

SUBJECT: PODGORSKA, Paraskewia Hnativna  
127 East 7th St., New York 9., N.Y.

DATE : 21 Mar 1963

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3828  
VAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

1. Subject - aged 72, peasant-woman, can hardly write and read, has somewhat weak memory, does not remember details and of limited knowledgeability in general - arrived by Pan American plane on 26 June in New York, from W. st Ukraine (vill age PLETENYCHI, r-n PEREMYSHLANY, obl. LVOV) to join her husband Rudolph PODGORSKI of above address.

After WW II for a short period Subject worked as domestic for local priest in PLETENYCHI and then moved with him to BEREZOVYTSIA WELYKA near ZBARAZ, obl. TERNOPOL. Four of five years ago, after the priest gave up his occupation, Subject returned to PLETENYCHI and stayed there until her departure for the States in June 1962.

In PLETENYCHI Subject made application for old-people pension and was receiving Rubel 55.- per month. She was also given 1q wheat for the first year and 1/2 q corn in subsequent years. The corn was an extra-supply from kolhosp. A comparatively high pension granted to Subject was presumably determined by the fact that her daughter and son-in-law, both were killed after WW II by UPA. Subject's son-in-law was for a short period chairman of Silrada in PLETENYCHI. According to Subject this was the reason for which the UPA killed him and then his wife. They had a son who married now and remained in PLETENYCHI.

G & C interviewed Subject on 20 Mar 1963 at her house. They were introduced to Subject by a close relative of her husband.

2. Itinerary: Subject went by train from LVOV to MOSCOW via TERNOPOL and KIEV. Her journey to MOSCOW lasted 24 hours. In MOSCOW she stayed for 12 days in a hotel. All was paid by her husband in advance through Travel Agency. In MOSCOW Subject had to pass a medical examination and "confirm" her birth-certificate.

On 25 June 1962 she boarded Aeroflot plane at 7.00 or 8.00hrs and landed in AMSTERDAM at 11.00 hrs. same day. Next day she boarded a Pan American plane at 17.00 hrs or so, for New York, Idlewild.

3. PLETENYCHI. A small village, of about 120 houses, with thoroughly Ukrainian population. Several Polish families were "repatriated" to Poland in 1947.

Immediately after arrival of the Soviet Army in 1944 many men went to woods to hide. There were many "oblavas" in which at least two dozen of men from PLETENYCHI were killed by the Sovs. Later on came deportations to Siberia. About 20 families affiliated in any way with UPA were deported. So far no one returned. Some of their children were visiting in recent years PLETENYCHI and claimed that life in Siberia was now much better than in Stalin's time. They preferred to stay in Siberia.

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Among those deported to Siberia in 1947 Subject mentioned a KHET, Mychailo and SHAHAI, Kas'ka (her husband was with UPA).

Together with VOLKOV (about 300 houses) and BREKULA ( 100 houses ) PLETENYCHI constitute one kolhosp ( Subject does not remember its name).

The chairman of PLETENYCHI kolhosp is OSLAB, Mychailo, local Ukrainian and a good man ready always to help his people. Also the chairman of Silrada is a local Ukrainian.

PLETENYCHI-kolhosp grows wheat, oat, corn, potatoes without specializing in anything particular. They have 2 own tractors but no combine. The latter they "borrow" from other kolhosps.

Harvest 1961/62 was very good and consequently kolhospynyks were very well paid ; 1 kg of wheat for working day plus some money (NR 150 for the whole year per average). In previous years they were paid much less. Usually a kolhospynyk was receiving 50 kg wheat or ~~wheat~~ corn and NR 80 -100.-.

Kolhospynyks keep one or two cows of their own (cases with two cows are, however, rather rare), several chickens, pig. PLETENYCHI have large public pastures and together with surrounding woods, the villagers are in this respect in quite a lucky position. Also kolhosp supplies always some straw and hay.

The kolhosp keeps about 40 cows and about same number of young cattle. The cattle was usually underfed but there were no cases of starvation because of lack of fodder.

PLETENYCHI has a 8 grades school. Teachers are local Ukrainians. They teach in Ukrainian but Russian is obligatory too. In higher classes they teach German. Few young people leave the village after graduation from school since their parents cannot afford to pay tuition fees in LVOV or other big cities.

Church in PLETENYCHI was closed since May 1961. There was no priest. Father BOBELAK who commuted previously from a near-by village was coming recently only for funerals and baptisions on explicit demand of people. He could not, however, accompany funerals in the street.

The people, however, go to church, in particular on "big holidays" like Christmass and Easter, and pray alone. Also youth goes to church.

4. General situation. After Stalin's death life remarkably improved. Contrary to previous shortages, even of bread, to-day there is sufficient supply of food-stuffs, textiles, and other consumer goods. Of course, there could be no comparison with the States and Subject did not believe that the Soviet Union would ever reach such abundance. The life became, however, endurable and with some more money it wouldn't be too bad.

Many kolhospynyks built new houses of their own. Taxes on "plots" are not too bad and with a good chairman of kolhosp "one can make both ends to meet".

Also very important is the fact that there are no more deportations and arrests. Previously, there were very severe punishments for stealing in kolhosps. Nowadays, there are fewer cases of that, and much milder punishments. Only in big cities the regime punishes severely "speculators".

The people still complain about KHRUSHCHEV but not to such a degree as it was the case with Stalin. The latter and BERIA - were bad, KHRUSHCHEV and MALENKOV - much better. Still people hope for some change. Some still wait for war though are afraid of it at the same time.

Youth remained Ukrainian. Those who returned from the Army spoke for short time Russian but pretty soon turned again to Ukrainian. Most young people belong to KOMSOMOL. Several years ago many left Komsomol but then

partly joined it again. (Subject could not elaborate on that.)

In recent years many people bought their own radio-sets. They listen also to foreign broadcasts.

LVOV is a Ukrainian city. Majority speaks Ukrainian. Only Russians speak Russian and some Ukrainians in offices.

Parcels sent from abroad are very helpful. Subject had to pick up hers in PEREMYSILANY Post Office. The inside was checked but she had no obligation to buy books.

There were no military units in woods around PLETENYCHI, nor any other objects of particular kind.

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