

Subject: Rev. Walter Martin ~~CIEZEK~~, S.S., of Shenandoah, Pa

Date : 31 Oct 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3929
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. The introduction to Subject took place on 24 Oct 1963 at Rev. Joseph FEDOREK'S house where he was invited by the latter, and in presence of Subject's sister Mrs Helen CHANIANT of 2220 Q St, S.E. Washington, D.C. who accompanied Subject, and Rev. Wolodymyr ANDRUSIEKIV of Brooklyn, N.Y. and Rev. Stephen HENLICK of Olyphant, Pa. From Rev. Fedorek's house the whole party went to a Golf Club for dinner which was ~~made~~ arranged by Rev. Joseph.

At the introduction Subject stressed that he was of the same rite as the present ~~subject~~ but could not talk any politics because he did not want to hurt anybody in the Soviet Union. In particular, he was afraid of press and was rather fed up with press-people bothering him. He had to be very vague and cautious and this applied also to a series of articles about him to be printed soon in "The N.Y. Herald Tribune". What he was going to do in the nearest future he did not know; soon he will go to Philadelphia and New York and there his further fate will be decided. At one moment he even "wondered" whether he won't be apprehended here, too.

Subject seemed to be not interested in any names at all and was satisfied with the assurance that his hosts were not from the press.

2. The question about Ukrainian catholic priests Subject answered with giving first of all three names: Rev FIGOL,

Rev KOTIV,

Rev KUZNYCH,

which he had met in WISSTOK camp and maintained with them contacts also afterwards.

In Subject's opinion they were now in danger because the KGB continued to be

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interested in them. Shortly before his departure for the States, in ABAKAN and then in MOSCOW he was asked about their whereabouts. In particular they wanted to have the address of Rev KOTIV of whom the KGB seemed to have lost the trace. Rev FIGOL might be in Lithuania and Rev HUZYCH was very ill. While in ^{the} HORNLSK/AUkrainian priests helped very much Subject and the latter was evidently full of appreciation and admiration for them. Reverend FIGOL and Subject said Mass in HORNLSK and often they had had as many as 3,000 attendants. On the whole, the population was very friendly and respectful to Subject and other priests.

Subject could also exercise his religious services in MIASHOVANSK mainly at weddings and baptisms. Sometimes he had 5-7 baptisms per week.

In ABAKAN Subject was not allowed to say mass and perform other religious services publicly. But he could do it "for himself" and surreptitiously he had the Bible with him but did not say how he got it.

3. Subject met twice the late Metropolitan Sheptytskyi and was under his jurisdiction. He did not know, however, Metr. Slipyi and made no comments on latter's release.

4. According to Subject he was denounced by a Polish priest and "another person" who, he knew. His documents on "Lipinski" were "simply given" to him. In Lubianka-prison in MOSCOW Subject stayed mostly alone in the cell and was subjected to intense interrogation. Among other things they wanted him to write about Metropolitan SHEPTYTSKYI's contacts with the Vatican and foreign countries and in particular about his policy. Subject wrote 2 or 3 papers on the Metropolitan's character, which was also but they discarded the material as not interesting. "We know ourselves who he was, how wise and intelligent, what we want to know - are his contacts with the Vatican, with foreigners, his policy ..." he was told by the KGB.

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Subject refused to write claiming that he knew nothing about the matter. Many years later in ABAKAN he refused again to give addresses of Ukrainian Catholic priests claiming that he burned his address-notes.

When Moscow was bombed in 1941 for some time Subject was transferred to WAPATOW.

5. Subject participated in strike in WOPILNY, he marched in the first row, but he was not an organizer. The leader of the strike was a Jew. During a direct confrontation with IVD soldiers one mentally ill Lithuanian broke with stone a ~~soldier's~~ soldier's arm and thus a retaliation followed which cost the prisoners several killed and wounded. Women-prisoners striked too. They were dispersed with water-hoses.

In BOWELSK and in other places Subject met Ukrainians, former UPA-members. He met also many Poles who were returned to Poland in 1955. There were very few Jews in camps.

6. In ABAKAN Subject worked as a driver-mechanician and earned R 80-85.- p.n. In his view this was sufficient for one person but not for a family. That's why everybody in the Soviet Union steals and "organizes". Subject did the same and he did not feel "any remorse".

7. During a search in WOPILSK one of guards, a young Lithuanian, found on Subject a manuscript of Holy Mass. (Subject wrote it for himself and learned by heart.) He told Subject to conceal it better and stressed that he had not seen it.

8. In ABAKAN Subject was "shadowed" by another mechanician specifically sent by the KGB for that purpose. Another mechanician wanted to cut ~~his~~ ^{seksot's} throat and Subject had to strain himself to dissuade his friend from doing it. Shortly before Subject's departure from ABAKAN to MOSCOW the seksot told Subject about his KGB assignment and assured him that he always

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reported on Subject in such a way as to avoid any harming him.

9. In Moscow, after his arrival from ABAKAN Subject was asked by the KGB to go to confess to the catholic priest at the American Embassy and on this occasion "to elicit something, too". Subject refused.

10. While in ABAKAN Subject had received a letter from Teresa MARINI, an Italian lady, staying at that time in MOSCOW in a hotel. She wanted to help, gave him her address in Moscow, and asked what Subject needed. She claimed to have got his address from Subject's sister. (Mrs Helen Goshart claimed she knew no such name at all). Later on, MARINI sent Subject 1st volume of "La Divine Com edia" by Dante in Russian translation and a book by Manzoni. Subject thanked and asked eventually for the second volume of Dante's "Commedia". Then, some time later, Subject received another letter from MARINI mailed from Italy, from Rome. He replied her in Italian, too.

11. Russians and non-Russian nationalities. In Subject's opinion Russians are absolutely nationalistically minded, very proud of their homeland, and deeply humane. The same could be said about Ukrainians who showed very strongly their patriotism, even in such a way as organizing themselves in special circles with obligation not to marry Russians and others, non-Ukrainians. In cases where this obligation was broken these concerned had to leave the location to avoid a very strong ostracism. Asian nationalities were subjected particularly strongly to Russification, and indoctrination which in Subject's view was as important as the former. Subject noticed that both -- Russification and communist indoctrination-- had evidently influenced the non-Russian Asian youth.

12. In ABAKAN Subject taught English a Ukrainian girl - Tasia BELD'IKO - aged 19, who later on went to Leningrad to a Language Institute.

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13. Subject mentioned he met in concentration camps Hungarian freedom fighters but refused to say anything about them.

14. In Subject's opinion Moscow will never agree to re-establishment of Ukrainian Catholic church. It will tolerate the Roman Catholic church but never Ukrainian Catholics of byzantine rite. Subject was very emphatic about it. He himself was told by the KGB that he could exercise his religious practices as a Roman Catholic priest ~~in~~ in the Soviet Union but never as a Catholic of byzantine rite.

15. The East Dan Treaty and Wheat-Deal Subject commented with: "Here, in the States they don't understand their counterparts. His comment on Tito's visit to the States was also negative, he did not approve of it either.

16. As to general situation - Khrushchev still cannot be openly criticized. On concentration camps - maybe there were still some in the North. As to ~~help~~ aid sent from abroad - better not do it because it might hurt the people in the Soviet Union.

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