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31 October 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Justice Department Interest in QRPLUMB/2

Following are highlights of the QRPLUMB/2 (P/2) case relating to the investigation by the Office of Special Investigations (OSI), Department of Justice:

- By memo to OSG, dated 4 October 1991, OSI informed the Agency that they intend to initiate inquiries with the governments of Germany, Poland and the USSR re P/2's activities during World War II (Attachment A).

- On 16 August 1985, two Agency staffers (E [redacted] and [redacted], then with OGC) orally alerted Mr. Neil Sher, Chief of OSI, to Agency involvement with P/2 and QRPLUMB. Mr. Sher agreed to protect the secrecy of QRPLUMB if and when the investigation of P/2 resumed and promised that OSI would inform CIA of any new developments in P/2's case. This agreement was re-confirmed in December 1985 when OSI informed CIA that it planned to approach the Polish government on the case. We do not know whether OSI actually did approach the Polish government. OSI's October 4, 1991 memo is in keeping with our agreement re any new development in the case.

- A review of P/2's 201-file and interviews of Agency staffers familiar with P/2, revealed no evidence to substantiate OSI or GAO allegations that P/2 was responsible for OUN's alleged actions in the Western Ukraine during World War II.

FILE BACKGROUND:

- P/2 was one of the leaders of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), an underground political and paramilitary movement working for the liberation of Ukraine, from Poland until 1939, then fighting against the Germans and the Soviets.

- In 1941, the GESTAPO issued a warrant to arrest P/2 (Attachment B); P/2's wife and baby-daughter spent the whole war incarcerated in Rauensbruck concentration camp for women; in 1951 U.S. State Department took the OUN off its list of "organizations inimical to U.S. interests."

- 1948-52, P/2 was the focal point for CIA's agent infiltration program. OUN members under P/2's control were trained by CIA and were air-dropped into Soviet Ukraine for FI/CI operations in

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conjunction with Ukrainian anti-Soviet guerrillas operations. All men were lost thanks to Soviet agent Kim Philby.

- In 1949, for security reasons, CIA helped P/2 immigrate to the United States. In 1953, at CIA's initiative, P/2 founded and became the head of a major CA project, QRPLUMB (formerly QRDYNAMIC), to target Ukrainian audiences. The project was terminated in September 1990 after 38 years of successful CA operations.

- In 1985, OSI began to look into P/2's background based on allegations that he may have collaborated with the Germans and as a leader of the OUN during World War II, he may have been responsible for the OUN's alleged war crimes. Other than a few allegations, possibly politically motivated by hostile Ukrainian emigre informants, OSI has not pursued the case since 1985.

- In 1985, GAO conducted its own investigation of alleged former Nazi collaborators who reportedly were assisted by U.S. intelligence agencies to immigrate into the U.S. The unclassified report with vague allegations against P/2, among others, was made public. Stories appeared in The New York Times, The Village Voice and other papers which threatened to compromise the QRPLUMB project.

- In 1977, P/2 retired from QRPLUMB project. He is now 78 years old and in poor health. Aside from potential security considerations (possible exposure of CIA support of the QRPLUMB project for 43 years), there is also the human factor to be considered.

- Perhaps DDO should be alerted to subject OSI memorandum.

Attachments:

- A. OSI Memo
- B. Search Warrant

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