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TRACE REQUEST		ABSTRACT	FILE NUMBER (PRIMARY CODE)
		INDEX	74-124-29/4
DATE MICROFILMED	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT NUMBER	
	22 Jan 1963	OBB 06165	

OF 6165

HP

CIT: USSR

SUBJECT: The situation in the Ukraine in 1962

SOURCE: Olga ~~SYM~~ NYGATAN 40, MALMO, Sweden

SEX: F

DOB: CA: 1897

DATE: 16 Jan 1963

re: SITUATION IN THE UKRAINE, see doc
SOURCE OF INFO for odd info

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1. The Source, aged 65, Ukrainian, widow, arrived in LVOV, Western Ukraine, on 17 Dec 1962 to join for good her son Wolodymyr SYM living at the above address. She left LVOV about a week before her departure from MOSCOW in order to obtain some final documents in the capital. The whole procedure with application lasted for about one year. H. talked to the Source on 13 Jan 1963 at her house.

2. Cubans in LVOV. At the present time /fall 1962/ there are many Cubans in LVOV and in KIEV. Mostly youth. They are hated by the Ukrainians. In summer 1962 there were two cases that could serve as a reflection on the attitude of the local population. In the LVOV-~~xxx~~ park one Cuban was found hanged from a tree and the other one knived. It is generally considered to be a misbehaviour for a Ukrainian girl to go with a Cuban. The only ones who keep Cuban company are Polish and Jewish girls. Actually, the latter are quite eager to do so and recently the Source knew a case where a Polish girl married a Cuban and went with him to Cuba. The reason for the hate of Cubans by the local population lies in the fact that the Cubans are treated with priority everywhere. They get first everything; admissions at the University, living quarters, jobs and even goods in the stores. Their behaviour is very "big-headed", they treat everybody as inferior to them, and the local population cannot stand it.

The relations between the Ukrainians and the Cubans became particularly tense during the Cuban crisis. On the one hand the populace hated the Cubans for having them in the Ukraine and eventually to be compelled to fight their cause. On the other hand some people hoped that the Cuban crisis will "somehow further develop and get Nikita into real trouble".

3. The Cuban crisis. There was quite a panic during the crisis. Many people were, however, convinced that KHRUSHCHEV will back down. The outcome is considered to be a ~~xxx~~ retreat of the Soviet Union but only a partial one. In the population's opinion KENNEDY did not take advantage of the situation. The people expected him to finish off the Cuba altogether and were quite disappointed when it didn't happen.

4. Strikes and disturbances. In summer and autumn 1962 people talked about strikes and disturbances in DONEASS. In many cities there were not only strikes but regular street-fightings with militia and special military units. These disturbances were caused by the rise of food-prices.

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re: [unclear]

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Quit -
for E -

5. Restricted zone. People talk that in forests near JAVOROV, Lvov obl., there is a "zapretna zona" with missile-bases. The populace is not allowed to enter these woods. In LVOV the Source saw much military personnel and heard that many new buildings for military were being built.

Quit
for R.L.
Source

6. Ukrainian Resistance. The memory of the UPA is very lively in particular among the youth which continues to retell all kinds of legends about the struggle of the previous years against the Russians. One talks generally that General CHUPRYNKA blew his bunker up himself when he was surrounded by the KGB and there was no other way out.

According to the Source the struggle of the UPA was not in vain. It increased national consciousness also in the Eastern Ukraine. On the whole Ukrainians are getting more and more aware of their strength and don't mind showing it to Russians even if they have to suffer for it. The Source told H. of one Ukrainian Colonel who lived recently with two other Russians at the same house as the Source in LVOV and who was to be promoted to a general shortly. At one party at home he said something to the effect that "now ~~with~~ lets sing properly 'Khakhkachnia' so that ~~listen~~ ^{the} bloody 'katsap~~ta~~' will listen for that he was released from the Army.

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for R.L.
range

Another case: One day last autumn (1962) Col. MELETYEV, fnu who lived at Source's house, came home very worried. When asked what was the matter with him he replied that a very sad accident happened to him. "Last night somebody hung Ukrainian flags on the rifle (poligon). Can you imagine what it is? It must have been done by someone from the unit and there will be a real trouble". "For me personally this is a very unpleasant affair".

In autumn 1962 the Source went to the POCHAEV-Monastery. There she heard people talking that there are still "pidpilniki" (Underground - members) but they are now civilians. "They sit quietly and wait for the proper moment".

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for R.L.
range

7. Embezzlements, pilferings, bribes. These are everyday occurrences, in particular among people on higher positions, from kolhosps to factory-directors. Recently there is a new increased drive to combat this "cancer". The people who suffer from that mostly are Jews. They are being punished even for the "smallest smuggling". Last year many Jews were arrested and sentenced for gold and foreign currency, found at their homes. Some Jews disappeared without a trace "like in old Stalinist times".

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One of the most famous cases in LVOV recently was OVSIANYK'S suicide. He was a high party-official "on whom many things depended in LVOV". One day his house was surrounded by the KGB and he shot himself. They found in his house great sums of money and all kinds of valuables. OVSIANYK'S mistress tried to get at least a car for ~~her~~ but without success. People talked that OVSIANYK shot himself "for nothing" because it turned out that he might have been let off lightly for his crime.

