

CH, SR

VIA: Air
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA FOUCH)

DISPATCH NO. EAVA- 983

ORBOUNCE

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CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, SR

DATE: 25 November 1952

FROM : Chief of Station, Vienna

SUBJECT: GENERAL- REDSOX/Operational

SPECIFIC- Father van Cuttsem and Publication "Luch"

Refs:- A. SVIEN 8773
B. DIR 28207

DOB: 28 APR 09 CIT BELGIUM

1. (Father) Marcel van Cuttsem, a Jesuit priest of Belgian nationality, has for some time been active in welfare work among Russian emigres in and around Salzburg. He has been particularly interested in and has recently become editor of the publication "Luch", an anti-Soviet Russian-language mimeographed news bulletin with circulation among emigres and particularly among DP's in the several camps in Western Austria.

2. In June of this year Father van Cuttsem approached DYMAROON officials with a request for a small subsidy to enable him to continue publication of his newspaper. After some time the request reached [] with comment to the effect that Father van Cuttsem was well known for his outstanding work among Russian refugees and that a small subsidy would have a beneficial result, particularly since this was the only pro-Western daily available to Russian readers in Western Austria.

3. Since we had at that time no information available on Father van Cuttsem or his publication, [] told DYMAROON only that we would look into the matter with a view to determining whether some subsidy was indicated. Steps were then initiated to gather information on the man and the paper from various local sources.

4. In order to keep the publication going on an interim basis, [] authorized [] to transmit 1,000 Austrian Shillings to Father van Cuttsem ostensibly from an anonymous donor. This was done on 28 August. When compilation of the extensive file material was delayed, a further interim payment of 1,000 Shillings was transmitted in similar fashion in October. [] is reporting on these payments by separate dispatch.

5. From our latest information, a DYMACULE report dated 13 October, the paper is now entirely without funds and cannot continue without outside support. From another source it has been learned that Colonel Lawrence J. M. Mulhall, Chief, PIO, USFA, had been giving Father van Cuttsem a small stipend out of confidential funds but that he had been forced to discontinue the project earlier this year. This was confirmed in a recent conversation between Colonel Mulhall and the undersigned. In addition to his approach

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to DYMARCOON, van Cuttsem has appealed to the local PEP representative who has given him some encouragement but no definite commitment.

6. It is our feeling that the publication is undoubtedly performing a useful service in keeping Russian speaking readers in Western Austria informed about the world in general and about current political developments. Without this daily bulletin they would have only Possev, admittedly a far superior journal, but a weekly. Despite this fact we were reluctant to propose a DYGLAVIER subsidy with no tangible benefit than the continuing proper indoctrination of the DP's, particularly with emigre political activity in Austria a relatively minor factor as compared with Germany.

7. It is now apparent, however, that Father van Cuttsem can be useful to us in REDSOX operations by reason of his wide circle of acquaintances among the Austrian population, and we feel certain that we can recruit his services as a spotter of potential operational personnel in exchange for a small subsidy for the publication "Luch."

8. We expect very shortly to have our [] resident agents established in Austria and ready to start recruitment of individuals for propaganda distribution. The most pressing problem will be spotting of personnel. The [] people will be new in the area and will presumably have to start pretty much from scratch to locate possible recruits. They will naturally be attracted by language and nationality ties to the Russian emigres in the DP camps, and this is precisely what we want to avoid in view of the known RIS interest in the emigres and the unquestioned existence of Soviet informers in the DP society. [] will therefore explain this situation in detail to [] and make every effort to keep the [] people completely away from the DP camps. But we will obviously be obliged to give them some help in spotting and recruiting of Austrian agents; otherwise we will have to resign ourselves to a long period of waiting while they slowly develop their own leads.

9. Unfortunately the station can provide no useful contacts for us to turn over to the [] agents. We must therefore find some way to get leads which can be exploited for spotting and recruitment of Austrian citizens for the propaganda distribution nets. It is in this connection that Father van Cuttsem's wide contacts in Western Austria appear attractive.

10. We have no illusions that we would be recruiting a hot-shot clandestine operative in Father van Cuttsem, nor would we propose to draw him in to our operations in any way. All we want from him is some useful leads. After a careful examination of any names he might provide, we would attempt to establish contact without using Father van Cuttsem as an intermediary. If we can get even two or three operationally useful leads in this manner we will consider that the relatively small subsidy has been justified.

