

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Middle East/USSR
SUBJECT 1. Greek Orthodox Delegates to the 500th Anniversary Celebration of the Russian Church in Moscow
2. Report on Orthodox Community Requested by Moscow Patriarch

DATE DISTR. 15 August

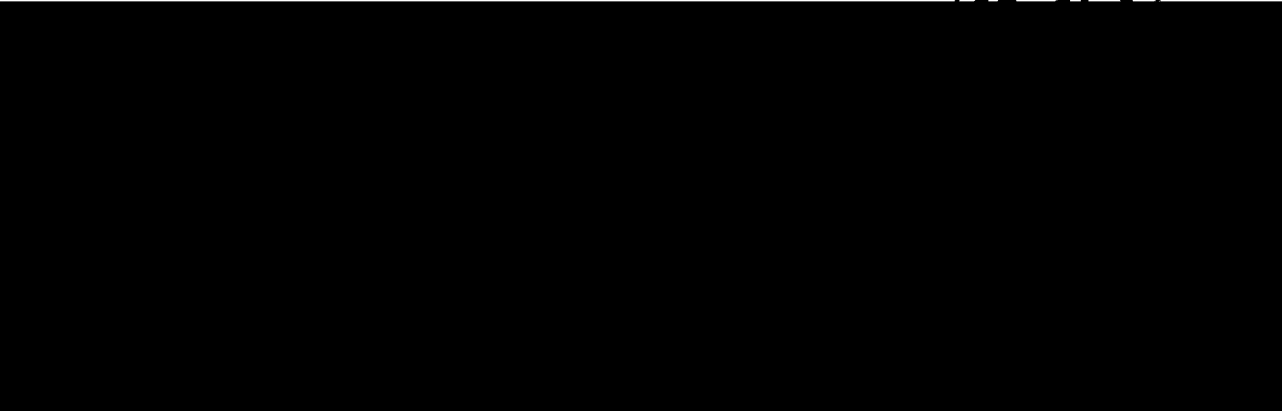
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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- 1. Maximos, Ecumenical Patriarch of the Phanar, was opposed to accepting the invitation of Alexei, Patriarch of Moscow, to attend the 500th anniversary celebration of the Russian Church, to be held in Moscow during the first half of July. The Holy Synod of the Phanar, however, overruled Maximos and decided to accept the invitation. To avoid the complication of obtaining exit visas for priests of Turkish nationality, it was decided to nominate three prelates who lived outside of Turkey as the delegation to represent the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of the Phanar. Those chosen were the Metropolitan Germanos, of London, representative of the Phanar for Central Europe; the Metropolitan of Rhodes, Apostalos; and an Archimandrite (unidentified) who was living in Athens. 25X1A
 Comment. 25X1X
 Bishop of Mariotidos (sic). 25X1X
 The Bishop of Mariotidos is possibly the same as a Bishop Moratinos (or Moriatakis) who reportedly has been expelled from Rumania recently for anti-Communist activities and is now in Greece. 25X1X
- 2. The Holy Synod of the Phanar was to instruct these delegates to abstain from attending any conference pertaining to theological matters or to matters relating to the relations between the various Orthodox Churches. The reason for these instructions was that it was felt that Patriarch Alexei, acting on the suggestion of Stefan, Exarch of Bulgaria, would attempt to obtain information and intelligence from the Phanar delegation with regard to European and Middle Eastern countries.
- 3. Christophoros, Patriarch of Alexandria, refused to send a delegation to Moscow, but had Apostalos, Metropolitan of Rhodes, represent him. 25X1X
 the First Secretary of the Soviet Legation in Cairo, Chvedov, offered Patriarch Christophoros, when the latter was in Cairo at the end of May, a free trip to Moscow by air and a wonderful reception in the USSR, plus a contribution of 10,000 pounds for the "poor," if he would accept, but that the Patriarch rejected this offer. 25X1X
- 4. Timotheos, Patriarch of Jerusalem as well as Metropolitan of Cyprus, did not send any delegates to the Moscow celebration.

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5. Alexandros Tahhan, Patriarch of Antioch, sent a delegation of three men to Moscow, as follows: Ilyas Karam, Bishop of Mt. Lebanon; Alexandros Jahha, Bishop of Homs, Syria; and the Archimandrite Simeon Nikitin, representative of the Patriarchate of Moscow to the Patriarchate of Antioch. [REDACTED] Comment. Bishop Ilyas Karam has been reported many times as a pro-Soviet who actively spreads pre-Soviet propaganda and aids Archimandrite Samaha in distributing Communist Party funds to Greek Orthodox priests in Lebanon. Bishop Jahha is also a pro-Soviet propagandist. Archimandrite Simeon Nikitin is a propagandist and has also been reported several times in connection with Soviet espionage activities. [REDACTED]
6. Several months ago Patriarch Tahhan of Antioch received a letter from Patriarch Alexei asking him for a report on the condition of the Orthodox Community in the East; on the number of poor persons and orphans, expenditures of the monasteries and schools of the Orthodox Community, funds required for building repairs, and the conditions of the elementary and secondary schools. The purpose of the report was to ascertain the steps that should be taken to remove the causes of poverty and to raise the morale of the clergy. Patriarch Alexei wrote that the report should be brought to Moscow by an archbishop who might enter into negotiations and study methods of using the aid which would be furnished. Later Soviet Minister Solod received a similar note, and since that time Solod and Patriarch Tahhan have been in continual conferences with all the priests of the community and with members of some of the societies, in order to determine the condition of the Orthodox Community. The report, which was then drawn up by Patriarch Tahhan, was taken to Moscow by the Antioch delegates.
7. [REDACTED] the Greek Orthodox Community Council in Moscow had requested such a report from Patriarch Tahhan in order to enable the Community Council to help members of the Syrian and Lebanese Greek Orthodox Churches.

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