SUBJECT: YERMOLOVICH (1) Yuri and his 3 collegues,
Soviet tourists in New York, June 1963

SOURCE : MAC

1. Around 21-25 June 1963 KEIS, Vitali of Bronx, N.Y., aged 28, student of Russian Institute of Columbia accompanied for 4 days, usually for a few hours every day, 4 Soviet tourists - 3 Russians and 1 Ukrainian by the name YERMOLOVICH Yuri - in their sightseeing in N.Y.C.

KEIS met them at the Students Hospis in New York where he was introduced to the Sovs by STABLE, Arthur, "manager" of the Hospiz-Dormitory. Most of his time KEIS spent in company of YERMOLOVICH, Ukrainian from KIEV, aged 35, physicist, lecturer at Kiev Univ.

According to KEIS , YERMOLOVICH seemed to be a genuine Ukrainian, well read in Ukrainian history and literature. He recited by heart many poems by Rylsky, Tychyna, Franko, Lesia Ukrainka and others. He also made some indications about his anti-regime sentiments though in a very vague manner. As a result KEIS considers him to be anti-Russian. According to M., KEIS' appraisal is to be taken with reserve as KEIS is considered to be a still rather young naive and talkative man, that can easily be fooled.

Together with KEIS YERMOLOVICH and his Russian friends visited Ukrainian section in downtown New York and took some pictures of premises of various Ukrainian organization. They did not ,however, go inside. They also took picture of KEIS in frnot of one of the buildings. When YERMOLOVICH photigraphed St.George's Church, his Russian friends seemed to be dissatisfied with that.

YERMOLOVICH gave KEIS his address in KIEV and invited him to visit the Ukraine.(The address will be eventually obtained from KEIS by M.)

2. KEIS gave YERMOLOVICH 2 numbers of "Suchasnist". YERMOLOVICH told Keis that he had seen this journal once before and now read it with great

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interest. In particular he liked the poetry of BOICHUK and commented that such poems were still not permitted in the Ukraine. YERMOLOVICH knew several verses of Boichuk's poetry and recited them to KEIS.

3. In his conversation with KEIS ,YERMOLOVICH asked why there was no co-operation between Ukrainian students and the youth in general, in the Ukraine and those abroad. He recommended quite emphatically an action conducive to such co-operation although remained unspecific in practical aspect, himself.

4. YERMOLOVICH was reluctant to talk about present pressure on writers, poets and artists in the Ukraine and in the Soviet nion in general. He simply avoided this topic.

5. KEIS' remarks on Russification in the Ukraine YERMOLOWICH parred with statements that no one was able to russify Ukrainiansand that the Ukrainian potential remained undestructable. On such occasions he used to recite some Ukrainian patriotic poetry. Also in presence of his Russian collegues once he stressed that Pereyaslav-Agreement meant actually Russian treason (zrada) to the Ukraine and that only since the October Revolution the Pereyaslav-Agreement acquired its proper contents and meaning.

6. YERMOLOVICH claimed not to know who killed REBET and BANDERA and remarked that in some parts of the Ukraine mothers were still frightening their children with "Banderovtsy". YERMOLOVICH'S Russian friends asserted that BANDERA was definitely killed by Germans.

7. YERMOLOVICH claimed to have read "Blue Etudes" by KHVYLOVYi and have liked them very much. He was surprised when KEIS told him that PETLURA had bee a socialist.

8. YERMOLOVICH and his Rusdian friends made some derogatory remarks about Jews and Negroes and in general seemed to be rather biased onboth.