

SECRET

DFB 3205



United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO  
FILE NO. 65-58295

Date: January 18, 1954

BY COURIER SERVICE

To: Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
2430 E Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

JFH:m: John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: BYELORUSSIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL

DOCUMENT MICROFILM SERVICE  
MICROFILMED:

Reference is made to your communication dated December 23, 1953, your reference number CS D5-14247, wherein you requested information concerning the Byelorussian National Council and the following subsidiary member groups:

- Union of Byelorussians in America
- Byelorussian-American Association
- Byelorussian-American National Council
- Byelorussian Youth Association in the United States
- Association of Byelorussian Students
- Union of White Ruthenian Scouts
- Association of Byelorussian Combatants and Veterans
- Byelorussian Women's Association
- White Ruthenian/Byelorussian Institute of Arts and Sciences
- White Ruthenian Medical Association
- White Ruthenian Bibliography Service
- Kryukian Scientific Society
- White Ruthenian Journalists' Association
- Byelorussian Autocephalic Orthodox Church
- White Ruthenian National Center
- Byelorussian National Center
- White Ruthenian Catholic Association

Transmitted herewith is a copy of the report of Special Agent John F. Shindler dated November 6, 1951, at New York, entitled "Cossack, Espionage - R."

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ENCLOSURE

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All other information concerning the above organizations has previously been furnished to you. In addition to my memorandum dated March 21, 1952, which you mentioned in your referenced communication, your attention is also called to the following memoranda and reports:

Memorandum dated February 5, 1952, entitled "Russian, Byelorussian, Ukrainian and Relevant Minority Groups in the United States."

Memorandum dated February 15, 1952, entitled "Byelorussian Central Council (BCR)."

Memorandum dated January 24, 1952, entitled "Union of Vlasov Veterans - Vlasovskoye Obyedineniye; et al."

DFB-31190

Report of Special Agent John W. Shindler, dated November 12, 1953, at New York, entitled "Byelorussian Democratic Central Council in U.S.A., aka., Registration Act."

You may also desire to check the records of the Department of State concerning the above organizations.

This is furnished to you for your confidential use and should not be considered as a clearance or nonclearance of these organizations.

Attachment

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK

FILE NO.

RS

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
NEW YORK	11/6/51	6/21, 22; 10/18, 19, 20, 24, 25/51	JOHN W. SHINDLER
TITLE		CHARACTER OF CASE	
COSACK		ESPIONAGE - R	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:			
<p>Two competing Byelorussian organizations were formed in February, 1951: Byelorussian American Association and Byelorussian American Congress. Both oppose Communism and desire an independent and democratic Byelorussian country. History and affiliations set forth. Other new organizations are St. Seraphin Foundation, The Association of Former Servicemen of the Soviet Army, Russian People's Movement, which grew out of the Korensky League, and American Committee for Liberation of Peoples of Russia. Archbishop ADAM and ANNA THORP of NYC contacted members of Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C. in July, 1951 and are active in the PROC in NYC. Informants have no information regarding Soviet penetration of White Russian organizations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- P* -</p> <p>DETAILS:</p> <p><u>Byelorussian Americans</u></p> <p>Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, provided the following information on March 23, 1951:</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5-Bureau (65-58295) 1-Chicago (65-3283) (Info.) 1-Detroit (Info.) (Copies Contd. - See Next Page) 3 New York (65-14900)		This is an FBI investigative report and makes no recommendations clearance or disapproval.	

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Byelorussian Independent Popular Christian Movement  
(BIPCHR), which has a strong religious trend and is  
composed mainly of Roman Catholics. It is led by Reverend  
(Dr.) CHASLAW SIPOVICH of London, England.

All three of these parties advocate the  
independence of Byelorussia and a democratic republic.

The Byelorussian Greek Orthodox Autoccephalous  
Church, headed by Archbishop SERGE CIOFOTENKO of Australia,  
and Bishop VASILICH TAMASHCHYK of Munich, Germany, supports  
the policies of the Byelorussian National Council.

The Byelorussian Central Council (BCR)

The Byelorussian Central Council is a competing  
organization of the Byelorussian National Council, mentioned  
above, and was established by a Byelorussian Congress held  
in Munich in 1944 under the German occupation. RADISLAW  
ASTRUSKI (sometimes spelled ASTROWSKI) and GEORGE  
SOBULEUSKI were the founders. With the defeat of the  
Germans in World War II, ASTRUSKI discontinued his activity  
and fled to Germany where the Byelorussian Central Council  
again became active in 1947 in uniting many Byelorussian  
displaced persons, mainly from Soviet Byelorussia.

ASTRUSKI'S assistants were EUGENE KALEVICH,  
JOHN KUCHIHLUSKA, MOISEL SHADNIOV, JOHN LASHCHYNKI,  
ALEXANDER RUSSEK and others, many of whom are now living  
in the United States.

This organization is not as extensive as the  
Byelorussian National Council and each organization makes  
accusations against the other. The Byelorussian Central  
Council, sometimes called the ASTRUSKI Group, once accused  
the Byelorussian National Council of betrayal of Byelo-  
russian ideals to the Poles, since the latter organization

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was allegedly opposed to the Polish Government in exile.

The Byelorussian National Council accused the Byelorussian Central Council of cooperating with the Germans and of being pro-Russian in the cultural and political field. The Byelorussian National Council now admits that the Byelorussian Central Council is now anti-Communist, although some of its members may have cooperated with the Russian Communists in the past.

Just as in Europe there existed two Byelorussian organizations, there are two in the United States, which follow similar lines of division, the Byelorussian American Association (ABRANCHIK Group) and the Byelorussian American Congress (ASTROUSKI Group). These organizations were formed in February, 1951 and the followers of the ASTROUSKI Group are mainly from Eastern Byelorussia or refugees from the Soviet Union. The ABRANCHIK Group are mainly from Western Byelorussia and Poland. Both groups are anti-Communist and support the idea of an independent and democratic Byelorussian Republic in Europe.

The Byelorussian American Association  
(ABRANCHIK Group)

The Byelorussian American National Council was organized in 1941 in Chicago, Illinois under JOSEPH TORONKO, who had previously founded the short-lived Byelorussian Society in Chicago in the early 1920's and had published a few issues of "Byelorusskaya Trybuna" (Byelorussian Tribunal) during World War II. The Byelorussian American National Council followed a pro-Soviet policy, which changed with new leadership and with the large influx into the United States of displaced persons, who organized local groups and societies.

At the present the Byelorussian American National