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8 May 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with QRPLUMB/2

1. On 1 May 1990, I visited with QRPLUMB/2 (P/2) at his home in Yonkers, NY. I have been acquainted with P/2 since 1950, and over the years became a friend of his family. At P/2's invitation, I served as a private, unpaid advisor to the QRPLUMB program during 1960s while attending a graduate school. P/2 is a widower and lives alone on the upper floor of a two-story house owned by his former driver and bodyguard from the days of World War II clandestine operations in Western Ukraine. The bodyguard lives on the main floor.

2. P/2 is witting of my Agency employment. The purpose of my visit was a combination of personal and business that was long overdue. The latter: To feel P/2 on his views concerning the status and the future of the QRPLUMB project. By the way, over a year ago, P/2 propositioned me with retiring from my job and accepting the position of head of QRPLUMB, replacing [] who was up for re-election at the time. I turned it down, saying I want to work at my present job for at least another two years or so to earn additional retirement. This time, P/2 did not raise this issue as it obviously had become OBE. During our "business discussions," I tried to say as little as possible, while listening in to P/2's views. P/2 did not press me hard for my views, apparently respecting my present position.

3. P/2 told me he had just learned the day before (31 April) about what he called the upcoming sudden demise of the QRPLUMB project. He said [] had briefed him during his regular Monday visits to QRPLUMB offices where he serves as a senior advisor. P/2 looked very perturbed and said he was at a loss to explain why the funding is ending now and so abruptly at the time when new opportunities are opening up in Ukraine. He said we had a good thing going, a "bilateral agreement between two partners going back to 1946." He said "it will have disastrous consequences" if it ever comes out in public, which he fears it

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probably will soon after the project's closure. Since a lot of people will be put out on the street with little forewarning, P/2 opined that there is a strong potential for a serious expose: both Soviets and the emigres will have a "hay day" with this news. P/2 expressed deep-felt concern (which he repeated more than once during our conversation) for the fate of QRPLUMB employees who will lose their jobs with little immediate prospect for re-employment. At one point, P/2 got emotional and tears filled his aging eyes. He surmised that "Suchasnist" will survive even as a monthly, but deplored the loss of the operational side of QRPLUMB "when we can do so much over there now."

4. P/2 reflected on possible reasons for ending the support of QRPLUMB. For lack of other rational explanation, he suspected that there may be a collusion between presidents Bush and Gorbachev: the latter may have asked Bush to end support to the Ukrainian project for a price. (Note: This suspicion is based on P/2's real and bitter experience of years past, when back in 1950's QRPLUMBs were funded to operate a clandestine Ukrainian-language radio broadcasting station based in the Mediterranean; during the summit meeting between President Eisenhower and Khrushchev, the latter requested that the station be closed down apparently for a "price-concession." Within days of the summit, QRPLUMB radio went dark. What added insult to the injury was that P/2, then Head of the QRPLUMB program, its spirit and founder, was not advised even a day in advance of the planned closure. P/2 said he suspects that history may be repeating itself). Another possible explanation offered by P/2, which he admitted was a long shot at best, was that the United States policy makers are looking into the future and see the need to maintain the integrity of the USSR as a bulwark against someday-strong and hostile China. Hence the nationalities must be "dumped."

5. I told P/2 that while I understand his feelings and disappointment, I cannot comment on the issue because of my position. But I assured him that it was my strong believe that if funding is ended, it will not be abrupt, that consideration will be made for the welfare of its employees and for the project's cover. P/2 did not look too re-assured, but he commented that a meeting between [] and "a high-level official from the sponsor" will take place soon. After some additional conversation along personal lines, I bid P/2 good-bye and departed for Washington.