11. We would not propose, in general, to make operational use of van Cuttsem's contacts among the DP's, for the reasons noted above. Here, however, he can be of use to us by furnishing reports on a continuing basis

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concerning the emigres themselves and concerning their political alignments. This should be of interest to Project (ACTIVE).

12. The POB dispatch (MOLA-10722) mentioned in paragraph 2 of Reference B is not available here and we are therefore unable to comment on it. With respect to VIEN 6910, the fact that van Cuttsem was involved in some abortive defection efforts is not, in our view, sufficient reason to preclude his use for the limited objectives we propose.

13. In summary, a subsidy for the publication in the order of two to three thousand Austrian shillings a month would give us access to an operationally useful person. We would not be obliged to enter into any contract with van Cuttsem, and the subsidy could be terminated at any time it were felt that we were not getting sufficient return. It is on this basis that approval of the project is requested.

14. Attached herewith are summaries of file information on Father van Cuttsem and on "Luch", a Field Project Outline and PRQ Part II. (Under separate dispatch we are forwarding PRQ Part I and all available field traces.)

Attachments:

1. Summary of File Info on Father van Cuttsem
2. Summary of File Info on "Luch"
3. Field Project Outline
4. PRQ Part II (being sent under separate cover)

Distribution:

- ✓ 3 - Chief. SR - w/3 attachments (herewith)
- 1 - EE [] w/o "
- 1 - Sale [] w/3 attachments (herewith)
- 1 - Grower [] w/o "
- 1 - Grattas [] w/o "
- 1 - Carding [] w/o "
- 1 - [] w/l "

14 November 1952

Father Marcel Van Cuttsem

Summary of File Information

Father Van Cuttsem is a Jesuit priest of Belgian nationality, minister of the Greek Catholic Church in Salzburg and for some time active in welfare work among Soviet and other DP's in western Austria. According to a DYMACULE report he has been commissioned by the Oriental congregation to work for Russian emigres and is directly responsible to Cardinal Tisserant. Following Vatican policy he is not concerned with the conversion of Orthodox believers but rather with the elimination of existing misunderstandings between the two churches. He speaks Russian fluently, has a thorough knowledge of Russian affairs and enjoys the confidence of the entire anti-communist Russian DP element in the Salzburg area.

Van Cuttsem was born on 28 April 1909 in Antwerp where his mother still resides. He speaks fluent German, French, Italian, English and Russian. His hobbies are Russian music and American novels.

Van Cuttsem is a vigorous anti-Communist and cooperates willingly in anti-Communist activities. His primary allegiance is reportedly to the Vatican, and he is said to be ambitious for Vatican favor. From certain of his indirect statements there are indications that he may have Vatican intelligence connections, as a source of information on Communist activities and for possible countering of Communist propaganda.

DYMACULE files contain no derogatory information on Father Van Cuttsem. He was for some time a DYMACULE informant on pro-Soviet personalities in Salzburg DP camps and was considered reliable and sincere but definitely inclined to favor Vatican interests.

Father Van Cuttsem receives newspapers and letters of propagandistic content from the Imperial Hotel in Vienna. Addressed to Marcel or Marcellus, they insist that he is a Russian National of Lithuanian descent and encourage him to return to his homeland. The Soviet Repatriation Mission has also contacted him several times, with Van Cuttsem reporting these contacts to DYMACULE.

Since August of this year Father Van Cuttsem has been responsible editor of the Russian language daily, Luch.

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that LUCH be published in Hungarian and Czech as well as in Russian,
and Father Van Cutsem is reluctant to undertake this. He has recently
requested aid from PAD Salzburg.

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FIELD PROJECT OUTLINE

1. Reference:

SVIEN-8773

2. Objectives

To recruit the services of Father Marcel van Cuttsem for the following purposes:

a. Spotting and furnishing of leads for recruitment of indigenous agents for REDSOX propaganda distribution operations.

b. Obtaining information on a continuing basis on Russian emigre personalities and political alignments in Western Austria.

