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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMCONGEN, Munich

364

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

January 7, 1955

REF : CONGEN Despatch No. 144, December 7, 1954

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	1/17	OC/11 20016 (P.1) J.P.1 20016 (P.1) J.P.1

SUBJECT: Aid Society for Former Volunteer Units: First Working Meeting

The Consulate General has been informed that the Aid Society of Former Volunteer Units (Hilfswerk der Ehemaligen Freiwilligenverbände, e.V.), the formation of which was covered by the despatch under reference, held its first "working" meeting in Munich on January 3, 1955. The meeting was reportedly attended by approximately 50 persons, including both former German military officers who comprise the Hilfswerk membership and a number of former Soviet nationals who fought on the German side in World War II. Among the latter were Michael ALSHEBAYER (Achibaya), Georgian, Col. Konstantin G. KROMIADI, Russian (Greek descent), and Dr. Lubomyr O. ORTYNSKY, Ukrainian.

According to the Consulate General's informant, (a Hilfswerk member who, however, did not attend), the January 3 meeting was called only for the purpose of establishing channels for the welfare work of the organization. The Soviet emigres invited to the meeting were Wehrmacht veterans who now occupy positions of leadership in various Soviet emigre organizations. These (emigre) leaders are expected by the Hilfswerk to be the points of contact for determining the needs of the veterans of the former "volunteer units", and their organizations are expected to aid in distribution of relief amongst those emigre veterans and their families who are in need.

The January 3 meeting was reportedly uneventful except for one "incident". The German leadership of the Hilfswerk read to the emigres present a long report in Russian on the objectives of the organization and its proposed method of operation. Upon termination of this reading, Dr. Ortynsky reportedly asked to speak. He lodged a vigorous protest over the reading of the Hilfswerk report in Russian, claiming that it should have been done in German and then translated into the various languages of the emigre representatives present, if necessary for complete understanding.

Dr. Ortynsky is the "Representative in Germany" of the "Foreign Section" of the Ukrainian Supreme Liberation Council (UHVR), a Ukrainian separatist body which, it is claimed, operates underground in the Soviet Ukraine. (Dr. Ortynsky fought against the Soviets in the First Ukrainian Division of the Wehrmacht during World War II.)

Dr. Ortynsky's

Ralph...

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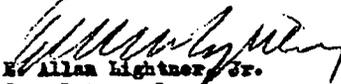
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Dr. Ortynsky's protest is typical of the intransigent insistence of the UHVR (and most other Ukrainian emigre organizations) that the Ukraine be recognized now as separate and independent, not a mere part of a larger state dominated by the Great Russians.

The Consulate General is of the opinion that Ukrainian (UHVR) participation in the activity of the Hilfswerk will not be withdrawn as the result of the "incident" at its January 5 meeting. However, it is interesting to observe that the German sponsors of the (Hilfswerk) organization, either by neglect or intent, chose to ignore the sensitivity of the Soviet national minority emigres on this point. In any case, the unfolding German policy towards the peoples of the USSR, particularly the emigres therefrom, must face the same dilemma that has plagued the United States since the beginning of the "cold war" - i.e., encourage separation on the part of the national minorities and thus alienate the Great Russians, or adhere to a policy of non-predestination and risk loss of the support of the separatist national minorities.

  
Allan Lightner, Jr.  
Consul General

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