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CONVERSATION OF OLYA REPETYLO WITH DIRECTOR KRYVOSHEYEV

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OLYA met KRYVOSHEYEV in the pavilion and started to complain about the fact that other "engineers", and especially Ivan, bother her by continually asking why she keeps coming to the pavilion, "keeps annoying them", etc. They also ask her by whom and for what reasons she was sent. She explains that as a Ukrainian, she wishes to spend some time among her countrymen, among those who came from the country of her parents and about whom she heard and read so much. She would like to form her own opinions about the present day Ukraine, a true opinion which would not be influenced by anything or anyone. She is head of the OUM (Organization of Ukrainian Youth) in France but she is above accepting everything the new emigres tell as gospel truth. She wants to find things out for herself. She loves the Ukraine, although she personally was born in France, and would like to do something for her people. Therefore, she intends to go to the Ukraine and eventually even maybe remain there so that she can work among her own people. She presently is studying metallurgy and when she becomes an engineer, she will seriously consider her future. She would be glad to benefit from the knowledge of Soviet engineers and would therefore eventually go for a short time for practice in the Ukraine.

KRYVOSHEYEV: "I understand you very well. I know what it means to love ones own country even though you have not seen it." He made excuses for Ivan and others who kept attacking Olya. "You see, we have to be very careful. Not everyone comes with such good intentions as you do. They send us all sorts of people here, all kinds of letters, even with threats. They force upon us all kinds of brochures and leaflets which aren't always appropriate for a Soviet individual. In general, they give us no peace and take up our valuable time. In Munich and in other cities there are centers of emigres who concentrate on ways to harm us. It is therefore not unusual that we are suspicious of bad intentions towards us.

"You must take a trip to the Ukraine. You will see our true Ukraine. However, I would advise you to go only as a tourist first. To see everything you must first take a look around. For instance, we may have things that won't appeal to you. Everything in our country is not ideal, and there is much to be done. We have much work to be done and many shortcomings. You couldn't dress as well in our country as you are. Our accomplishments to date have cost us much and it was impossible to attain everything. In addition, the war caused many damages. Nobody suffered in this war as did the Ukraine. The Germans shot my own father in Poltava. I was born in Poltava. I was also wounded on the front. In general, from the economic standpoint, many improvements will have to be made."

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OLYA stated that the economic situation was not so important to her, that there are other things which are more important--freedom, cultural achievements, etc.

KRYVOSHEYEV: (In jest) "Well, you see, I personally am a Marxist and the material aspect is very important. One should never underestimate it. It is something we are seriously concerned with. And as far as freedom and things of that nature are concerned, I am afraid that we have different interpretations of the meaning. For instance, we are not too impressed with such an understanding of freedom as you have in the West. We shall have to work much more and turn our attention to this material aspect."

OLYA said the restrictions on freedom which she sees even here at the pavilion do not appeal to her. You can't treat everyone with suspicion and even more so avoid conversations. She assured him that the Ukraine is close to the hearts of the emigres also and that we all benefit from mutual contacts--they in the Ukraine and the emigres here.

KRYVOSHEYEV: "We don't suspect everyone", and he repeated his previous arguments regarding the emigre centers in Munich, etc. "It is very good that we are increasing our contacts with each other. It is necessary that our contacts are increased even more. If Nikita Sergeyevich comes to an understanding with Eisenhower then we will be travelling back and forth a great deal. I am not against conversations with emigres. There are many interesting and intelligent people among them. It is a pity that they have lost contact with reality in the Ukraine and there is much they don't understand. It is sad to see how certain intelligent individuals are wasting their abilities here on foreign soil. Take for example your friends ~~MYTROYCH~~ and ~~KOSHELIVETS~~, they are nice people. It is a pleasure to talk with them. I have carefully noted and am very grateful for their comments regarding our exhibition. You see, they don't have the malice toward us that others have. They are good Ukrainians."

OLYA extended greetings from KOSHELIVETS.

KRYVOSHEYEV: "I am very very pleased and grateful for his well wishes. I am honestly very grateful. I know who he is." He apologized to OLYA for the inconvenience others have caused her and invited her to continue her visits.

OLYA: "And how about the champagne? You promised to go with me and my friends."

KRYVOSHEYEV: "I would gladly go but I don't have the time. Today again I can't go. It is possible I will be free on the 21st. Honestly, it is very difficult for me to go out anywhere."

NOTE: OLYA again met KRYVOSHEYEV on September 21. She reminded him of his promise to join her for some champagne but he refused using lack of time as an excuse.

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