8. STEPANIAK. "Stepaniak who together with Stetsko composed the Declaration of the Independence in our building in Lvov in 1941 returned after many years from Siberia. He is now an invalid. The Russians wanted to give him high position but he refused. He lives now isolated, does not want to meet any former friends since he knows that they (the KGB) watch him. When I (the Source) had to leave LVOV he knew about it and through a woman asked me to greet his friends in the States but I wonder if I ever will go there".

9. LVOV is a Ukrainian city. Recently even some Russians started to talk Ukrainian. In stores, in the street, in public places Ukrainian language comes more and more to the fore. The people talk quite freely and openly criticize the regime, in particular KHRUSHCHEV for his unfulfilled promises.

LVOV has been rebuilt and in this respect there could be no comparison with the pre-war period.

10. "GOMULKA wanted LVOV". People talked that during one of the meetings of KHRUSHCHEV with GOMULKA, the latter demanded LVOV to be given to Poland. KHRUSHCHEV allegedly replied that GOMULKA would have to talk about it to the Ukrainian government in KIEV as he himself had nothing to do with it. He warned, however, Gomulka that the price for the rebuilt LVOV would be probably much too high for Poland and besides he must realize how sensitive were Ukrainians about their Western capital.

11. KHRUSHCHEV wants to be popular. Source stressed the fact that KHRUSHCHEV was very keen on keeping up his popularity and people were aware of that. However, his reputation in last two or three years decreased remarkably, mainly because of his failures in the economy. On the other hand, the population does not mind to avail itself of KHRUSHCHEV for popularity. As an example Source told the following story; One man was sentenced to a few years, but he was innocent. His wife tried everywhere in LVOV to get him rehabilitated. She also wrote to KIEV and MOSCOW, but in vain. Then someone suggested her going to KHRUSHCHEV personally. She did so and was received by Nikita himself. He listened to her, told her to wait for a few days in Moscow and then come again. Next time when she was summoned to him, KHRUSHCHEV told her to go home by plane and her husband will be waiting for her. The fare was paid by KHRUSHCHEV. The woman returned at once to LVOV and her husband was indeed welcoming her at home. Everybody talked about this previously unheard of "miracle".

12. POCHAEV MONASTERY. In autumn 1962 Source went to POUCHAEV-monastery. She saw there people from all over Ukraine. Even people from Russia go to POUCHAEV. At that time there were rumours that the monastery will be soon closed. This only had increased the pilgrimage. Source saw herself a small boy weeping when he had to leave the monastery.

Religious feelings are very strong among the population. Also youth becomes more religious and this is a real problem for the system.

13. General situation. In general the living standard has much improved. With exception of some 2 seasons" there is no shortage in the real sense. All goods can be obtained even if at ~~the~~ rather high prices. From time to time there is a shortage of meat and butter but not for long. Meat is mainly supplied from the countryside which in its turn gets bread from the city. This is the normal "procedure" to-day.

In the Western Ukraine people live somewhat better than in the Eastern. Also buildings look better.

Of course, that could be no comparison with (Sweden) but in relation to Stalin's days there were many real improvements.

Source heard some city people complain about kolhoasnyke buying out the bread. But on the other hand, they didn't mind getting meat when there was usually none in stores, and the others reminded them of this.

Cloth and shoes are available, but at rather high prices.

14. Jews. Recently increased pressure on Jewish population. The synagogue in LVOV was closed in November and at the same time some Jews were arrested. In 1962 many Jews were sentenced for speculation and in great many a case large amounts of money, $\$$, and diamonds were found.

The regime does not mind anti-semitism, just on the contrary, it supports it. In particular Russians are very anti-Jewish.

15. Col. MELITYEV, fnu. He is Russian, but usually speaks Ukrainian and likes LVOV. In one case he helped a woman to get her husband from ~~the~~ prison. He is a regular officer but has many friends among "high people" in LVOV. Source characterized him as a good honest Russian with great sympathy for Ukrainians.

16. MELISHI (fnu). ^{citassr} When Source was leaving for Sweden some friends of her in LVOV asked her to tell our people in the States that MELISHI was a traitor and denounced many ~~members~~ of our Ukrainians to the NKVD. He also killed our people with his own hands. During the German occupation he worked with the Ukrainian Police and then with the MVD. At one time he disappeared and the people in the Ukraine were talking that he went to the United States. There is no doubt that they sent him as a spy.

MELISHI ^{sub} stems from село LASHKI, Yavoriv-rayon, Western Ukraine. Source saw MELISHI and could recognize him. pass sent to U.S.A.

17. The control at the Moscow-Airport was only superficial. The custom officers asked the Source whether she had any letters for abroad and after she replied that if they didn't trust old woman they should search for it themselves, they let her go. In HELSINKI she was joined by her son.

Ad 6.: In summer 1962 there were found ^{by the KGB} near LVOV some clandestine stores of weapons. The latter were freshly oiled and in the best order. The people were talking that they must have belonged to some Underground-members who cared for them. This was also considered to prove that there is still some Underground-movement.