

8 December 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: SR/RR

SUBJECT: The Ukrainian Catholic (Uniate)
Church in the UKSSR

The following was told on 28 November 1965 by Viktor CHERNYAVSKY [] 2nd Secretary of the Soviet Ukrainian Mission at the UN, to an American citizen, a PhD connected with the Russian Institute at an American university, who passed it on to AECASSOWARY/29.

1. When he returns to Kiev, Petro T. TRON'KO [] Deputy Chairman Ukrainian Council of Ministers, plans to discuss with P. Yu. SHELEST, and V. SHCHERBITSKY the question of reestablishment of the Ukrainian Catholic church (Uniate church) in the UKSSR.

2. CHERNYAVSKY suggested that the source recommend to Cardinal Josif SLIPYY [] that he write a letter addressed to the above-named gentlemen, requesting that a Ukrainian Catholic Patriarchate be established in Lvov and that he is ready to return to head the office. CHERNYAVSKY said he was counting on the strong support of Kateryna KOLOSOVA [] who favors a positive solution to the question of the Ukrainian Catholic church in the UKSSR. CHERNYAVSKY further stated that he knew the Soviet Ukrainian Government would agree to the creation of a Patriarchate in Lvov if Cardinal SLIPYY agrees to return as its head.

3. CHERNYAVSKY said Kiev will enter into negotiations with Cardinal SLIPYY and the Vatican on receipt of the letter from Cardinal SLIPYY.

4. During a visit at the Soviet Mission by the source on 10 November, TRON'KO told the former that he is a member of the Committee for Religious Cults which has 38 members. TRON'KO said that Kiev regarded very positively the fact that Cardinal SLIPYY did not renounce his Soviet citizenship and that he refrained from making anti-Soviet statements or receiving emigre political representatives.

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Chief, SR/CA

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