

SOVIET TRADE FAIR, GENOA

General

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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1. The Trade Fair lasted from 21 Mar to 12 Apr 1964 at Fiera Internazionale, Genoa. The Soviet personnel numbered about 180 people, among them 12 - 15 Ukrainians, several Balts, several Armenians, and couple of other non-Russians, the rest were Russians stating usually Moscow, Leningrad, and Kiev as their residences. They seemed to be well selected and screened judging by their general appearance, relative freedom they enjoyed, and "proper" presentation of their views in discussions. Though usually in the streets seen in ~~two~~ twos, threes, or small groups, some people were also observed when walking alone and behaving quite freely on the whole. They were quite representative as intelligent, professional element, polite, well dressed. Prior to the opening of the Fair, according to their own sources, they have had their suits and dresses made by Italian tailors in Genoa, immediately after their arrival at the city. This was quite a contribution to their "European intelligent appearance". Friendly though reserved they seemed to be well briefed on how ^{to} advertise Soviet reality as represented by the Fair but in general avoided political topics of controversial character. This particularly applied to non-Italians with Slavic background like our group with whom they had preferred not to be bothered ~~with~~ ^{by} political discussions. On the whole they tried to create impression of being rather technical, professional element with no specific interests in politics.

Technically, the Fair was well arranged and quite impressive for average Italian public in spite of obvious shortcomings and overdosed propaganda. The emphasis was on balancing consumer-goods with super duper achievements in space and industry. The latter evidently fared much better ~~of~~ than consumer goods. In many cases propaganda had to compensate for noticeable shortcomings and defects in both, industrial and consumer goods.

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Thus, somewhat shabby and antiquated for Western standards furniture or cars were balanced to a very great extent to many Italians, by demonstrations of free education, full medical and social care, also. In brief, the Fair seemed to be quite a success from propaganda point of view. Soviets were aware of it and were quite satisfied. Some of them even stressed that in spite of the fact that they had ^{had} to spend much money on it, it was worth it. Generally praised was also performing nearby at the Fair Moscow Circus and somewhat less "Fashion Show". Again, the latter was designed in such a way as to ~~please~~ ^{"appeal"} above all to average taste of both, working and lower bourgeois class. Italian names of dresses like "Italian Sky" or "Italian Sea" etc seemed to be quite flattering to average Italian.

Politically, except for a quotation from the Constitution about the Union of 15 Republics and hanging of their flags outside, the Fair was a manifestation of the unified, Russian character of the Soviet state. This was particularly evident, for instance, in the book-section where among thousands of Russian books one could find only 3 Ukrainian, 5 or 6 and Baltic, (same number of ^{other} non-Russian ~~other~~ ones. Questions why there were so few non-Russians books were usually answered with excuses like: "We did not receive Ukrainian (or other) books in time", "They have not arrived yet", "This is an industrial and commercial fair and we don't care for literature and politics", "This was someone else's mistake in Moscow who forgot to make proper arrangements in time".

The section devoted to the history of Russo-Italian relations had nothing about relations of other non-Russian peoples with Italy and was ~~entirely~~ restricted to Russian documentary materials.

Judging by the atmosphere at the Fair non-Russians seemed to be subjected at the present to a rather strong Russian pressure. Thus, Ukrainians, for instance, were evidently afraid to demonstrate their

national feelings and even nationality itself and often preferred to pass as Russians. The others, as a rule, used Ukrainian only tete-a-tete and automatically switched over to Russian when joined by other Sovs.

On the other hand, Russians evidently ran the whole show and beside moderate elements who seemed to know quite well Ukrainians and their and other non-Russians' problems, there was extreme chauvinistic element who did not shun even to ridicule other nationalities.

