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25 March 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM:

[ ]  
PPS/SEO/SIB

SUBJECT:

Update on Mykola Lebed's Situation

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1: At our request, on 19 March 1986 Headquarters office met with Mykola Lebed and three of his closest advisors ([ ] [ ] [ ] and [ ]) to personally advise Lebed of our concerns regarding the situation that arose from the allegations that appeared in the "Village Voice":

2: [ ] [ ], speaking on Lebed's behalf, reviewed the action undertaken by Lebed to establish what actions he could take against the "Village Voice". A number of law firms were approached in order to find out if a libel suit would be appropriate and if it could be won. Two law firms expressed their opinions that a libel suit would be unproductive in this case. One law firm, however, responded positively and requested additional information on the "Village Voice" article before agreeing to take up the case. No agreements or commitments have been made by either party. Furthermore, [ ] expressed the opinion that once Lebed's name is cleared the situation would be resolved. He offered the following suggestions as means to do so:

- Have GAO prepare a new report clearing Lebed.
- Approach the Congressional Committee, which received the GAO report, and have the Committee review it with additional evidence.
- Approach a Congressman, through prominent members of the Ukrainian Community, and push for new hearings.

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3: The Headquarters officers pointed out to Lebed that GAO reports are almost impossible to correct or amend and that the GAO report, per se, does not identify Lebed by name nor does it refer to him as a criminal, it only links him to a Polish event. Therefore, the proposed measures were not suitable. The Headquarters officers then made the following counterproposals:

- Write a serious, well-documented letter to prominent newspapers with the goal of clearing Lebed.
- Have a prominent Ukrainian scholar prepare a scholarly study explaining Lebed's role in the OUN organization during World War II for publication in an appropriate publication.
- As a final resort, approach Congress.

4: Lebed and his colleagues agreed with Headquarter's proposals and indicated that they had already written a letter to the "Village Voice" requesting a retraction of the story and the letters were being prepared for the "New York Times" and for Ukrainian newspapers.

5: All agreed, however, that the primary concern at this time was the safety for Mr. Lebed. Headquarters officers asked Mr. Lebed if we could perhaps assist him in relocating to some other place outside the New York metropolitan area. Mr. Lebed declined this offer citing his wife's illness and the fact that he was unwilling to run away from the problem. We discussed with Mr. Lebed whether there was anything else we might do to ensure his continued safety. Nobody present could think of anything else we could do which would be consistent with the Agency's statutory responsibilities. [ ] then summarized the action he has taken to provide security for Lebed. He was in contact with the FBI Task Force in New York and that he was given advice as to what should be done and what precautions Lebed should take. The FBI will be in contact if and when they believe Lebed was in danger. The local police force was also contacted and made aware of the situation.

6: The meeting ended on an upbeat note with all present agreeing that [ ] should keep in touch with the FBI Task Force and local police on matters of security for Lebed. In the meantime Lebed agreed not to initiate a libel suit against

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the "Village Voice" at this time since he understands that such action on his part could destroy the QRPLUMB organization. Lebed promised to keep us advised of any future actions that he might contemplate.

7. We will continue to monitor the developments of this case very closely and will advise accordingly.

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