

16 October 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Interrogation of QRPLUMB/2

1. On 15 October 1985, Mr. Mykola Lebed, founder and former head of QRPLUMB, 1952-79, was interrogated by two representatives of the Office of Special Investigation (OSI), Department of Justice, in the presence of two Agency officers. The interrogation took place in New York, and stemmed from allegations that Mr. Lebed was implicated in the political assassination of the Polish Minister of Interior in 1934, and that he cooperated with the Germans during World War II. These allegations also appeared in the GAO Report prepared at the request of Rep. Rodino and were based in part on the review of Agency files. (See C/PPS memorandum to OCLL, 7 Oct 85.) The ground rules for the interrogation were that Agency representatives would be present and that the scope would be limited to the period from 1932 to 1945 (i.e. end of the war) in order to protect current Agency equity.

2. Contrary to previous mutual agreement between OSI and Agency representatives, the OSI interrogators conducted an in-depth and aggressive interrogation of Mr. Lebed, and expanded their scope into the history, policies, and operations of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), of which Mr. Lebed was a member, and during the war its acting head.

3. In the course of the five-hour interrogation, which was under oath, Mr. Lebed admitted that he was indirectly involved in the political assassination of the Polish official in 1934, for which he was convicted, and declined to answer any more questions on the subject contending that he was protecting living persons, and that he would testify on this matter only in court.

4. In response to all questions on the allegations of cooperation with the Germans, Mr. Lebed categorically denied that he ever cooperated with them: on the contrary, while his family was incarcerated in a concentration camp during the war, he was hunted by Gestapo for organizing and leading a nationalist anti-Nazi guerrilla movement from 1941-44.

5. Agency representatives protested against coupling a 50-year-old case (assassination plan) with the limited OSI mandate to investigate alleged Nazi-collaborators/war criminals; however, OSI representatives argued that their area of interest extends to the pre-war operations of the OUN of which Mr. Lebed was a leading member.

FOR COORDINATION WITH

DoJ/OSI

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6. In response to Agency officers' query, OSI representatives stated, on the record, that there are no grounds for criminal prosecution of Mr. Lebed for his alleged part in the assassination (because of expired statute of limitations); however, administrative proceedings for Mr. Lebed's denaturalization, and ultimate deportation could be instituted against him if the results of this interrogation warrant it, and/or additional evidence may be uncovered against him.

7. OSI representatives agreed to keep Agency representative (OGC) informed of any further developments on this case.

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PPS/SEO/SIB

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