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1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Signing of Contract with Vitaut TUMASH for the Byelorussian Study.

1. On 20 October 1954 the undersigned case officer met with Vitaut TUMASH in New York City and entered into a formal contract between the Agency and Vitaut TUMASH. He is now listed as a "Covert Consultant".

2. The meeting, which lasted approximately two hours, was concerned with the review of contractual clauses, method of payment, transfer of information and a general discussion on the latest political trends in the Byelorussian emigration. Vitaut TUMASH was given the sterile telephone number for contact with the case officer in Washington. During the entire course of the meeting Vitaut TUMASH was amiable, offered constructive suggestions for the study and gave all indications that he was aware of the responsibility of the task. He noted that he understood the conditions of the relationship and reaffirmed his original statement on the need for strict security measures. In the opinion of the case officer, if Vitaut TUMASH continues to approach the association with the same mature operational outlook he has shown in the early stages of the relationship, it may be possible to utilize him beyond the limitations of the Byelorussian Study contract.

3. The discussion began with a restatement of the contract terms. Each paragraph was read in consecutive order and Vitaut TUMASH was given an opportunity to ask questions about these paragraphs. At the conclusion of the reading he signed both the contract and pseudonym form required, with the full knowledge that our relationship was limited to the terms of the contract and nothing else outside these terms would be authorized.

4. When the contract was signed Vitaut TUMASH began a general discussion of new trends in the Byelorussian emigration, both in the U.S. and abroad. He noted that during a telephone conversation with Dr. Nicholas SNECHORS (President of the Byelorussian Congress Committee of America) several weeks earlier, SNECHORS told Vitaut TUMASH that he had left the ASTROMSKI movement (Byelorussian Central Council) after a supposed disagreement with the head of the movement, Dr. Radislav ASTROMSKI. In Vitaut TUMASH's opinion this disassociation was caused

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primarily by SHEGORS' ambition. Vitant TUMASH stated that SHEGORS would like to be a "Fuehrer". He stated that the man is young and aggressive and envisions himself as the Byelorussian counterpart of Lev DOBRYANSKY, President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. TUMASH stated that there was not the slightest similarity because the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America included approximately 90% of the Ukrainian political, cultural and social organization of the United States while the Byelorussian Congress Committee of America had as its following primarily those stray elements which left the ASTROWSKI fold with SHEGORS.

5. The discussion drifted to the topic of the Paris Bloc of nationalities in Europe which had continued its negotiation with the American Committee in Munich despite early setbacks. TUMASH stated that after the death of K. GUEOUETCHKORI (Georgian) M. ABRAMTCHIK had assumed the role of mediator between the nationality bloc and the Great Russian elements. He stated that they would continue in their efforts to reconcile the political chaos and eventually join the American Committee in the struggle against Communism.

6. To aid him in his study and to keep current with the internal BSSR situation TUMASH requested that we attempt to obtain for him five publications printed in the Soviet Union. He stated that he would note items of immediate interest for our benefit while the major portion of the information obtained from the publications would be reflected in the Study when appropriate.

7. TUMASH was not paid any money since, prior to the 20 October meeting, the contract was not signed. Arrangements will be made to pay him the salary for the month of October, in addition to the \$150 he will receive for expenses.

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