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24 MAY 1961

TO: Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Attention: Mr. Raymond F. Farrell

FROM: Deputy Director, Plans

SUBJECT: ORTYNSKI, Lubowyr Crest

FILE IN 7

1. Reference is made to the name check request, file No. A 10 499 692, subject as above, whose name you desired checked against the files of this office. The files contain the following additional information concerning Subject.

2. A copy of an index card from the Austrian Police Files entitled "Austrian Agent Index up to and including 1944" listed Lubowyr ORTYNSKI, born 7 June 1919 in Mychalowyci as "active for the I.S. office" in Vienna and to be "used against Russia."

3. Another report, dated 2 July 1960 from a reliable source states that Dr. Lybomyr ORTYNSKI was a former member of the German SS Division in Galicia (a German-sponsored Waffen SS unit formed with Ukrainian personnel). He returned to Salzburg, Austria, from a Russian POW camp at the end of World War II.

4. Subject was queried on 24 May 1961 by a reliable source concerning paragraphs 2 and 3 above. The following is his account of his activities during the time period covered in the referenced paragraphs:

a. ORTYNSKI stated that in January 1941 he was ordered by the OUN (Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists) to report to the headquarters of that organization in Vienna, Austria. The OUN headquarters was then under the leadership of GABOROVICH, fnm, and was concerned with the maintenance of contact between the OUN and the Abwehr. One Rittmeister

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fm RIKOJANY, a reported by ORTYNENYJ, was the liaison man between the OUN and the Abwehr Sektor Ost. RIKOJANY, in turn, was in contact with a Major FRIEDRICH of the Austrian intelligence service who was responsible to Colonel LAHODEN, a high official of the Abwehr.

b. ORTYNENYJ said that he had been sent to Vienna to organize former Ukrainian prisoners of war held in Austria who had been captured as members of the Polish Army during the German invasion of Poland in 1939. The OUN, he stated, had instructions from the Abwehr in 1941 to prepare teams for military training for possible use by the German Army. These nationalist elements, he further said, were to try to break down the Soviet Army and turn Ukrainian elements into anti-Soviet allies. The leadership of the OUN and RIKOJANY developed this doctrine and compiled personality lists along these lines. ORTYNENYJ reported that this was kept highly secret by the Abwehr and kept from the Gestapo, the SD (Security Service) and the NSDAP. (National Socialist German Worker's Party)

c. The program mentioned above eventually recruited about three to four hundred Ukrainians who were organized into military unit teams. These teams, using Slovak uniforms and Ukrainian insignia, ORTYNENYJ said, were sent to Rumania, and began political and propaganda work with the Ukrainian population as soon as the German-Soviet war began. However, suddenly in August 1941, BANDEIRA, the leader of the OUN was arrested by the Germans and the Ukrainian units were ordered back to Austria, disarmed by the German Army and all members taken prisoner. ORTYNENYJ stated that the Abwehr, although realizing the stupidity of this act, was helpless.

d. ORTYNENYJ reported that the arrested Ukrainians were released in September 1941 and he, himself, was sent by the OUN with Abwehr help as a courier to Berlin to report to BANDEIRA. He said he returned from this mission on 14 September 1941, but, on his arrival in Vienna, he was arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned for a year. The Abwehr could do nothing at this time to effect his release. At the end of one year, ORTYNENYJ said, he was released and returned to Vienna to study. He fled Vienna in 1943 to avoid a new mass arrest and returned to Breslau where he was hidden by OUN members. ORTYNENYJ stated that it was in Breslau that he received orders from his OUN superior, Major PIDHAINY, to join the Ukrainian Waffen SS division, "Galitsia."

e. ORTYNENYJ contended that his activities were compatible with his affiliation with the OUN and its Ukrainian nationalist anti-Soviet activity. NOT TO BE DISSEMINATED FURTHER OR EXHIBITED TO ANYONE WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

CSCI-3/765,884
Encl. 1 name check

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RID/CR: JWE/AB/dmcg
Based On: EGSA-9949