As to its socio-structural profile, prevailing was "technocratic element" of medium and higher caliber with good jobs and good prospects for professional careers in the future, aged usually between 35 and 45. They identified themselves clearly with the regime itself and ~~showed~~^{owed} it their loyalty. Quite a strong segment among them, nevertheless, seemed to be somewhat dissatisfied with the present state of affairs and would prefer to see more individual freedom and better chances to enjoy their social status. They were also quite sympathetic to a limited "Westernization" above all in material sense. All that, however, did not impair their loyalty for the Soviet system which they would like only to be somewhat "reformed" and hoped to achieve it sooner or later.

Excursions to nearby places were organized for the Fair personnel, mainly to Milano, Portofino, and Rapallo. According to their sources they planned to visit also Rome but then gave it up after Italians wanted to charge them Lit 40,000.- for ~~every~~^{each} person.

Some members of Institutes went to Italian schools, factories and Institutes to read lectures on their professional subjects.

General Main Topics Presented by Sovs

1. There was a general trend to shift "all the bad" to the past and make responsible for it the cult of personality. At the present, not everything was perfect but it was improving continuously and only the best could be expected from the future.

Arguments about "more broader responsibility" extended also ~~to~~ the present leadership of the CPSU incl. Khrushchev himself were met usually with silence or refutation that one could compare Nikita Sergeevich with Stalin, or with the implication that only the anti-aprty group was bad and the rest - good. Some also tried to defend at least to some degree Stalin as "the one who had also done much good".

Those who seemed to be particularly "faithful" to the system were deeply irked by our arguments on "broader responsibility" substantiated by "deeds" of Nikita Sergeevich himself in the past; such parallels as Stalin - Zhdanov, Khrushchev - Ilichev, when discussing attacks against writers and artists; lack of guarantee against return of Stalinism in the future; enquiry on explanation of the fact that since Soviet elections were always democratic, did it mean that Stalin had been also chosen by people; "superiority" of Soviet economic system as in view of latest purchases of corn abroad; problem of "fathers" and "children". These were the questions to which they usually could not give any reasonable answers.

2. All Soviets stressed peaceful intentions of the Soviet Government and people. They assured everybody that they hated war and wanted to solve all outstanding problems with the West. An indication to their military power was parred with assurances that all that was only for defence in case they would be attacked. Some of them used very rude and naive arguments like the following:

Excerpts from a "debate" on 28 Mar 1964 :

M (from our group): "How long is then military service in the Soviet Union?"

Soviet engineer, physicist from Odessa, aged 35-38, Russian: "From two to four years, it depends; I mean for those who have no one to support at home."

M: " In my country it is only one year, how could you say ~~then~~ that you are working for peace and we for preparation of war ?"

Sov.: "But we train our soldier only how to defend ,not how to attack, and besides,they have so many furloughs that it all boils down to one year,too...."

M.: "~~Don't~~ Don't you really realize that what you are talking is a complete nonsense?"

Sov: "I can assure^{you} we are not going to attack the West and we want peace...."

In general one felt that at least they personally were genuinely against war and would like to have further relaxation of international situation.

3. German problem was very much in the center of discussions on European situation. 'Defense' of the wall of Berlin and of East Germany was a standard propaganda about Western attempts to use Berlin as a basis for subversion and intelligence activities in East Germany. An eventual neutralization of the city was put forward as the only logical solution. They seemed to be genuinely concerned about "German revanchism". ~~Also~~ Resentments against Germans for the past were very strong. Even in cases where presense of Italian troops in the Soviet Union during the Second World War was discussed , Germans and not Italians were in the focus of critical attacks.

Dr Adenauer was still "the main revanchist threat" and his substitution with Erhard was appraised positively.

The Havenmann-affair was unknown to Sovs and they learned about it first from our people.

4. With a few exceptions all at least formally either approved of, or did not care about castigation of writers and artists. Some genuinely criticized modern art as they simply seemed to be unable to understand it.

5. There was a general interest in living conditions in the West. An Armenian Prof of Geology from Moscow seemed to be particularly interested in salaries and facilities of lecturers in the West. He was aged 65 and had already been to Paris and Brussels. He did not, however, respond to an increased interest in him by one from our group.

