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25 May 1961

1. Lubomyr ORTYNSKYJ arrived in Vienna on the orders of the OUN (Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists) of which he was a member, in January 1941. At that time the OUN, under the leadership of Stefan BANDERA, maintained in Vienna III a headquarters at Landstrasser-Hauptstrasse 58. This headquarters was concerned with maintenance of contact between the OUN and the Abwehr. Chief of this headquarters on the Ukrainian side was fnu GARRUSEVYCH, who died in Sachsenhausen in 1943. He was ORTYNSKYJ's direct superior. A Rittmeister fnu RIKOJARY acted as liaison man on behalf of the Abwehr Sektor Ost. RIKOJARY, the son of an Austrian colonel, had spent a considerable amount of time in the Ukraine, earlier playing a role between Admiral CANARIS and Colonel KONOVALETS of the Ukrainian nationalist movement. He in turn was in contact with a Major fnu FRIEDRICH of the Austrian intelligence service, which was left largely in fact by the Abwehr in the early days of the war. The Austrians were considered by the Abwehr as well qualified to deal with Eastern European questions because of their historical involvement there. ORTYNSKYJ believed that Colonel LAHOUSEN of the Abwehr was in over-all charge at this time.

2. ORTYNSKYJ (coming from German-occupied Poland) was sent to Vienna to be incorporated into a team which was to organize former Ukrainian prisoners of war held in Austria who were captured as members of the Polish Army during the German invasion in 1939. By the end of 1940 most of these prisoners had been released to work in Austrian factories. In about 1941 the OUN got instructions from the Abwehr to prepare its teams for military training. The ultimate destination of these teams was not made known, but rumors were rife to the effect that a German-Soviet war was in the offing. It was the Abwehr's intention and that of some elements of the German Army to use nationalist units to break down the Soviet Army into its nationality factions and to turn the Ukraine, as an example, into an anti-Soviet ally. GARRUSEVYCH and RIKOJARY developed doctrine along these lines and compiled personality lists for future use. This work was held highly secret by the Abwehr and was concealed from the Gestapo and SD, which were not in sympathy--nor was the NSDAP.

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- 2 -

3. Under this program three to four hundred western Ukrainians were recruited, trained and put into military unit teams. About fifty men were sent to Rumania for holding near the border in about May 1941. The rest followed as soon as the war began. These Ukrainian groups wore old Slovak Army uniforms and Ukrainian insignia, as the Ukrainians did not want to be taken for German troops by their countrymen. By August 1941 these units had reached Pervomysk. They were engaged in propaganda and political work with the Ukrainian populace. Suddenly the situation changed; BANDERA was arrested by the Germans and the Ukrainian units were ordered back to Austria. This was the time of the BANDERA-MELNYK split. ORTYNSKYJ was at this time a platoon leader. In Austria near Mayerling the Ukrainians were surrounded and disarmed at gun point by the German Army. They were held as prisoners with the Abwehr standing by helpless, knowing that what was being done was stupid.

4. By September the Ukrainians were released and on 10 September ORTYNSKYJ was sent as a courier to Berlin to report to BANDERA on the situation. He travelled in civilian clothes under Abwehr orders. He reported to BANDERA and STETSKO until 14 September 1941, when he returned to Vienna. There he was arrested in another mop up by the Gestapo and imprisoned for a year. This time the Abwehr was unable to help him. At the end of a year ORTYNSKYJ was released and returned to Vienna to study. In 1943 he fled a new mass arrest, going to Breslau, where he was hidden by OUN members. It was in Breslau that ORTYNSKYJ, on orders of his OUN superior Major FIDELNY, joined the Waffen SS Division Galitzia.

5. It should be assumed then, that the card in question from Austrian police files, which lists ORTYNSKYJ as an agent, refers to the above-described involvement with Austrian elements of the Abwehr. As such, it is entirely compatible with ORTYNSKYJ's affiliation with the OUN and its anti-Soviet activities. The same opinion holds for ORTYNSKYJ's service with the Waffen SS Division Galitzia, in which he served under orders from the OUN against the Soviet regime.

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