

SECRET CONTROL

20 November 1948

TO : SC Washington
FROM : SC Amzon ^{copy}
SUBJECT : Search for BANDERA, Leader of the OUN
REF : LTX-767, Wash 4345

1) The risk of compromise in attempting to help BANDERA either directly or indirectly has been kept down to the absolute minimum. G-2 USFET is definitely loath to comply with the Soviet request to find BANDERA and to repatriate him as a "war criminal". This, we have been given to understand unofficially of course, and we can be reasonably sure that a warning passed to a UHVR representative will not be considered as an act of bad faith on our part if, by a remote chance, G-2 USFET should learn about it.

2) As far as compromising ourselves vis a vis the Soviets is concerned, we have taken pains not to let this warning appear in the light of an official "tip-off", but rather in the nature of a general observation. Once BANDERA has been apprehended we would decline to be in any way connected with the case, a point we stressed in LHS 767. In this connection we should like to mention as an interesting side-light that Lt Col Dasher recently expressed to AB 52 his disappointment that G-2 USFET has failed to honor its pledge to Colonel ANTONIUK to make every conceivable effort to locate BANDERA.

3) Your question whether there are compelling reasons for us to help BANDERA directly or indirectly, can be answered in the affirmative if you accept the premise that we are definitely interested in cautiously cultivating our contacts with the UHVR if not along lines of active cooperation, then with at least the objective to keep ourselves informed on what its plans are and to what extent it has succeeded in building up and servicing cells in the Ukraine. We asked KILKENNY how our relationship with the UHVR, at present and in the future, would be affected if the Americans were to lend a hand in the capture and repatriation of BANDERA to the Soviets. He said he could answer this question in one word: FINITO. In order to enable you to appraise the importance of BANDERA in the hierarchy of Ukrainian Underground leaders - and we are thinking here of the Ukrainian movement as a whole

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irrespective of its many factions who differ in methods rather than in the main objective - we have requested KILKENNY to prepare a study which you will find attached herewith.

4) In attempting to visualize the effects of the loss of BANDERA through American connivance, there is one more consideration which should be brought to your attention. The UHVR is avowedly a terrorist organization, determined to accomplish its objectives by terroristic means. (That appears to be one of the main reasons for the pre-occupation of the Soviet-Intelligence with Ukrainian rather than other dissident groups like e.g., the Caucasians.) It should therefore not be ruled out that the UHVR would want to retaliate by terroristic means and that its suspicions would fasten on the American representatives with whom they have been exclusively dealing.

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