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Station: Heidelberg Registry No.: MGH-442  
Reference: AB-200 Report No.: HSC-4  
Source: Kilkenny<sup>ch</sup> Report Date: 26 Dec 1946  
Evaluation: B-3 Information Date: End Nov 1946  
Subject: Nikolai Avtonomov<sup>CS</sup> Date Info Received: 30 Nov 1946  
*Ch. R. Zeiger*

1. Source's attention was called to Avtonomov at the beginning of 1946 by Father Zeiger (special adviser to the Vatican Mission to USFET), Cardinal Faulhaber, and others. A previous report on Avtonomov's activities was submitted in June 1946 (LP/1-123).

2. Avtonomov's operations provoked so much suspicion that charges were brought against him by various circles in the Munich area, especially the Russian Orthodox bishops. These charges eventually reached the Congregation of the Oriental Church, which had originally supplied his patent as head of all Catholics of the Slavic Rite in Germany, and in June or July 1946 this body began to investigate Avtonomov. The Congregation dispatched to Munich one Father Zacharias, ostensibly to act as Avtonomov's assistant, actually to discover his connections and purposes. Zacharias, a Franciscan of Dutch origin, had organized a small group of Russian converts to Catholicism at Narva before the war and is an expert on Oriental Church affairs. In Munich he lived at the Capuchin monastery and worked with a German assistant on the Avtonomov case. The assistant, a German citizen named Schoeneberg, lives at Eichstadt and may be contacted through CIC there.

3. As a result of his investigations, Father Zacharias prepared a report for the Vatican to the effect that Avtonomov was a Soviet agent and submitted documents in support of his conclusions. Although no action has been taken by the Vatican as yet, the suggestion has been made that Avtonomov should retire to a monastery and resign his official position.

4. In Rome, in conference with several members of the Congregations for Oriental Church Affairs (Father Robert Leiber; Father Hermann, SJ, Chief of the Oriental Institute; Father Amann, SJ, a member of the Oriental Institute), source brought up the question of Avtonomov. Father Leiber admitted that Pius XII had been rather worried about Avtonomov and had remarked when the trouble was reported that he had predicted something of the sort at the time of Avtonomov's appointment. Father Zeiger made some statements to source on the Oriental Church reaction to his case:

- a. It is true that Avtonomov was consecrated by a bishop member of the so-called Living Church in USSR.

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- b. There was no thorough investigation of his case before he received his appointment from the Oriental Church.
- c. Avtonomov's major supporters had been Cardinal Tisserand, head of the Congregation of the Oriental Church, and Father Resta, head of the Russicum Institute in Rome. Their position on Avtonomov was bitterly criticized because both Frenchmen had already made several mistakes in giving positions of confidence to Russian converts who later proved unworthy of the trust.

5. Copies of two of the documents submitted to the Vatican by Zacharias were given to Bishop Kuench of the Vatican Mission to USEBT, who passed them on to source. A translation of these two papers (from German) follows:

(Avtonomov is referred to as N or Nikolai of Ratzar; RA is interpreted as Red Army.)

"Appendix 3"

The group of people around N. consists of the following persons:

Kulovets (m)	Official secretary; the secretariat is actually headed by N's daughter <u>Nadezhda Alexeyeva</u> and her husband <u>Svenitski</u>
Slonitski (m)	Bookkeeper, lives with family in Regensburg, comes to Munich for 2 days weekly
Orlov (m)	Church elder, former officer of the RA
Sinchenko (m)	Church chairman, former major of the RA
Straus (m)	Second priest
Shecheglov (m)	Deacon
Yakovlev (m)	Director of the church choir
Ivanov (m)	Member of the choir
Sadovskii (m)	" " " "
Chernyavski (m)	" " " "
Kusko (m)	" " " "
Kenishavski (m)	" " " "
Svididenko (m)	" " " "
Panashev (m)	" " " "
Chebatarev (m)	" " " "
Gorshkov (m)	" " " "
Sokolov (m)	" " " "
Boginski (m)	" " " "
Bogolyubskii (m)	" " " "
Yaroshevich (m)	" " " "
Yagodkin (m)	" " " "
Eranda (m)	" " " "
Shevyaikov (m)	" " " "
Lebedev (m)	Cook
Daninberg (m)	Doorman
Rogodin (m)	" " " "

