

SUBJECT: BARKA
Rep.# 2

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DATE : 22 Nov 1963

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. According to what Subject told M he saw OLEKSIY on 20 Nov 1963 at the appointed time and place. OLEKSIY took only the letter ~~for~~ Yuri and promised to accept the parcel at the next meeting on 29 Nov 1963 (Subject did not tell the exact place and time and mentioned only 70th street, those data will be submitted additionally.)

2. OLEKSIY told Subject his name but he forgot. He also told him that he was Second Secretary of the MZS (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) of the Ukr SSR. (N.B. This would substantiate the assumption that OLEKSIY and BOLBOTENKO are identical.)

3. When asked about SHCHERBYTSKYI'S removal, OLEKSIY explained that there were 2 factions in the Ukrainian top party and government echelon. One was more intellectual, sophisticated, and "progressive". SHCHERBYTSKYI belonged to this category and was backed by it. The other faction was older, less educated, less sophisticated, but more practical. To those belonged PODGORNY. KHRUSHCHEV himself was also of the same category and that's why he has deposed SHCHERBYTSKYI and elevated PODGORNY to Moscow. OLEKSIY also described SHCHERBYTSKYI as a man who "sat at the desk" whereas his opponents ran all over the country.

4. Oleksiy told Subject that he knew personally BAZHAN, KORNIYCHUK, LE, and other Ukrainian writers and poets. He was full of praise for KORNIYCHUK "for his brains and tact". "Mizhhiria" by Ivan LE was Oleksiy's most ~~favorable~~ favorite novel. Oleksiy said also something to the effect that he was even ~~mentioned~~ a relative of BAZHAN.

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5. Oleksiy attacked again Subject for his novel "The Yellow Prince" claiming that the hunger in 1930's in the Ukraine was a natural catastrophe and not an organized starvation. Oleksiy also wanted to know what exactly prompted Subject not to return home.

/ 6. N.B. On the list of the Delegation of the Ukr SSR to the 18th Session of the UN General Assembly BOLBOTENKO is stated as Leonid Germanovych BOLBOTENKO - Second Secretary of the MZS of the Ukr SSR. / See "The Ukrainian News" of 12 Sep 1963 published in New York, N.Y. (85 E 4th street) /

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SUBJECT: OCHERET, Vasyl alias Vasyl BARKA, of 23 W 82 St, N.Y.

DATE : 21 Nov 1963

1. On 15 Nov 1963 from 20.15 to 00.30 hrs Subject was visited in his room under above address by two Soviets who introduced themselves as members of Ukrainian Delegation to the UN staying now in GLEN COVE, N.Y. They brought Subject a letter from allegedly his son living in the Soviet Union.

The Soviets gave only their first names : Oleksiy and Boris.

OLEKSIY - 6', aged 35-40, oval face, brownish eyes, ^{black hairs} ~~eyes,~~ ^{lawyer,} stems from Kiev-region, speaks very fine Ukrainian, claimed to be a good friend of VINHRANOVSKYI Mykola at whose apartment in Kiev he saw "Okean" by Subject; Oleksiy is rather phlegmatic, "very smooth," well poised.

BORIS - 5'8 - 5'9, appar. age 30, big round face, ^{blond hairs} ~~face,~~ ^{stems} from Donbass-region, speaks ukrainian with Russian accent; his English is perfect (according to Subject).

In his letter Subject's son informs him about family-affairs and asks him to return back to the Soviet Union. Oleksiy and Boris "recommended" Subject to follow his son's advice.

2. The letter is from Yuri Vasilovich OCHERET living now near KRASNODAR. Also some other places like NALCHYK, PYATIGORSK and other are mentioned where Yuri recently was staying. The letter is written in Russian and "with trembling hand". The handwriting seems to be rather of an old man than a young one.

About himself the son writes the following: he finished the Pedagogical Institute, studied languages - German, French and English. Then he served with a engineering-technical unit of the Soviet Army in the rank of lieutenant. After his military service Yuri worked as lecturer of German language and literature

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and for some time was Director of the school. Privately he continued to improve his English.

About his mother Yuri ~~writes~~ wrote that she died in 1944. she was lecturer of "Agoiska-langua" and literature and since 1948 participated in composing Agoiski dictionary.

Yuri mentioned also a NYURA (first name) who became the ~~wife~~ actress of the RSFSR, a NIKOLSON who was still working in the old position, and both were often thinking of Subject.

At the end - Yuri, relatives and friends-asked Subject to return home, now it was much better in the Soviet Union than before, there was much more freedom and all Subject's previous sins would be certainly pardoned. As an old man who had experienced so much in his life, Subject deserved a better life than the one he had now in emigration. They all were sure that nothing bad would occur to Subject in the Soviet Union, many people, with much worse sins, had returned home and lived now in peace.

