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SOURCE: KILKENNY

20 November 1946

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SC No. 46

1) It is evident that the group with which we are in contact is the group of BANDERA.

2) Most of the leading members of this group are old time confederates of BANDERA's particularly those who were imprisoned and received the death sentence together with him in 1934 for the assassination of the Polish Minister of Interior PIERACKI.

3) LEBED, one of the overt leaders of this group, is the man closest to BANDERA.

4) Although BANDERA is not as active as before and during the war, his authority certainly exists.

5) Leaders of the group (UHWR) never mention that they are acting on BANDERA's behalf, for UHWR is not BANDERA's private organization. In spite of this fact, they regard him with the greatest respect as the leader for Ukrainian independence.

6) BANDERA is still the leader of the secret Ukrainian nationalist organization OUN, which controls UHWR, ABN, and UPA. BANDERA is considered as a successor to KONOVALETZ. MELNYK is the head of a small group of dissident OUN elements, mostly formerly pro-German. BANDERA and his group are certainly animated by a profound hatred against all the enemies of Ukrainian independence, Poles, Russians, and Germans. To that effect, he might be a "terrorist", but it seems also evident that when successful, even moderate and conservative Ukrainians applaud and accept the successes.

7) The group sponsored by BANDERA is considered by such Ukrainian politicians as the very influential MUDRYK and SHULGIN SEN as the avant garde of their nation.

8) Because of the close personal, ideological and official connection between the leaders of the group and BANDERA, there can be very little doubt as to what would happen in case the American authorities should deliver BANDERA to the Soviet.

9) It would imply to the Ukrainians that we as an organization are unable to protect them, i.e., we have no authority. In such a case, there is not any reason or sense for them to cooperate with us.

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10) No Ukrainian nationalist movement would be hamstrung through the arrest and repatriation of BANDERA, because new leaders would step into his place and they would act exactly the same way as BANDERA did. This is not a baseless prophecy, but (a) evident from the history of their movement, and (b) evident from their statements Source.

11) One of the reasons why full cooperation between the UHVR and our organization has not developed yet is the suspicion of these leaders that we will ultimately "betray" them.

12) From the very beginning they complained that Americans have no real interest in them and that Communist-penetrated USA officers or officials will trade them to Russia. This belief was shared by both the BANDERA people and the conservative Ukrainians.

13) My personal feeling and conviction is that in case of BANDERA's arrest, it would immediately put an end to operations Bella Donna and Lynx.

14) If it should be decided not to use these people and their organization for intelligence purposes, it would be better to arrest not only BANDERA, but all the leaders whose names and whereabouts are known to us.

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