6. Sino-Soviet conflict was by all described as serious but it won't lead to war. All fault was with Chinese who were both- nationalists and arch-Stalinists. What Chinese were now doing to the Soviet Union was an extreme demonstration of unbelievable ungratefulness for great Soviet help in the past. As to factual development of recent Soviet-Chinese relations ~~none~~ no one seemed to be really familiar with it.

7. All expressed hope that the Fair will definitely contribute to further development of commercial intercourse between Italy and the USSR. They stressed there were great prospects in petroleum industry, ship industry, and electronics. The Soviet Union will continue to supply Italy with petroleum and some of its by-products, new orders for Italian ships will be forthcoming. According to Sovs who were in charge of watches they hoped to compete with Swiss firms in not later than ten years. Admitting that their finishing was still short of the Western one, they underlined "workability" and low prices of Soviet watches. On this occasion they complained that all watches sold by them to Italian firms were ~~the~~ tripled by ~~them~~ ^{Italians} and they were dissatisfied with

that but were unable to do anything against it.

Some of Sovs spoke with ~~pride~~^{pride} about the establishment of Soviet-Italian Commerce Chamber in Milano and the fact that in it were represented some of the greatest private Italian firms. They mentioned Fiat, ~~and~~ Viscosa, and other.

8. Several complained about Russian emigration who had bothered ~~them~~
"with disdain"
with "slander" and "accusations". They spoke about old emigrees living in Genoa and around it and who-in their views were just "dead souls". They also claimed that their children were completely different and showed much more understanding for Soviet reality. One young man, son of a former aristocrat, wrote even in the guests' book that he was proud of to-day's Russia and regretted he was not born there.

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1. Our group consisted of 4 people plus C. Altogether there made (31) contacts but only in several cases it was possible to obtain addresses and promise to correspond in the future. All of those approached refused to accept Ukrainian or Russian literature. One took a small book on present Spanish literature. Some were quite interested in Italian, German and French magazines but usually left them on their tables.

2. Following books were "planted" into Books Section of the Fair :

"Documents on Ukrainian Communism" in Ukrainian	2	exemplars
"Panorama of Contemporary Ukrainian Literature" by I. Koshelivets In Ukr.	2	"
" Contemporary Literature in the Ukr SSR" in Ukr.	2	"
" The Great Bard" by V. Barka in Ukr.	1	"
" The Eternal Ones" in Ukr.	1	"
" Ukrainian Science in Colonial Chains" in Ukr.	1	"
" Sources of the Ukraine's Rights" in Ukr.	1	"

121 leaflets in Russian " For Freedom of Ukrainian and Russian Peoples" were planted in various departments mainly into equipment, cars, etc.

Sent by mail from Genoa to the Soviet Union :

Information Bulletin	20
Documents on Ukr. Communism	3
Panorama by Koshelivets	2
Contemp. Literature by Koshelivets	2
Source's of Ukraine's Rights	6

} 7 books

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Identified Soviet personnel:

1. TERMIERIAN, Ina *Secy Sov Emb., Rio 1962*
No other T names
2. KUZMYN, Petr Alexandrovich
3. KAPLYCHNYI, Vilen
4. BELODED , Yaroslav
5. TIKHANOVSKIY, fnu
6. GLEBOV, fnu
7. TORCHYNSKY, fnu
8. FUGIN, fnu
9. SORIN, Pavel Mikhailovich
10. TATARCHENKO, fnu
11. BUKHALOV, fnu
12. NAYDIONOV, Alexandr Pavlovich
13. MELNIKOV, fnu
14. SEROV, fnu
15. SLEDAKOV, fnu
16. DERZHYBIDA, fnu
17. KORZHOV, fnu
18. MUKHIN, fnu
19. SUKHOV, fnu
20. POPOV, fnu
21. MISHCHANSKY, fnu