

To: President of the Byelorussian Central Council, Prof. Ostrovski

Subject: Report on the Byelorussian underground movement
(date of information, August 1, 1952)

Date: August 27, 1952

The Secret Operations Section of Supreme Headquarters of the Byelorussian Liberation Movement has received the following information, dated August 1st, 1952, through written communication and courier service, on the Byelorussian anti-bolshevik underground movement.

1. The Partisan Movement

The Byelorussian partisans ceased open resistance to the Soviet government in about the spring of 1946. The reasons were as follows:

First, the Soviet authorities at that time intensified their attack against the partisans, even enlisting the services of the regular army in the mopping up operations in the forests and killing anyone who was found.

Second, the population living in the 50 km. strip along the Soviet-Polish border was deported, as well as those members of the population that had any contact with Byelorussian partisans. The area that was cleared of population is now occupied either by the MVD border guard troops or by parts of the regular army.

Third, people were discouraged in their struggle against such a strong enemy by the hopeless international situation, with the Americans "flirting" with the Bolsheviks.

The remaining partisans were therefore compelled to discontinue overt activity and to go underground to await a favorable development in the international arena.

There is no information on our partisan leadership that has been dispatched to Byelorussia (Gen. Vitushko, Bagdanovich, and Maj. Rodsko). Vitushko has appeared in the city twice -- the first time at the end of 1946, and the second time at the beginning of 1947.

Prof. O. A., whom Gen. Vitushko visited at that time, was not able to furnish any information about his whereabouts, and it is not certain that Vitushko is still living.

2. The Underground Movement

When he returned from reconnaissance in the enemy's rear, Capt. Vasily S. reported the following on the underground movement:

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"The Byelorussian partisans who went underground fully legalized their existence and they are continuing their activities while working in various positions in the government and in industry. Many of them are in the army or in the State Security troops. For instance, the former commander of a partisan battalion, Capt. Ya., now serves at Corps headquarters; a captain in the Byelorussian Border Guard is now working for the government as director of some institution; Lt. K. is serving with the army Corps (DOK in the city P.).

"Officials in the state security agencies, which are headed by Gen. R., who is the Minister of State Security (a Byelorussian nationalist), have been very helpful to the partisans in their efforts to become legalized. Gen. R.'s uncle, Ok....., who lives with Gen. E., is very sympathetic to the underground movement and he personally, with the help of Gen. R., saved the aforementioned officers and gave them the opportunity to acquire legal existence and responsible positions."

Our intelligence group leader, Capt. Vasily S., saw Capt. Ya., a staff officer of the State Security Service, in July and found out that Capt. Ya. directs the underground organization Vernost Rodina, whose personnel was recruited exclusively from among Byelorussians -- former partisans and servicemen from the Byelorussian armed forces. This organization now numbers a few hundred people (we have the exact figure and can give it to you on request). We also know the address and place of employment of the organization's director; this information is in the records of the Secret Operations Section.

A second, less powerful group, is headed by a captain of the Byelorussian Border Guard, Gen. P. It is mainly composed of the population that was deported from Byelorussia in 1944 to 1946. We have the leader's address in our records and can furnish it if necessary.

Tasks of the underground movement. The largest underground organization known to us, the Vernost Rodina, which is led by Capt. Ya., is a military insurgent organization, which sees as its aim the organizing of armed struggle against the bolsheviks in case of war between the USSR and the West. With the onset of war, this organization is supposed to go to Byelorussia and to undertake partisan warfare against the bolsheviks.

The second group, composed of the local population, has the character of a party-mass organization. Its aim is the organization of party cells and of self-government apparatus in places liberated from the bolsheviks.

The needs of the underground movement. The underground movement suffers an acute need of the means of secret communication and of financial support.

Wireless sets and invisible ink are needed for secret communication, so that information can pass regularly between headquarters and the individual agent groups working on the other side.

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The main financial lack is of means for the organization of communication between Byelorussia and Poland, and between Poland and the West, where our headquarters are located.

Reserves for the underground movement. There are more than 400,000 Byelorussians living in Poland, the overwhelming majority of whom are fiercely patriotic and anti-bolshevik and who regard their stay in Poland as temporary emigration. These people were not forcibly deported, but fled from the bolsheviks, thinking that at the end of the war Poland would become an independent nation. Actually Poland was converted into a republic of the USSR, but nonetheless there was the opportunity to hide under the cover of "Polish citizenship", which is what these Byelorussians were until 1939.

The best areas for such Byelorussians to settle turned out to be the territory formerly held by the Germans. The Byelorussians live in the Belostok, Belaya Podlyaski, Avgustov, and Savalk areas, since this territory was cut off from Byelorussia, but the population was not subjected to re-settlement or repatriation.

3. Liaison between Byelorussia and Poland

We have several strong points in Byelorussia, where people whom we know to be patriots and anti-bolsheviks are living. There has been no contact other than written between them since the spring of 1948.

Chief of Supreme Headquarters
of the Byelorussian Liberation Movement
and Director of the Secret Operations Section

(Lt. Col. ^MZarechnyi