

Reissue (T125)

From: NEW YORK

To: MOSCOW

No: 830

9 June 1944

To VIKTOR[i].

KOKh[ii] reports that Dewitt POOLE, Head of the Nationalities Branch of the IZBA[iii], compiled a report on the activities of the Roman Catholic priest ORLEMANSKIJ. In February of this year O.[iv] met him and communicated his desire to go to MOSCOW with a view to ascertaining the position of the USSR in the religious question and trying to clarify the relations between the two countries. On returning to the COUNTRY[STRANA][v] he handed over all the documents he had brought to the representative of the VATICAN who thanked him and sent the documents to the Pope. Recently O. again had a talk with POOLE, relating that he had discussed with our Government the question of the future of Poland and had told Comrade STALIN that it is impossible to have dealings with any of the members of the existing Polish Government in SIDON[vi]. Comrade STALIN is alleged to have objected, stating that only two members are totally unacceptable and that the future Polish Government must consist of members of the present government, the new Polish group in SMYRNA[SMIRNA][vii] and representatives of the American Poles according to the mutual choice of KAPITAN[viii] and O. In the talk with POOLE, O. stated that he considers the participation of the Poles in the COUNTRY inexpedient. With regard to the frontiers of Poland O. expressed himself vaguely but said, however, that allegedly according to a statement of Comrade STALIN the decision about the CURZON line was "thrust" upon him by the TEHERAN Conference.

POOLE considers O. a simple and honorable man who made the journey entirely on his own personal initiative. POOLE asked Bishop ShI[ix] about the reasons for the imposition upon O. of a disciplinary penalty. ShI allegedly answered that although O. was [C% simply] given punishment for drawing the Catholic Church together with the USSR [6 groups unrecovered] to dissuade other priests who want to act independently of the Catholic leadership.

A few days ago DEDUSHKA[x] in the presence of ShAKh[xi] met O., who recounted his talks in SMYRNA almost the same as to POOLE. This confirms our previous conclusion about the garrulity and unreliability of O.

No. 444

9 June 1944

MAJ[xii]

Comments:

- [i] VIKTOR: Lt. Gen. P. M. FITIN.
- [ii] KOKh: i.e. KOCH, Duncan Chapin LEE.
- [iii] IZBA: Office of Strategic Services.
- [iv] O.: i.e. ORLEMANSKIJ.
- [v] STRANA: U.S.A.
- [vi] SIDON: LONDON.
- [vii] SMIRNA: MOSCOW
- [viii] KAPITAN: i.e. CAPTAIN, Franklin D. ROOSEVELT.
- [ix] ShI: Possibly an error for ShIN, i.e. Bishop Fulton J. SHEEN.
- [x] DE_DUSHKA: i.e. GRANDPAPA, Evgenij Dmitrievich KISELEV.
- [xi] ShAKh: i.e. SHAH, Konstantin Alekseevich SHABANOV.
- [xii] MAJ: i.e. MAY, Stepan APRESYan.

18 July 1974