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761-8.00/6-1558

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FROM Embassy, MADRID

1367

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

June 15, 1956

REF -

1509734

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SUBJECT: Conversation with Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yaroslav STETZKO.

Upon the warm recommendation of the Chinese Ambassador to Spain, Dr. YU Tsung-Chi, Ambassador LODGE received the call of Mr. Yaroslav STETZKO, whose visiting card describes him as former Ukrainian Prime Minister and President of the Central Committee of the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations (ABN). Mr. Stetzko has his home in Munich, at Zep-pelinstrasse 67, but had been visiting Spain to attend the recent Fifth Meeting of the European Center of Documentation and Information, on which a separate report is being prepared.

During the course of the conversation, Mr. Stetzko, who was accompanied by Mr. Wladimiro PASTUSCHUK, a Ukrainian who has been living in Spain for some eight years, stated the conviction of his group that Russian imperialism is the real threat to world peace, and that communism, bad as it is, is only the current weapon used by the Russians to further their aims of world domination. The elimination of communism, were it not accompanied by the disintegration of the Russian "Empire", would solve no problem. He requested information regarding American groups or individuals who share this point of view.

A further meeting was arranged between the two Ukrainians and the reporting officer. The former reiterated their point of view, and added that it was extremely discouraging to the various national minorities within the Soviet Union to realize that their hopes of achieving autonomy were not generally favored by the United States. They found it strange that the United States should contemplate with relative equanimity the break-up of the French, British and Dutch colonial empires, while there seemed to be no intention of freeing areas such as the Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia and Turkestan from the Russian yoke. In Mr. Stetzko's opinion, which he expressed before the European Center of Documentation, the only way the West can prevail against the Soviet Union is to bring about the latter's collapse from within. He developed this idea to the reporting officer by stating that the underground movement in the Ukraine is a very real force, and that his organization is the only one which is in contact with the leaders of the movement, with whom it communicates by means of couriers.

TJDuffield:smb

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He felt that it would be extremely helpful if the United States could assist in the transportation of these couriers, and in providing them with appropriate currency for use in Eastern Europe. At present, they are obliged to obtain this currency on the black market, and there have been several instances in which the notes secured by them were later found to be counterfeit.

In the opinion of Mr. Pastuschuk, the reluctance of the United States to encourage local nationalism within the Soviet Union can be traced in large part to a number of American bankers who still hold obligations of Czarist Russia, and who retain hopes that these obligations might some day be honored by a Russian government which would succeed the Soviets. He insisted that this was a fact, although it might sound ridiculous. These bankers, he confided, "had the ear of the State Department."

Ukrainians in Spain number about fifty. They are not molested by the Spanish Government, but they do not receive any particular encouragement.

Mr. Stetsko stated that he had been encountering difficulties in securing a non-immigrant visa from the American Consulate General in Munich. Otherwise, he had been able to travel fairly widely, and had made trips to most of Western Europe, and also to the Far East, where he visited Taiwan, South Korea and South Vietnam. In this latter connection, he asserted that the Asians today consider the Americans as their only friends in the West.

With regard to his personal background, he expressed surprise that his unblemished record as a foe both of Nazism and of Communism should not have secured for him favorable consideration such as was extended by the United States several years ago to Mr. Peranc HAGY, former Prime Minister of Hungary, whose past he considered somewhat less savory than his own. He concluded, however, that this attitude was not directed against him personally, but was simply in keeping with the general disinclination of the United States to favor nationalist aspirations of minorities within the Soviet Union. He volunteered the information that he had sought to secure backing from HITLER at the time of the German invasion of the Ukraine, but that the Nazi leader had preferred to send him to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. The Germans, he asserted, had made blunder after blunder in their handling of the Ukrainians, executing a number of them without rime or reason, in spite of the fact that the Ukrainian components of the Red Army had obviously given ground on the front to favor the German advance, which they hoped at first would lead to their final liberation from Russian domination. A free Ukraine, he believed, would be an eminently democratic nation, with a two-party system similar to that existing in the United States. It would be prepared to maintain peaceful relations with a Russia freed from Communism, and especially

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one which had been cut down to its proper size.

Finally, Messrs. Stetzko and Pastuschuk suggested that the United States could do a great deal in the cause of freedom by sponsoring, openly or covertly, a refugee organization located in Spain or some other appropriate country, preferably at some distance from the U.S.S.R. and its satellites, which could serve as a propaganda mouthpiece for the cause of the minority groups in the Soviet Union and possibly maintain contacts with the underground groups in that country. They added that the current activities of Radio Free Europe and especially of Radio Liberation tended to defeat the purposes of ABN, and that a different approach was needed if the fight against Russian imperialism was to be successful.

For the Ambassador:

Reswell D. McClelland

Reswell D. McClelland
First Secretary of Embassy

cc: Amsongen, Munich
Amsongen, Frankfurt (For SHD)

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