The Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations and World AntiCommunist League

The Edmonton-based Encyclopaedia of Ukraine states that the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations (ABN) attributes its existence and its ideological foundations to an underground conference of representatives of non-Russian peoples ... on 21-22 Nov. 1943 near Zhytomyr [Ukraine] on the initiative of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and at which a platform of joint revolutionary struggle against Russian communism was formulated. The goal of the ABN was the dismemberment of the Soviet Union into national states. This 1943 meeting, facilitated by Stepan Bandera’s OUN(B), was instigated by the Nazis to create an “Anti-Bolshevik Front.” Its 39 delegates from twelve “enslaved” Soviet ethnic groups formed a network of “underground” armies. Calling themselves the Committee of Subjugated Nations (CSN), this alliance of fascist armies was “the direct precursor” of the ABN, “though nationalists continue to deny its Nazi origins.” The Red Army defeated the Nazis in huge 1943 battles in Kursk and Stalingrad. Nazi military intelligence (Abwehr) and the Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories (led by fascist ideologue Alfred Rosenberg) turned to their strongest Eastern allies: the OUN-B and its Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA). In 1943, they were joined by deserters from the Red Army and from non-German SS units, including Belgians, Georgians, Azerbaijanis, Turkmenians, Cossacks, Armenians, Turks, and even Russians.

Besides the UPA, the CSN included Romania’s Iron Guard, Hungary’s Arrow Cross, Slovakia’s Hlinka Guard and other fascist legions from the Baltics, Bulgaria and Belorussia. Sharing the Nazi’s rabid hatred of Russians, Jews and communists, the CSN sought to obliterate the USSR by dividing it into ethnically-cleansed, Christian states.

Postwar service to empire

After WWII, the CSN replaced its Nazi sponsors. With funding from the US, UK and West German governments in 1946, the CSN became the ABN. Its “most active group” remained the OUN(B). In 1951, US army intelligence said the OUN(B) was “composed of rough, tough younger men of strong convictions without the slightest aversion to violent murder or otherwise ruthlessly disposing of any and all opposition.”

ABN leadership was a who’s who of fascists. Its president from 1946 until his death in 1986, was Bandera’s deputy, Yaroslav Stetsko. During a 1981 US visit to celebrate 40 years since the OUN-B declaration of a pro-Nazi Ukraine, Stetsko summed up the ABN’s goal and its violent strategy: “The complete destruction of the Russian empire through a Ukrainian national revolution and armed uprisings of all subjugated nations is the only means for achieving an independent Ukrainian state and the liberation of all nations subjugated by Moscow.” (Emphasis added) Other ABN leaders included fascist Hungarian general Ferenc Farkas, Croatian general Hlinko Alabanda (whose Ustaše death camps killed hundreds of thousands of Serbs, Jews and Roma), and CIA advisor Ferdinand Durcansky, former foreign minister of the Nazi’s clerico-fascist, puppet state in Slovakia.

As a Cold War asset promoting CIA interests, the ABN was central to its propaganda vehicles, such as Radio Liberation from Bolshevism. As Jonathan Levy notes: “The ABN became the darling of the cold warriors ... and its questionable personalities given full access to Radio Liberty and other propaganda venues. Radio Liberty itself was sharply criticized as a mouthpiece for antisemitism and glorification of Ukrainian Nazi collaborators.” Throughout the Cold War, the ABN held some of its largest events in Toronto. Its 1986 congress there received “warm greetings” from president Reagan and prime minister Mulroney. Toronto was fertile ground for the ABN because many of the far-right immigrants given safe haven by Canada, settled in Toronto after the war. There they formed groups representing the antiSoviet diaspora from Europe’s “captive nations.” In 1996, after achieving the Nazi-cum-CIA dream of destroying their common Soviet enemy, the ABN ceased operations.

World AntiCommunist League (WACL)

Through the 1950s and 1960s, Stetsko attended meetings of the Asian People’s AntiCommunist League. Created in 1954 by US-backed regimes in South Korea, South Vietnam, Taiwan and the Philippines, it joined with Stetsko’s ABN and other fascist entities from six continents to form the World AntiCommunist League (WACL) in 1966.

The WACL united Nazi politicians, Japanese war criminals, Italian terrorists, Salvadoran and Guatemalan death-squad leaders, US-allied dictators (Argentina’s Jorge Videla, South Korea’s Park Chunghee and Paraguay’s Alfredo Stroessner), former CIA officials, Moonie cult leaders, Saudi sheikhs, Nicaraguan contras, Afghan mujahideen and retired US Gen. John K. Singlaub. WACL events had Senators, Congressmen, MPs and archbishops. Its 1984 con-fab had greetings from Reagan. It was “an instrument for the practice of unconventional warfare—assassinations, death squads, sabotage throughout the world.”

References and notes

1. Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations, Encyclopaedia of Ukraine. bit.ly/2q9w1TV
2. Inside the League
3. Ibid.
9. Levy, p.321
10. Singlaub helped found the CIA, ran its ops in postwar Manchuria and covert wars in Laos and Vietnam (including the Phoenix assassination program). He supplied Nicaraguan and Afghan terrorists, led US troops in Korea, created WACL’s US chapter in 1981 and led the WACL globally (1984-86).