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SECRET

Archimandrite Dimitri

NJA-1030

Current

1 August 1954

20 August 1954

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NOSTRIL

Subject, an Archimandrite at the Russian Orthodox Convent of Mary Magdalene (next to the Church of All Nations) in Arab Jerusalem, revealed the following information concerning himself:

Q. Where were you during WW II?

A. Kiev, Ukraine, USSR.

Q. What were you doing there?

A. Had a number of mostly unimportant jobs. For the greater part of the time I was a statistical clerk with the railways system.

Q. Were you a priest prior to the Revolution (1917)?

A. No. I studied for the priesthood from my youth, but the studies had to be carried out clandestinely. Religious training was forbidden by the Government.

Q. When and where did you become a Priest?

A. In 1941 at Kiev, after the Germans had taken the area.

Q. When did you leave Kiev? Where did you go?

A. In 1943 I went to Germany via Poland.

Q. How long were you in Germany?

A. Until May 1950 when I was assigned to Jerusalem.

Q. By whom were you appointed?

A. By Patriarch Anastasias of New York.

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- Q. What about the relations between representatives of the free Russian Church and those of the Moscow Church?
- A. There is a great division. We do not recognize them. They are appointed and forced to administer the Church affairs according to the dictates of the Moscow Government. Their priests do things which are not fitting for priests - such as making political and "peace" speeches. Their whole arrangement is wrong. Church and State must be completely separate.
- We do not recognize the Soviet priest in Israel¹ and he makes trouble for us. He prevents us from praying in or making use of the church properties under his control.
- Q. Are you not afraid that the Soviets will send these men here either officially or unofficially?
- A. Officially, they cannot. They are not allowed. Unofficially, only God knows what they might do.

Field Note:

1. Subject is apparently referring to Polykarpus - the Soviet Archimandrite charged with the custody of Russian Church properties in Israel.

Source Comment:

Dimitri is approximately 47 years old. He was very frank with me. I believe he is sincerely anti-Soviet; he certainly speaks that way. He is a Daghistani (one of the North Caucasian tribes). Daghistanis are Moslems, but since his mother was a Russian and his father died while subject was a child, subject was brought up a Christian.

Subject suspects a link between the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Arab Jerusalem and Polykarpus in Israel as the Greek Patriarchate seems to be inclining toward cooperation with the Soviets.

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