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STRATEGIC SERVICES UNIT, WAR DEPARTMENT

Washington, D.C.

29 August 1946

TO: Colonel W.S. Wood
Civil Intelligence Section
Asst. Chief of Staff, G-2
CINCAFPAC, TOKYO

COUNTRY: Germany (via London, England)

SUBJECT: Polish-Japanese Intelligence Collaboration during Wartime

DATE OF INFORMATION: 17 May 1946

EVALUATION: F-2

1. The attached report is a statement written out by Oberstleutnant Joachim ROHLEDER of Abw/Abt/III F in the course of his interrogation in May 1946.

2. Note should be taken of the fact that the IWANOW of this report has been referred to in previous reports on the above subject or on the subject of Maj. Gen. Makoto ONODERA by the following aliases: PETROW; MICHAILOWSKI; RYBICKI (RIBICKI); RYBIKOWSKI (RUBIKOWSKI).

For the Director, SSU

(signed) [Signature]
Branch Chief.

Attachments: (1)

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy
(2)(B) Methods/Sources
(2)(C) Foreign Relations

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2005

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DISCUSSION

OF

KOHLER'S STATEMENT.

KUNCEWICZ - Polish R.D.

"A careful watch by my 'Mausmelle', working under my orders, on the Manchurian Embassy in BEIJING resulted in a letter from the Embassy and destined for JAPAN, falling into German hands. The embassy was suspected of carrying on intelligence work detrimental to GERMANY's prosecution of the war - a member of the embassy had tried to recruit a German national as an agent.

"It was addressed to the General of the Jesuit Order, Count LIUCHOWSKI, well known as a fanatical Polish patriot who though well in the seventies, was still a very vigorous man. The typewritten letter bore a handwritten signature, practically illegible, which might possibly have been 'Kuncewicz'. The main part of the fairly comprehensive letter consisted of reports on the fate and work of Catholic priests and parishes in German-occupied POLAND and LITHUANIA. It added suggestions for the further development of channels by which information could be passed; the writer laid the greatest stress on the need for careful camouflage - the Manchurian and Japanese diplomats were to be kept in ignorance of his true position. He also informed his correspondent of the days on which his agent in HONG KONG prepared courier post for JAPAN, as well as the days on which he himself in BEIJING prepared post for, and received post from, POLAND.

"The tone of the letter was deferential and indicated a personal acquaintanceship. As far as I can remember, this happened in the middle of 1942.

"Investigations carried out by my subordinates, revealed that a Pole KUNCEWICZ, though not on any official list, was in fact employed as assistant at the Manchurian Embassy, and had been supplied with a Manchurian passport.

"At this juncture, the abwehr was obliged to bring in the Gestapo on the case. The latter arrested KUNCEWICZ in the street.

"The Manchurian and Japanese diplomatic representative took no steps towards finding KUNCEWICZ, and when several days later the Embassy was informed of what had happened (as far as it was in the German interest to do so), they professed complete agreement with the German measures taken.

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As a result of KURONOWICZ's cross-examination - the Abwehr was not present but was kept informed of the statements made - as well as further private enquiries, the following facts became evident:

"KURONOWICZ was formerly an officer in the Polish Army, trained in Intelligence work. He had, in all probability, been working for the Japanese diplomatic representative in WARSAW even before the outbreak of war in 1939, because after the military collapse of POLAND in 1939, he found protection and employment at the Embassy there, was given a Manchurian passport and an appointment in BEIJING.

"For the remainder of the war, a Manchurian/Japanese Consulate General functioned in BEIJING and kept in constant touch with the Japanese and Manchurian Embassies in BEIJING through a diplomatic bag. Roles were also employed in this Consulate in BEIJING.

"KURONOWICZ admitted that he had received current miscellaneous information from POLAND and LITHUANIA via his agents employed at the Consulate General - which served as a collecting point - through the diplomatic bag. He denied however, that the information was of a military nature. The information was then forwarded through the Manchurian-Japanese courier to the office of the Military Attaché at the Japanese Embassy in STOCKHOLM, Sweden. There, working as colleague of the Japanese Military Attaché (Colonel OKADA - promoted in 1943 to the rank of General) was a former Polish colonel and intelligence officer called IWANOW Piotr or Peter IWANOW, who held a Japanese passport; his real Polish name became known later on, but I can no longer recall it. Oberst Dr. AGNEW who, until the beginning of 1945 worked in STOCKHOLM for the Abwehr, knows all the details on the subject.

"KURONOWICZ received directions and considerable sums of money through the same channels from Peter IWANOW, which he forwarded via WARSAW to members of his intelligence net in POLAND and LITHUANIA. IWANOW kept in constant touch with the Polish government in LONDON through the Japanese Embassy in STOCKHOLM and after Japan's entry into the war, through the Polish Embassy in STOCKHOLM.

"The Japanese Military Attaché in STOCKHOLM, General OKUDA, was Military Attaché in LITHUANIA years before the war; it is therefore probable that his close relations with Peter IWANOW date from that time. OKUDA claimed to have used IWANOW to receive information from LONDON; I am certain that the latter had channels through FINLAND and the Baltic countries, to agents on the Russian frontier and that he supplied OKUDA with Russian and most probably German, military information.

"The German authorities drew General OKUDA's attention to the dangerous character of his colleague. The Swedish Intelligence finally also grew suspicious of IWANOW. The latter left for LONDON in 1944.

"KURONOWICZ was, at the time of his arrest, suffering from a chronic illness, and died during his imprisonment before being brought to trial - this latter information was supplied by the Japanese.

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"In parenthesis, there was never any evidence to show that the Jesuits used the many channels available to the Catholic Church, for passing military information.

*The General of the Order, Count LEDOCHOWSKI died during the War.

(Signed) Joachim Behleder.

17 May 46.

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