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9 January 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Report of Contact with Nykola ABRAMTCHIK

1. On 11 December, meeting in Washington, D.C., the undersigned case officer accompanied by [] made arrangements to meet with Nykola ABRAMTCHIK in New York City on 17 December. The appointment was set for 1700 hours, and the introduction of [] as the BNR PA in the United States was set for 1800 hours. On 17 December the undersigned case officer arranged for quarters at the Hotel Governor Clinton in New York City, and upon the arrival of Mr. ABRAMTCHIK at 1700 hours the following subjects were discussed:

a. An article in the New York World Telegram and Sun, dated 13 December 1956, which noted that Byelorussian soldiers fought Mongolian troops for several days around Toekoeel Airfield near Budapest. According to the article, this information was obtained from Hungarian refugees. The article further stated that the Byelorussian soldiers had deserted their parent units and had joined Hungarian partisans.

b. The arrival at the United Nations of Piotr HLEBKA (HLEBKA) as a member of the Byelorussian SSR representation.

c. The attempt to facilitate the relocation and immigration of Mr. ABRAMTCHIK, his wife, and son to the United States under Section 8 of PL 110.

2. Concerning the article in the New York World Telegram, Mr. ABRAMTCHIK indicated that an attempt should be made to contact the Hungarian refugees and determine from them the whereabouts of the Byelorussian defectors. He felt that this should be exploited immediately to give moral support to any other political defectors who may be considering going to the West. The undersigned case officer explained to Mr. ABRAMTCHIK that although such action was highly desirable it must be borne in mind that the Soviets may be spreading these rumors to surface any Byelorussian soldiers who may have crossed into Austria with the Hungarian refugees. It was also explained to Mr. ABRAMTCHIK that the Austrian position is very delicate in the matter of defector reception since it is so close to the Soviet Union. Any hasty action in surfacing these defectors could result in a Soviet demand for a repatriation mission into Austria. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK acknowledged the validity of this argument and agreed to give the matter further thought.

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3. Regarding the matter of the new BSSR representative to the United Nations, Piotr GLEBKA, who is approximately 42 or 43 years old, Mr. ABRAMTCHIK said that ADAMOVICH, a member of the BNR, is a personal friend of GLEBKA. ADAMOVICH had told ABRAMTCHIK that he was certain that if it were possible for him to effect a personal clandestine contact with GLEBKA, GLEBKA could be made to defect or become a defector in place. According to Mr. ABRAMTCHIK, ADAMOVICH and GLEBKA were college friends and both were well known Byelorussian poets.

4. At a meeting held on 11 December with Mr. ABRAMTCHIK, the undersigned case officer and [] were present. [] suggested that a possibility existed that we could facilitate the immigration of Mr. ABRAMTCHIK under Section 8 of PL 110. To gratify the suggestion, the undersigned case officer took time at the 17 December meeting to obtain personal data on the wife and child of Mr. ABRAMTCHIK. According to Mr. ABRAMTCHIK, his wife's name is Nina nee LEVKOVITCH, born 12 March 1916 in KALUGA, Byelorussia. Her father's name was Paul LEVKOVITCH, born in Schani, Byelorussia. Her mother Antonina was born in Krushloje, Byelorussia. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK'S son, whose name is Alherd, was born on the 31st of May 1955 in Paris. The number of Mr. ABRAMTCHIK'S passport is 02752, issued on 5 May 1955, and valid until 4 May 1958. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK said that his son would be accepted for immigration to the United States under the French quota. His wife, however, who holds a Hanson passport is subject to the Russian quota. As a result the immigration would be delayed for many years.

5. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK noted that he expects to return to Paris around 4 January.

6. At 1800 hours Mr. ABRAMTCHIK and the undersigned case officer were in the lobby of the Governor Clinton Hotel to meet [Mierlak]. Byelorussian was decided upon as the common language for future discussions. [Mierlak] speaks English well, however, since Mr. ABRAMTCHIK does not, the conversation for the rest of the evening was in Byelorussian. [Mierlak] presented an excellent bearing. He was well-dressed, extremely well-mannered, and friendly though somewhat reserved and extremely neat and fastidious about his personal appearance. In the dining room the true character of [Mierlak] began to reveal itself. He showed himself to be a man capable of clear, logical thinking and conservative in his statements regarding international political affairs.

7. After dinner, when the trio retired to the case officer's room, [Mierlak] upon the suggestion of Mr. ABRAMTCHIK, presented a list of approximately thirty names of potential Byelorussian candidates under Project AERBARDY. He was asked to select five persons of whom he was sure, and these names were taken for POA action and inclusion in the war class.

It should be noted at this point that upon the suggestion of Mr. ABRAMTCHIK, prior to the meeting with [Mierlak] no mention was made of any past operations. It is hereby suggested that any case officer in the future who may be contacting [Mierlak] not reveal any earlier Byelorussian-CIA

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operations. [Mierlank] first indicated that it would be advisable if all the candidates he suggested were brought together in groups of 5 or 6 after a FOI had been received and when the ABERNETHY recruitment to the group.

He reasoned that such an approach would force those persons who were undecided into positive action rather than lose face before other candidates who did accept. The undersigned case officer, with the approval of Mr. ABRAMCHIK, negated this approach since those persons refusing any activities under ABERNETHY would be aware of those persons who had accepted. [Mierlank] agreed and it was decided that the recruitment would be done on an individual basis in conjunction with [Mierlank] who would present the Presidential point of view during the initial proposals. Since he had the backing of the exiled government and since most of the candidates belong to organizations directly controlled or affiliated with the exiled government, his presence would lend an official air to the proceedings.

8. The next contact with [Mierlank] do has been selected by Mr. ABRAMCHIK to act on his behalf as the contact between the EBR and CIA, was not set. However, a meeting between the undersigned case officer and Mr. ABRAMCHIK was tentatively set for 26 December at which time Boris RAGUDA would be present to discuss those candidates whom the former EBR Operations Chief RAGUDA thought would be acceptable under the ABERNETHY program. The meeting will probably be held in Washington. Contact was terminated at approximately 2215 hours.

9. [Mierlank] will be given \$250 per month plus expenses for his spotting activities. If he finds that his spotting activities encroach on his regular employment, he will be made a full-time spotter at \$500 a month. A memorandum in lieu of contract will be effected for [Mierlank]

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