration of Agency officers familiar with his background, we have no basis to believe that Mr. Lebed was a Nazi collaborator. In fact, he organized and led (1941-44) a Ukrainian nationalist armed resistance movement against Nazi occupation of Ukraine and as early as 1941 was on the Gestapo wanted list. Because of Mr. Lebed's prior services to this Agency (Operation REDSOX) and especially the Agency's desire to utilize him in its future CA programs, Mr. Lebed was settled in the U.S. under the provisions of Section 8 of the CIA Act of 1949.

3. The issue at hand is significant beyond the question of the GAO report's accuracy. The report is in the public domain, and several newspaper articles on the subject have already appeared. On 17 October 1985, Congressman Rodino, who commissioned the GAO investigation, held a hearing on the report without identifying individuals described in the report. It is a matter of time, however, before Mr. Lebed is mentioned by name. This could have serious and possibly destructive effect on the QRPLUMB operation.

4. In a separate action, and presumably ensuing from the GAO investigation, the Office of Special Investigation (OSI), Department of Justice, has initiated its own investigation into Mr. Lebed's case. On 15 October 1985, the OSI, in coordination with CIA's Office of General Counsel (OGC), conducted an in-depth interrogation of Mr. Lebed in the presence of three Headquarters officers (OGC and PPS).

a. In the course of the interrogation, which was under oath, Mr. Lebed admitted that he was indirectly involved in the planning of the political assassination of a high Polish official in 1934, for which he was convicted, and declined to answer any more questions on the subject contending that he was protecting living persons, and that he would testify on this matter only in court.

b. In response to all questions on the allegations of cooperation with the Germans, Mr. Lebed categorically denied that he ever cooperated with them: on the contrary, while his family was incarcerated in a concentration camp during the war, he was

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hunted by the Gestapo for organizing and leading a Ukrainian nationalist anti-Nazi guerrilla movement from 1941-44.

5. In response to Agency officers' query, OSI representatives stated, on the record, that there are no grounds for criminal prosecution of Mr. Lebed for his alleged part in the assassination (because of expired statute of limitations); however, administrative proceedings possibly leading to Mr. Lebed's denaturalization and ultimate deportation could be instituted against him if the results of this interrogation warrant it, and/or additional evidence may be uncovered against him.

6. The OSI has also given us to believe that it may request Soviet authorities, as the OSI has done in many other cases before, for any documentary or testimonial evidence on Mr. Lebed. Given Mr. Lebed's past history as a leading Ukrainian nationalist and freedom fighter, and also as the founder and long-time head of one of the most effective Agency's CA instrumentalities, it is very conceivable that the Soviets will spare no effort for the opportunity to destroy Mr. Lebed's personal reputation, inflict serious damage to the cause of the Ukrainian nationalist movement, and of our most immediate concern, expose and destroy the QRPLUMB organization, which has been a continuing target of Soviet active measures since its inception.

8. Because of our concern for the security of QRPLUMB, OGC and PPS officers have communicated to the Chief of OSI our concerns for the Agency's instrumentality, and he agreed to keep this Agency informed of any further developments on this issue.

9. Recommended Action: In light of the above, it is our belief that we should be prepared, if required, to take appropriate intercessionary action designed to prevent the compromise of the Agency's operational instrumentality.

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