3. Both visitors in their turn recom ended Subject to return home and live there not only in peace but in prosperity as well. The main talking did OLEKSIY. BORIS talked very little and often OLEKSIY interruded him or simply told him to shut up. Whereas OLEKSIY was very polite, "full of understanding" and did not press, BORIS was more aggressive and rude. "But both were very tactful."

According to OLEKSIY they found Subject's son and relatives on request of the Union of Ukrainian Writers, in particular of BAZHAN. The latter had Subject's book from emigration (Subject thought probably from M who had one copy given to one of Virskyi's administrators for BAZHAN in Kiev) and was quite impressed by Subject's writings. He presented his impression to his colleagues and probably on suggestion of Mykola BAZHAN himself, Oleksiy set out to find Subject's relatives. Finally, he found them in Caucasus. In addition

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to what was said in the letter OLEKSIY told Subject that his mother and brother were dead. OLEKSIY indicated that they were actually arrested and/or deported and tormented to death. This happened immediately after the war when the cult of personality- terror was at its peak. It could have not happened now. Subject's mother and brother joined some religious sect and were persecuted for their religious activities. OLEKSIY felt very sorry about it but responsible for all that was Stalin.

OLEKSIY suggested that Subject should write a letter to his son and send him eventually a parcel as gift "f om father to son". Subject agreed to do it and OLEKSIY gave him his son's measurements. Subject was going to buy a suit and other cloth. OLEKSIY did not give him ,however, son's address and promised to take the gifts personally from Subject for his son. They fixed an appointment for Wednesday, Nov 20, 1963 at 11.00 hrs at the bus stop at 81st Street and 8th Ave . Subject will bring there his parcel for Yuri.

4. During a long discussion with Oleksiy and Boris , Subject presented his reasons for which he could not return now to the Ukraine. He mentioned in particular Russification, lack of individual and political freedom, aso. OLEKSIY rejected all his arguments though admitted that not everything was ~~OK~~ as yet but things were getting better and better. He denied that the Ukraine was dominated by Russia because all the economic life of the Ukraine was in hands of Ukrainian engineers and planners, the Ukraine had developed modern industries and continued to achieve new ^{great} "indices" , only recently they finished to build a cascade of modern Hydro-electric plants on Dnipto-River aso, asf. The Ukrainian culture was flourishing as never before, the Ukrainian SSR had its representation at the United Nations, and many Ukrainians like GRECHKO, YAREMENKO, RYBALKA and MALINOVSKY himself were in highest commanding posts of the Soviet Army.

OLEKSIY denied that young Ukrainian writers and artists were or will be persecuted for their works because they were "our boys, genuine communists and

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only emigrants decried them as nationalists".

In his turn OLEKSIY attacked Subject for his recent book "The Yellow Prince" dealing with the hunger of 1933 in the Ukraine. Why has Subject written this book from political, idealistic point of view? They wouldn't mind it if he would have written his "Prince" from a Marxist, materialistic angle with understanding that the industrialization was necessary for achieving material abundance and welfare which in its turn was indispensable for real freedom. In this colossal undertaking - sacrifices and mistakes - were bound to occur but what counted was the industrialization itself.

5. OLEKSIY and BORIS made in general a very good impression on Subject as Ukrainians and people basically honest, in spite of all. He was determined not to return to the Ukraine but decided to maintain contact with his son in order not to complicate thing for the latter. Though he saw his son last time when Yuri was 9 years old, Subject did not want to doubt that his son and the letter were genuine. All the arguments of Dr P and M against maintaining further contacts with Oleksiy and Boris, Subject rejected and was determined to follow "the voice of his soul".

Subject became very excited, emotional, and simply unable to think logically. There seems also to be an element of fear - for his son and himself. He saw also eventually in his contacts chances "to tell the truth to communists" and learn more about his relatives and the situation in the Ukraine from them.

Subject was unwilling to report to the FBI directly and preferred to tell about it his bosses in the Radio Liberation. He promised to do so on 18 Nov 1963.

Together with suit and other gifts Subject planned to give to OLEKSIY for his son a long letter explaining his reasons for not returning home. He wrote ~~it for several days~~ about 10 pages. On suggestion of M on 18 Nov he decided to write a new one much shorter.

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6. Subject was told by OLEKSIY that before they had tried to visit him for 3 times but always failed. Subject was not at home. Subject's bell has # 13 and since all bells are "mixed up" only those who were told by Subject and the Superintendent knew Subject's bellton. Beside M, the bell number was known to :

PASTUKHOV, fnu of Glen Cove, N.Y., a Ukrainian painter, post-war emigrant, and

RYCHOK, fnu of Newark, also a Ukrainian post war emigre. Both are good friends of Subject.

(N.B. 7. The name OLEKSIY and his description coincides with that of OLEKSIY BOLBOTENKO who was the Montreal Fair in 1961.)

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