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SECRET TO HQMA 10828

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19 July 1952

Report on Antonovich-Zarechnyi and the
so-called Belorussian Liberation Movement

This undertaking cannot actually be called a movement, since no new ideas or conception entered into its founding. It would more properly be called a "diversion", with which Astrovski is trying to break up the ranks of the BBR. Since Astrovski is a master of intrigue, he has had some success with his diversion in the past five years.

A tendency toward stagnation can be noted in all the emigrant groups, and more so among the Belorussians, since they are the poorest materially. And when there is some kind of action it is, for perfectly understandable reasons, kept dark. But action is taken openly around "Lt. Col." Antonovich Zarechnyi, proclamations are issued, military units are organized, officers schools are opened, and so forth. Of course intelligent and politically informed persons are scornful of this kind of thing, but the masses, and particularly the youth, are attracted.

Zarechnyi's personality is rather dark and enigmatic. Despite all of my efforts, I have not been able to find out anything about his past. No one among the former officers of the former Belorussian army knows him or has even heard of him. His real name is not known, Antonovich and Zarechnyi being pseudonyms. I assume that he was a Soviet officer, if he was an officer at all, because this is evident from his proclamations and orders. They are written in bolshevik style and with marked Russisms. Zarechnyi's style is not very literate, and he makes grammatical as well as stylistic errors.

[Postscript: July 24, 1952. I have lately received a report on Zarechnyi: His real name is Lyubovik Golubovich. He comes from Soviet Belorussia. He has studied law. Officer and judge in the NKVD. He was in the Vlasov movement during the war and collaborated with the S.S.

These two institutions, the NKVD and SS, do not call for further comment.

I first encountered Zarechnyi's activities in November of last year, when Bortnik showed me a circular that he had been sent. The circular, which was unsigned, was an appeal to Belorussians to unite in the struggle for independence. I thought that it had been authored by that graphomaniac Popko, but later, when I saw other material that had been signed by Zarechnyi, I believed that he must have written the first as well.

Zarechnyi's first public appearance took place March 9, 1952, in Manchester, England, where a conference of former Belorussian servicemen had been called. There were 75 people at the conference, including women and children. The summons to this conference had been signed: Maj. L. A. Zarechnyi. When he had been in England before, he had called himself Antonovich. I managed to obtain the protocol of that meeting and I have talked to some of the people who attended it.

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...ime of the conference was taken up by Zarechnyi and his friends, Abramchik and Ragulya, threatening to have them shot in the future if they were selling out the Belorussians to the Americans. Zarechnyi then said that he was working with the English staff and counter-intelligence and that they had promised him every help; he then invited all of those present to join the ranks of the military organization under the name of the Belorussian Liberation Movement (BVL). At the close he said that this organization would be politically subordinate to the Belorussian Central Council (BTSR), with Astrovski at the head. Only 15 persons signed up.

On March 25 Astrovski issued a decree making Zarechnyi a lieutenant colonel. At the same time 5 captains, 3 senior lieutenants, and 4 lieutenants were created.

On April 3rd the staff was organized. It consisted of L. N. Zarechnyi, Chief of Staff; Ch. Sen'ko, assistant to the chief of staff for the military organization section; B. Sushko, assistant to the chief of staff for the operational section; B. Ryibak, political and propaganda unit; Kastyukevich, Mikanorev, Veayalkovski, Gryib, and Dub were consultants on staff sections. Eight BVL groups were organized in England.

Structure of the BVL staff:

1. There is a staff representative in each state (up to now, that means only England).
2. Sections-10 groups.
3. Groups-three to five persons (no more).

A marked characteristic of this organization is the practice of using secret informers to spy on one another. Thus, point 15 of a Staff Order issued May 18th of this year reads: "The section chief will remain informed of the political views of his subordinates by way of his agents and he will report his findings to the authorized staff deputy. Anyone who has relations with inimical elements or who works with other agencies against the BVL is considered politically unreliable." It is worth noting that "inimical elements" up to now have been Abramchik, Ragulya, and others who have collaborated with the Americans.

I am informed on matters relating to headquarters, because I have two people there who report to me.

In England there is an officers' training course which is held two evenings a week. The course is on a very low level, of course, but its attraction keeps it going.

The attraction that Zarechnyi's organization holds for young people is understandable, but it is harder to understand why he has the support of the

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There is the following evidence that Zarechnyi does have some contact among the English:

1. He himself boasts about it.
2. When he was in England and had to go from Manchester to Bradford, the English police let him have a car.
3. His address: Zarechny, c/o Mr. Beck (22a), Langenfeld Rd. Mr. Beck is rumored to be an Englishman.

Furthermore, there are the not inconsiderable expenditures of the organization and of Zarechnyi himself, Astrovski's trip from Argentina to Europe, the publishing of a paper, and the like, whose source has not been made clear.

One other characteristic episode occurred: In the middle of June, Bortnik, as the president of the Belorussian National Committee in Germany, received a letter from the AVN (Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations) requesting either the appointment of a Belorussian delegate to the AVN (to take the place of Dr. Stankevich, who left the AVN shortly after the arrest of Mina S.) or that he refuse to participate. The letter specified a very short period as the time for which an answer would be awaited. This seemed rather suspicious, but it was cleared up within a few days. Zarechnyi was in Munich, trying to get his organization accepted into the AVN. I think the English, who have done favors for the AVN, may have recommended Zarechnyi to the AVN administration. This could account for the brief time allowed for Bortnik to reply.

On June 18 Zarechnyi was at Don Levine's and asked the latter to be allowed to participate in the Sternberg conference. Don Levine did not agree to this, and his secretary absolutely refused to allow Zarechnyi to attend the conference.

The willingness of the English to work with such people as Astrovski and Zarechnyi may be due to the fact that no one from the BNR has approached the English to establish connection with them. I do know that Abranchik was opposed to a double play with the British and the Americans, but an empty space has been left which Astrovski and Zarechnyi are now trying to fill.

signed: []

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