

SECRET

19 February 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Meeting with M. ABRAMTCHIK and K. MIERLAK.

1. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK arrived at the Hotel Governor Clinton at 1730 hours, one-half hour earlier than the originally scheduled meeting at 1800 hours, 10 January. Knowing Mr. ABRAMTCHIK's habits, the undersigned case officer was down stairs waiting for him and Mr. ABRAMTCHIK appeared elated that he would have an extra half hour to discuss Byelorussian problems since this would be the last meeting prior to his return to PARIS, France, on 16 January. The undersigned case officer and Mr. ABRAMTCHIK retired to the case officer's room and Mr. ABRAMTCHIK immediately began the discussion by stating that he had seen the 23 through 30 December issues of the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. These issues carried the further adventures and capture of [redacted]. Briefly, Mr. ABRAMTCHIK recalled that one of the team members voluntarily surrendered to the MVD and through his collaboration the rest of the team was apprehended. It further gave the names and description of the case officers and some of the Byelorussian personnel who had handled the AEQUORs prior to its dispatch. Among those, Dr. Boris RAGULA and Piotri SYCH (ZYCH). Mr. ABRAMTCHIK indicated that the story was written along the lines of a teenage novel and he felt that no one would believe the details. This conviction was verified later in the evening when Mr. MIERLAK arrived with copies of the newspaper. In the discussion which followed, the undersigned gave no indication that he was aware of any details regarding the items. As a result, Mr. MIERLAK developed two theories of why the Soviet had created this fiction. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK added to MIERLAK's convictions and theories by pointing out the fallacies in the article. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK indicated that no one in the immigration in his opinion would believe the story. It is interesting to note that Mr. MIERLAK, in his effort to explain the purpose of the articles, offered one which coincided with that offered by [redacted] SR/COP/P&P--to wit, the Soviet attempt to prove American espionage intervention in the Soviet Union and its Satellites was a result of the denial in the United Nations of American intervention in Hungary. Mr. MIERLAK said that the Soviets were creating fiction to "prove" American diversion activities. The second theory or reason for the articles was closely tied in with the KRUSCHEV and BULGIANIN conferences in London. As is already known, Mr. ABRAMTCHIK was feted at a dinner given him by some members of Parliament as the official president of Byelorussia.

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This dinner was given shortly after the departure of the Kremlin leaders and was interpreted by some to be a direct repudiation of the Kremlin claims to Byelorussia.

2. Regarding the AEREADY Program, Mr. ABRAMTCHIK was enthusiastic and stated that he would cooperate fully in the development of the program. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK asked about the status of the 5 names he had submitted. He was told that the clearance process was not yet completed and it appeared somewhat doubtful that these people would be included in the first class. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK said that, in his opinion, it was just as well since the Soviet articles regarding BNR participation in espionage activities could be construed from the selection of certain individuals within the immigration for participation in AEREADY.

3. As a resume of the entire conference, which terminated at 2130 hours, Mr. ABRAMTCHIK delegated the responsibilities of future contacts and liaison with the United States Government to Mr. MIERLAK. Specifically, he instructed Mr. MIERLAK in the presence of the case officer that:

a. Mr. MIERLAK would participate and should make available and information regarding personalities and addresses of persons located in the BSSR who could be used under the newly founded care-type package program.

b. Mr. MIERLAK would be responsible for the selection and spotting of all AEREADY candidates in the United States.

c. Mr. MIERLAK would handle all contacts between the United States government and Mr. ABRAMTCHIK. The undersigned case officer indicated that we could insure secure channels for classified correspondence if he would give them to [redacted] specifically [redacted] whom he knows as [redacted] for transmittal to the undersigned and for retransmittal to Mr. MIERLAK. This would be a two way contact channel and would be subject to the scrutiny of the case officer.

d. Regarding the payments to Mr. MIERLAK for his part-time services as a spotter, the undersigned case officer told Mr. ABRAMTCHIK that his original figure of \$250.00 appeared rather high to our finance people and they would make some adjustments commensurate with the tasks.

4. As a matter of record, Mr. ABRAMTCHIK was told that the undersigned would submit the necessary action under PL 110 for the immigration of his wife and son to the United States. He would be notified through [redacted] of the progress and action necessary. Further for the record, an investigation

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of Mr. YATSEVITCH by the FBI will be requested by the undersigned case officer through SR/CE. Mr. ABRAMTCHIK submitted his accounting and when action has been completed upon them, he will be reimbursed through [redacted] Mr. ABRAMTCHIK is leaving the United States by Pan American flight Number 64 on 16 January at 1700 hours and is due to arrive in in PARIS the following the day at 1020 hours.

[SR/7/DOB/P&P]

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