

**SECRET**

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From: PHILIP E. LAUNIS

30 January 1959

TO: CASE OFFICER

Subject: Mr. ALEKSANDER P. SITNIKOV, second Secretary of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations

Source: Mr. ANTHONY SHUKIELOYTS, address: 70 East 3rd Street, Apt. 12 New York 3, N.Y. Tel: SP- 7 8224, president of Byelorussian American Relief Inc. who also is in charge of "Byelorussian Press Exchange" located in store of Mr. WALTER ESCHUK 249 East 10th Street New York 9, N.Y. Tel: CA 8-8068. The Byelorussian Press Exchange is only for receiving and sending newspapers and books to Byelorussia and Poland. Mr. SHUKIELOYTS is my close friend and collaborator in New York.

Mr. ALEKSANDER P. SITNIKOV, 32 years old, weight about 160, height about 5'7 dark hair, married and has one or two children, living with family in a Hotel around West 60th street.

Mr. SITNIKOV is Second Secretary of Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations, with offices at 6 East 67th Street New York. He is living in the United States about one year and speaks only Russian. He is a career diplomat.

Mr. SITNIKOV learned about Byelorussian Press Exchange from newspaper "Bielarus" and come to the store, several times asking the owner Mr. WALTER ESCHUK who is in charge of the Exchange. Mr. ESCHUK gave him telephone number of Mr. SHUKIELOYTS.

Mr. SITNIKOV telephoned to Mr. SHUKIELOYTS and made an appointment which took place on 12 January 1959 at 7 P.M. At the meeting Mr. SITNIKOV presented himself as a SASHA telling nothing more and asked Mr. Shukieloyts if he can get some Byelorussian books suspected about history. From this conversation Mr. SHUKIELOYTS ~~learned~~ that Mr. SASHA is not an immigrant and that he may be an Soviet official member of the Mission. They agree to meet next time at the same hour on 19 January 1959.

In meantime Mr. SHUKIELOYTS notified the American Committee for Liberation about the meeting and his suspicions. Mr. MICHAEL TERPAK liason officer with the Emigrees of the American Committee for Liberation advised to meet Mr. SITNIKOV again and to ask him who he is and eventually to give him books because the Soviets can have them anyhow.

Next meeting took place on 19 January 1959 at 7 P.M. where Mr. SITNIKOV presented himself who he is thus Mr. SHUKIELOYTS had no doubts anymore and his suspicions were correct. Mr. SHUKIELOYTS gave him a book "From History of Byelorussia" by dr. Jan Stankiewicz recently published in Munich, Germany. Mr. SITNIKOV and Mr. SHUKIELOYTS went to the restaurant have some drinks and political conversation. Mr. SHUKIELOYTS was putting questions and Mr. SITNIKOV was answering them, but always defending Soviet regime.

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This time they agree to meet again on 26 January 1959 and that Mr. SHUKIELOYTS should bring with him a Byelorussian historian.

The third meeting with Mr. SITNIKOV took place on 26 January 1959 at 7 P.M. at the store on 10th Street and lasted one hour along the East 14th Street, but Mr. SHUKIELOYTS took me (PHILIP E. LAUNAIS) instead of the historian to which meeting I went personally. At the meeting Mr. SHUKIELOYTS presented me as a president of Byelorussian-American Association, and I gave Mr. SITNIKOV my business telephone number for future contact. In general the conversation was a political, as it was expected Mr. SITNIKOV defended Soviet regime, system and policy, assuring us that in BSSR many things have been changed and that we can go and see, and he personally can guarantee the return.

From this conversation we learned that Mr. SITNIKOV, as he said, wanted to have some books printed in exile about establishing of Byelorussian Democratic Republic (Bielaruskaya Narodnaya Respublika) for his history study. These books we promised to give him next time at the meeting.

Mr. Sitnikov asked why do not appear any more the Byelorussian newspaper "Biežarus", because he read it regularly. (The "Bielarus" stopped to appear because of shortage of money since October 1958). My impression is that Mr. SITNIKOV appears very typical Soviet Byelorussian citizens, just a new product of communism, or rather new bearer of Russian imperialism, and also that his (Mr. Sitnikov) purpose in looking to have some contacts with Byelorussians in the U.S. are not only historical, but I could not find yet, may be after next meeting we will be better enlightened about his purposes. Mr. SITNIKOV promised to call me or Mr. SHUKIELOYTS to arrange another meeting.

*Philip E. Launais*  
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