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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT DATE 2003 2005

10 APR 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Operations

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FROM:

Acting Chief, Political and Psychological Staff

SUBJECT:

Update on Mykola Lebed's Situation

REF:

DD/0-86-0444

- Background: Early this year an article was published in the New York weekly "Village Voice" alleging that a former chief of an Agency proprietary was guilty of war crimes. article was based on a GAO report on individuals whom the Agency had assisted in resettling in the United States following World War II. The Justice Department has looked into the matter and advised us officially but informally that it does not believe a war crimes case can be made and is not pursuing the investigation.
- Mikola Lebed, the individual concerned, has faced a series of harrassments and threats based on the "Village Voice" Moreover, there is pressure from within the Ukrainian emigre community to pursue a libel suit against the "Village". Voice" as a means of clearing his name and the reputation of the Ukrainian community. Having been advised that he was considering taking legal action, PPS representatives requested a meeting to discuss options and consequences. Our main objective has been to avoid any legal action which could jeopardize the current Agency relationship with the organization, QRPLUMB.
- The session with Lebed went well and it was our NAME OF STREET impression that he and the other QRPLUMB representatives understood the risks and likely futility of legal action, given the prevailing libel laws and the defense attorney's certain request for legal discovery. It appears that Lebed will now

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seek other means of redressing his grievance, including an attempt to gather serious, convincing testimony of his wartime role, produce well documented letters to prominent newspapers, etc. As a last resort, he would consider having prominent Ukrainians approach a Congressman and attempt to have the GAO report corrected.

4. Lebed and his QRPLUMB colleagues agreed to keep us informed of any action he takes and we will continue to monitor developments closely.