INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Ukrainian SSR)	REPORT NO.	CS -3/576,991
SUBJECT	Attitudes in the Ukraine Regarding the US, Penkovskiy, Pasternak, and the Virgin Lands	DATE DISTR.	30 March 1964
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		REFERENCES	DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT DATE 2007
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: A Ukrainian who emigrated from the USSR in the fall of 1963 (F).
Appraisal of Content: 3.

1. In 1963 Soviet propaganda inside the USSR was increasingly aimed at convincing the people that America was not as "good as it seemed to be". The propagandists stressed the high costs of medical care in the US, the high debt rate and unemployment. The stories were circulated that gift parcels were regularly sent from the US with money borrowed at a high rate of interest and that people in the US borrowed clothes before taking pictures destined to go to the Ukraine. This propaganda had practically no effect and people were doubtful that the propagandists themselves believed it.

2. The Penkovskiy trial was widely discussed and contrary to the official line, the people were actually satisfied with what he had done and viewed him as a hero rather than a spy. The usual comment was, "at least one man knew how to hurt them". Particular note was taken of the fact that Penkovskiy was "well off, had a very high position, and was one of theirs" and that, therefore, the damage he managed to inflict upon the regime was very great indeed.

3. In discussing Dr. Zhivago the Ukrainians generally felt that Pasternak's thesis had been an assertion that the 1917 revolution did not bring about what it had been expected to. They felt that Pasternak had been correct in his thesis, that he had been a great man and had been buried as a Christian. People talked about "his wife and daughter having been deported" and expressed open sympathy for them.

4. The people consider the whole Virgin Lands project as a failure and frequently mentioned the names of Malenkov and Molotov "who had known better". The story has it that during the squabble with Khrushchev in 1957 both men contended that a similar agricultural experiment had been tried under the Tsars and had been a total failure.

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GROUP 1
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