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19 May 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SR/3

FROM: [ ]

SUBJECT: Meeting with Walter DUBENYCK re Yaroslav STETKO,  
0900 to 0950 hours, 15 May 1958

Summary:

1. Although I did not actually meet Yaroslav STETKO for reasons mentioned below, the following conclusions can be reached on the basis of my conversation with DUBENYCK:

a. STETKO desires to meet with the AIS. (This would seem to be a departure from his former stand and might mean that he in fact is no longer sponsored financially by SMOER.)

b. STETKO apparently is anxious to discuss presumably the operational and GR potential of the Waalen groups (stemming from the Soviet Union and living in the Near East) who are associated with the AIS of which STETKO is the head.

2. STETKO may be in the United States for a few months and can be reached through DUBENYCK at any time.

3. In my opinion STETKO should be met by qualified officers who would debrief and assess him. If he is not met I feel this would be to the detriment of the United States position since STETKO represents—in his capacity of Chief of AIS and second in command of the ZCb-008—highly diversified and strongly anti-Communist groupings which would feel at least puzzled if we did not accept contact with as well-known an anti-Communist as STETKO.

4. Furthermore, since the matter has gone so far, it would be a personal affront to STETKO if he were not met; what this might mean, sometime in the future when the services of such a man and the organizations which he represents are needed, would be difficult to judge at this time.

Comments:

5. The bona fides as provided by Chief, SR/3 (whom DUBENYCK knows personally) were sufficient to convince DUBENYCK that I was a member of the United States Government, but he had to be reassured that my real name was [ ] that I was from the Defense Department (OSD-050) and [ ] from [ ] for the record: I am documented in the name of [ ]

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the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Office of Special Operations, and should any private or governmental checks in regard to [redacted] be instituted I would be covered by the Defense Department. [redacted]

Meeting:

6. Immediately upon meeting with DUSHNYCK in his room at the Roger Smith Hotel (Room 1006), I asked him what arrangements he had made as well as what the reaction of STETZKO was to this proposed meeting. DUSHNYCK stated that STETZKO would very much like to contact the AIS and discuss the operational capabilities of the Mbalan groupings living in the Near East, who are associated with the ARN. Secondly, I determined that STETZKO was accompanied by (fnu) BILINSKY - one of the editors of the Ukrainian Catholic newspaper Meridian. In view of the fact that BILINSKY would almost unquestionably have recognized me for myself rather than "Dr. WOLF" and that it would not have been politic to have separated STETZKO and BILINSKY, I decided not to meet STETZKO as previously planned. This decision I did not impart to DUSHNYCK until toward the end of our meeting.

7. After speaking with DUSHNYCK on matters pertaining to him (DUSHNYCK), I informed him of my decision not to meet with STETZKO and this decision I covered as follows: STETZKO is an important man and he desires to talk on matters which are out of my field of interest; consequently, in order that the meeting come out to the best advantage of everyone, I would not meet him but I would see to it that properly qualified officers see him sometime in the future. In connection with this I determined that DUSHNYCK could act as a channel to STETZKO during the latter's probable two months stay in the United States.

8. I told DUSHNYCK that I would telephone him within an hour and let him know whether such a meeting could be organized the same day, or whether it would have to be postponed to a later date. At 1055 hours I telephoned DUSHNYCK at his hotel room and informed him that no meeting could be scheduled for today. In answer to his direct question as to whether a meeting between STETZKO and the AIS would actually materialize I stated that "in all probability" he would be contacted through DUSHNYCK within the next two weeks or so.

9. In view of the fact that I was not going to see STETZKO personally I asked DUSHNYCK to pose the following questions to STETZKO and the answers to these questions would be gotten from DUSHNYCK at an unspecified future date in New York, either by myself or by some individual or individuals who will present themselves as coming from me. The same bona fides would be used by anyone desiring contact with STETZKO. The questions were:

- a. The purpose of STETZKO coming to the United States and ZCh-OUN's and his intentions in the United States.
- b. ZCh-OUN's intentions in the United States.
- c. The strength of the ZCh-OUN in the United States and worldwide.

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- d. ZCh-OUN assets and potential (particularly potential) in the Ukraine.
- e. BANDERA's intentions in the United States.
- f. SIEZKO and ZCh-OUN intentions regarding uniting the Ukrainian emigration.

10. Some of the above questions were obvious and needed no explanation. The following were the exceptions:

a. DUBENICK asked whether BANDERA will be permitted to come to the United States. I told him that from the "operational elements" of the United States Government there was no objection to BANDERA coming to the United States. In view of this man's checkered past, however, the determining agencies in regard to his immigration would be the State Department and the Immigration Service.

b. DUBENICK desired to know whether by "uniting the emigration" was meant uniting the nationalist wing. My answer to this was that we would be interested in finding out SIEZKO's intentions regarding uniting the Ukrainian emigration not in the sense of welding them into one political entity but rather in a way which would permit the entire Ukrainian emigration to present a united front on major issues regardless of their internal politicking.

c. In view of the fact that some of the above questions could be construed as reflecting a negative attitude toward SIEZKO and his organization, I pointed out that such was not the intent as is evidenced by the existing facts that SIEZKO is in the United States for the first time, and that the United States government is interested in talking with him.

11. Because, according to DUBENICK, SIEZKO stayed an extra day in Washington in anticipation of a meeting with me, I asked DUBENICK to apologize sincerely to SIEZKO for me and to assure SIEZKO that the only reason that I backed out of the meeting was that in my opinion he should talk to individuals completely qualified in the field which he desired to discuss, so that he would not waste his valuable time by talking to me and then repeat the very same thing to someone else at a later date.

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