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NICOLAS ABRAMCHIK

There are summarized below the remarks of (Mr.) S. BACKIS and his wife with regard to the person and activities of ABRAMCHIK, the Byelorussian (White Ruthenian) leader in exile. The nature of Mr. Backis' remarks was naturally influenced by the historic Lithuanian-Byelorussian rivalry for the possession of the much disputed city of Vilna (also claimed by Poland).

"Both Mr. and Mrs. Backis expressed great animosity towards Abramchik (Byelorussian leader). They admitted that he as a leader of one of the two White Ruthenian groups had many more supporters than the other White Ruthenian group of Ostrovski, with regard to whom many strange rumors were being circulated to the extent of describing him as a Soviet agent (Ostrovski is now in the United States and has been repeatedly denounced as a Soviet agent). The influence of Abramchik, they stated, was confirmed at all the elections in the DP camps in Germany when he usually got the majority of the White Ruthenian votes. They pointed out, however, that in the Spring of 1949, Abramchik had launched an active anti-Lithuanian campaign by demanding Vilna as a White Ruthenian center. Backis stated that he was extremely intransigeant in this respect, and had completely undermined the friendly relations existing between the Lithuanians and the White Ruthenians. He explained Abramchik's anti-Lithuanian activity, as well as certain financial possibilities which he possessed (as evidenced by his recent visit to the United States), by possible Polish assistance. He declared that Abramchik supporters, meaning the Polish exiled government, were unwilling to cause trouble with Lithuania at the present stage and were therefore using Abramchik to do that job for them. Mrs. Backis asserted that Mrs. Abramchik, a very weak and feminine woman, completely under the influence of her husband, always sided with the Poles in all ladies' committees in which women of the Eastern European nationalities took part."

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