



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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No. 102

Embassy, Bern, Switzerland
June 15, 1949.

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SUBJECT: Jaroslav Stetzko

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON

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SIR:

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I have the honor to refer to Department's restricted airmen 4-187, dated May 27, 1949, Munich secret telegram No. 376, dated June 15, 1949, and Munich dispatch No. 111 dated April 13, 1949, entitled "Disloyal Persons Demonstrate Against Soviet Union in Munich," and to report as follows on the personality of Jaroslav STETZKO and on the "Anti-Soviet Bloc of Nations" which he heads.

Jaroslav Stetzko, alias (pseudonym) KAPROVITSCH, alias Miroslav P. HROBOSKY, was born in the village of Lysychyn (Polish Ukraine) on January 19, 1912. He completed junior and high school in Tarnopol in 1929, after which he studied at the Universities of Lvov and Krakow. During his university period he became a member of the OUN (Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists) and worked in its headquarters at Lvov. Shortly thereafter Stetzko illegally published propaganda tracts against the Soviets.

In the 1932-35 famine, Stetzko organized an anti-Soviet demonstration in Lvov which resulted in the assassination of the Soviet Consul General there. Until 1934 Stetzko engaged in the smuggling and distribution of anti-Soviet literature in the Soviet Ukraine. In 1934 he was sentenced, together with Stefan BANDERA, a violent anti-Soviet, to 5 years imprisonment for conspiracy against the Polish government. They were released by general amnesty in 1936, and immediately took up their anti-Soviet activities.

In 1937, Eugen KRAVCHUK, then leader of the OUN, appointed Stetzko to take charge of the "ideological-political" department of OUN headquarters. When war began, OUN was occupied by Polish insurgents. Stetzko, on June 30, 1941, proclaimed an independent Ukrainian state, with himself as Prime Minister. The Germans offered this position to government dissolved; but Stetzko and Bandera (who had in the meantime become head of the OUN with Stetzko as his deputy) resisted and on July 13, 1941, were arrested by the Gestapo in Lvov. After a short period of imprisonment in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp they were transferred to Berlin,

where

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Munich
Despatch No. 182
June 16, 1949

where the Germans asked them to form a "Ukrainian National Committee" to fight on the German side. They refused and were kept in prison. Shortly thereafter they escaped with the aid of OUN agents and lived in Krakow, Bratislava and Prague. In April 1945 they were again found and arrested by the Gestapo. The transport which was taking them to Germany, however, was attacked by an American plane and Stetzko was wounded. Bandera escaped. In June of 1945 Stetzko was taken to the American Zone of Germany by agents of the OUN where he subsequently met Bandera, Stetzko, Bandera, and a certain Taras ~~SCHUMERKA~~ formed themselves into a "council of three" which operates as the supreme command of both the OUN and the UPA (Ukrainian Anti-Soviet Army). In April 1949 Stetzko was elected president of the ANI (Anti-Bolshevist Bloc of Nations) which position he still holds.

Stetzko, who is armed with several false documents and who is extremely well hidden in Munich and therefore difficult to contact is now stateless and gives as his occupation "publicist." His religion is Greek-Catholic. The ANI, which, as reported in Munich's despatch No. 111, cited above, held an anti-Soviet demonstration in Munich on April 10, 1949 is composed of Ukrainians, Bulgarians, Slovaks, Hungarians, Estonians, Georgians, and others from the satellite nations. By far, the greatest support of the ANI is from the dissident Ukrainian displaced persons here. Obviously the ANI is tied up with the OUN and the UPA both of which organizations still exist and according to information given the Consulate General have been continuously engaged in subversive activity and occasionally even guerrilla warfare in the Ukraine. The Consulate General has been given to understand that Stetzko has powerful backing in the Ukraine.

American Intelligence agencies here originally felt that Stetzko might be a Communist agent masquerading as an anti-Soviet. This attitude has changed completely and Stetzko is looked upon as completely anti-Soviet, as is Bandera, whose present whereabouts is unknown. As far as can be determined here, Stetzko has no direct connection with American agencies. The fact of his writing a letter to Mr. Thorp is rather unusual since Stetzko surrounds himself with so much secrecy and so many precautions as to make such a move appear unwise. In any case the Consulate General feels, as stated in its secret telegram No. 376, cited above, that a reply by Mr. Thorp or by the Department to Stetzko's letter would be ill-advised. It is felt that since Stetzko is undoubtedly sought after by Soviet agents and since he is one of the most important and most active anti-Soviets here, a reply to him of any kind would be injudicious in that should it be discovered or should Stetzko feel from the contents of such a letter that he has official American support, the Department might be placed in an embarrassing position.

Very truly yours,

San E. Woods,
American Consul General.

Original to Department
Copy to CAP, Mr. Trivers
Copies (2) to USPOLAD, Berlin
Copy to Mr. Calhoun, Berlin
Copy to Supervising Consulate General, Frankfurt

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