3. Background:

a. Father van Cuttsem, a Belgian Jesuit priest, has been active in welfare work among Russian emigres in the Salzburg area. His broad knowledge of Soviet affairs and sympathy with DP problems and his proficiency in the Russian language have assured his standing in the anti-communist DP community, and his official functions as welfare worker and pastor have given him a wide acquaintance among the local Austrian population.

b. Father van Cuttsem has for some time been promoting, more recently as editor, an anti-Soviet Russian-language news bulletin, LUCH, which circulates mainly among Russian DP's in camps in western Austria. Inasmuch as it is the only anti-communist daily available to Russian-speaking DP's in the area, it is considered by local DYMARCOON representatives to perform a valuable function in providing its readers regularly with Western-oriented news and commentary.

c. Until early this year Father van Cuttsem had been receiving some support from Colonel Lawrence J.M. Mulhall, Chief. PIO. out of confidential funds. Col. Mulhall recently informed [] that he had been forced to discontinue this subsidy but had done so with great regret, since he considered the publication and van Cuttsem's work among the DP's to be of genuine service. [] did not raise with Col. Mulhall the possibility of any DYCCLAIM subsidy.

d. In June of this year van Cuttsem appealed to local DYMARCOON officers for aid. The request finally reached [] with DYMARCOON comment to the effect that Father van Cuttsem was well and favorably known for his work among the DP's. In view of the

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evident possibilities of exploiting the situation for our recruitment program and in consideration of the immediate need of the newspaper, [] authorized [] on 28 August to send Father van Cuttsem 1,000 Austrian shillings ostensibly from an anonymous sympathizer. A further interim payment of 1,000 shillings was made in October in similar fashion. [] is reporting on these payments by separate dispatch.

4. Proposal:

a. It is proposed to recruit Father van Cuttsem as a spotter of potential operational personnel and informer on emigre activities in exchange for a small subsidy for the publication "Luch." Since no contact has as yet been established with the subject we can only estimate the amount of the subsidy as between two and three thousand Austrian shillings per month. It will be noted that this is only slightly more than we would consider as proper remuneration were we to recruit the subject as a paid agent. The subsidy will permit continued publication of "Luch" and dissemination in Western Austria.

b. The quid pro quo will be stated definitively, and from all present indications we feel assured that van Cuttsem will accept the offer. He will be asked to provide us with:

(1) Names and biographical data on persons who might be interested in accepting employment with Americans on certain confidential projects.

(2) Information on a continuing basis on Russian and Eastern European emigres, and on political tendencies and alignments among the emigration.

(3) Occasional use of "Luch" columns for publication of articles of interest to us. It will be emphasized that no attempt will be made to buy the paper's editorial policy. It is, in any event, completely pro-Western.

5. Cover:

a. [] will make the initial approach under an alias as a representative of an unnamed American organization. We would propose to use Col. Mulhall to introduce [] and establish his bona fides. [] will identify himself to van Cuttsem as the source of the anonymous contributions recently passed to him.

b. Depending on the development of the subject over a period of several meetings we would consider the advisability of ultimately turning the contact over to [] .

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c. Since van Cuttsem has been used as an occasional DYMACULE informant it may be necessary to brief DYMACULE, through appropriate liaison, concerning our interest. This and other operational aspects will be taken up with Chief of Base, Salzburg.

6. Security:

a. In view of Father van Cuttsem's Vatican connections we will have to reckon with the probability that our interest and support will be reported to the appropriate Vatican office. However, care will be taken to protect the true identity of his American contact through use of alias.

b. Names of potential operational personnel furnished by subject will be screened through all available means. Should it be decided that any such lead can be exploited, we would attempt to establish contact without using van Cuttsem as intermediary. In general we would propose to develop for operational purposes only his Austrian contacts, not his emigre contacts or associates. Father van Cuttsem would serve solely as a spotter. He would not be apprised of the projected use of his leads nor would he be drawn into the operations in any way.

7. Budget:

- a. Subsidy for publication in lieu of agent payment: maximum, \$100 per month.
 - b. Supplies, personal - maximum, \$10 per month
 - c. Supplies and Material for publication - maximum, \$20 per month
 - d. Travel and other incidental expenses - maximum, \$10 per month
- Total: maximum, \$140 per month

Total, FY 1953, seven months: \$980

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