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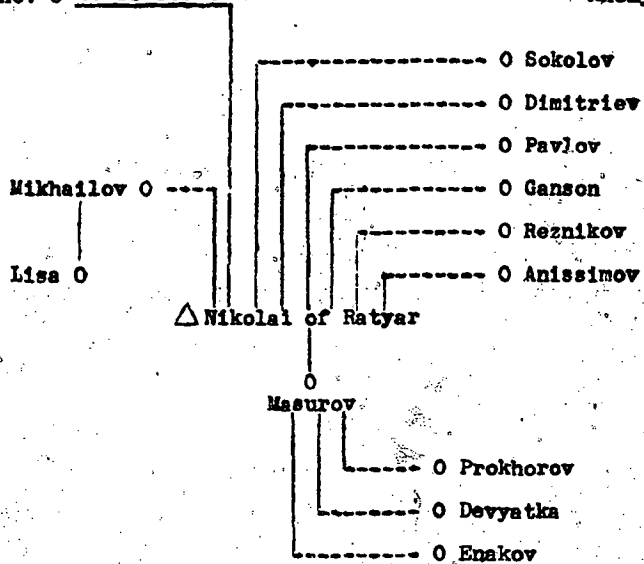
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"Appendix 4"

The position of N in the network of the Soviet Intelligence Service

Rosunov O ----- Khomyakov (USSR)



*under  
in these*

- ~~Rosunov (m) from~~
- ~~Mikhailov, Leonid (m)~~
- ~~Lisa (f) from (female)~~
- ~~Sokolov, Oleg (m)~~
- ~~Dimitriev, Oleg (m)~~
- ~~Pavlov, Boris (m)~~
- ~~Ganson, Lyubov (m)~~
- ~~Reznikov, Fyodor (m)~~
- ~~Anissimov, Alexey (m)~~
- ~~Masurenko, Nikolai~~  
~~Sergeyevich @ Masurov~~
- ~~Prokhorov (m) from~~
- ~~Devyatka (m) from~~
- ~~Enakov (m) from~~

Liaison in the USSR to Colonel Khomyakov  
Munich/Deisenhofen  
Mikhailov's housekeeper  
 Earlier Regensburg, now Augsburg  
 Earlier Regensburg, now Augsburg  
 Born 10 April 1927; Soviet agent school,  
 Prague  
 Soviet agent school, Prague  
 Munich/Bogenhausen; very taciturn; lives  
 much withdrawn; spends much money; travels  
 about a lot.  
 Major of the RA  
 Munich  
 Munich

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Field Comment: The following traces are held on the individuals mentioned in Appendices 3 and 4:

- a. Ivanov: Several persons with this common surname are active in the Munich area. One of the following might be identical with choir-member Ivanov:
  - Ivanov, Iru - former ROA officer living at Landshut, Bavaria, DP camp, who is reported to have killed a man named Kudalchak to prevent his disclosing information on DPs to the Soviets (MSC-190).
  - Ivanov, Ivan - suspected Soviet agent arrested by CIC in Operation Bingo in July 1946 (CIC Operation Bingo).
  - Ivanov, Peter - MVD suspect at Munich/Freimann DP camp (CIC Operation Bingo).
  - Ivanov, Victor - suspected Soviet agent, released from the ROA Internment Camp at Plattling, Bavaria in May 1946 (MSC-108).
- b. Sadovsky: 3 individuals of this surname, with the first names of Ivan, Mikola, and Nikita, were listed by CIC as MVD agents at the Munich/Freimann DP camp (CIC Operation Bingo).
- c. Chebatareva: This name is used as an alias by one Dundich or Dyndycz, a CIC informer who is actually a Soviet agent trying to penetrate CIC at Kempten (MSC-Memo-066).
- d. Sokolov: There is no indication whether the Sokolov in Avtonomov's choir (Appendix 3) is the same person as Oleg Sokolov, formerly at Regensburg, now at Augsburg (Appendix 4). A dangerous Soviet agent named Sokolov is reported to be functioning at an unspecified location in western Europe (FX-116).
- e. Rosunov: One Yury Riesunov, at Regensburg, is identified as a Soviet agent, formerly a lieutenant in the Red Army and later in the ROA (MSC-80). This may possibly be the same person as Rosunov, but in the absence of more definite information, no conclusive identification is possible.
- f. Dimitriev, Oleg, and Pavlov, Boris: These two individuals may be probably identified with Boris Dimitriev and Oleg Pavlov, two Soviet agents of Bulgarian nationality, who have been active in the Munich-Regensburg sector since May 1946 (MSC-80, 164, 168, 216, 329). They have also been listed by CIC as MVD agents (CIC Operation Bingo).

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- ut*
- g. Masurenko <sup>ut</sup> Masurov: An individual of this name is cited as head of a Soviet intelligence network in the Munich area for Razvedupr (Soviet Military Intelligence) (MSC-216).
- ut*
- h. Prokhorov: <sup>ut</sup> Major Ivan E. Prokhorov has been assistant to the Senior Soviet Liaison Officer with Third (US) Army in the Munich area for some months (his name appears in the earliest available official liaison list, April 1946). Considerable evidence has been compiled by CIC in Operation Rusty to indicate that Prokhorov is engaged in intelligence activities outside the formal limits of his liaison duties. *Chad*

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