

SECRET

Re: General situation in West Ukraine
 First Half of 1964

Source: Mrs M. Baranek, formerly of Lviv, Ukraine

Date: 15 of April, 1965

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

1. Source, 70 yrs of age and a widow for the past 8 yrs, arrived ~~into~~ Canada in May, 1964. She flew by plane from Moscow through London, and came for good to her daughter, Mrs Evnen Bodnaruk, who resides at 89 Clendenon Ave., Toronto 9, Ontario, Canada.

Source lived in Lviv for the past 20 yrs. Before that, she lived in Drohobych, Lvivska Oblast. She is Ukrainian, Catholic of the Byzantine Rite, quite intelligent, a serious and good natured person. However, she has forgotten many facts, esp. names and dates, and her knowledgeability thus has suffered. She was never a member of the Party, has not been arrested, imprisoned nor exiled.

Her husband was the director of the gymnasium in Drohobych before the II WW. He was Sichovyy Strilec (the Ukrainian Sich Rifles) and a member of the Ukrainian nationalist Organization. After the ~~NAZI~~ Soviets occupied West Ukraine in 1945, he was arrested and exiled. He died shortly after his release from the slave labor camp about 8 yrs ago.

SECRET

Before leaving the USSR, she was instructed by the Canadian consul in Moscow, a female, to take along only \$100, a wedding band, one watch, one bracelet, and one necklace.

Before departure from Moscow, she spent there 11 days and stayed in Yaroslavskaya Gostinnitsa (hotel). This hotel is for foreigners only, and is luxuriously finished, with a bathroom in every room.

The customs control at the Moscow airport was very superficial, almost none. Source managed to bring along a few books, and a painting by Kholodnyy which surely would ^{have} ~~be~~ confiscated if noticed by the Soviet customs. It was allowed to take along only 22 klg. of luggage -- Source had 3 klg. more, and had to pay surcharge of 25 rubles for each additional klg.

2. Source was interviewed in her present home, at the address mentioned above, on April 8 and 9, 1965.

II

SECRET

1. In Lviv, as in all large cities of the Ukraine, one can hear Russian language everywhere. It is because the overwhelming majority of the population in Lviv is Russian. The Ukrainians, however, speak always Ukrainian, including the youth.

The Russians in Lviv like the city so much that they have no intention of ever leaving it. The Russians live harmoniously with the local Ukrainian population and trust the Ukrainians more than their own people.

2. The Russians in Lviv criticized the authorities openly and aloud. Especially they did not like ~~K~~Khrushchev -- they called him "chachol (this insulting name is constantly used by the Russians towards the Ukrainians), and said that he is not fit to represent the USSR while thumping with his shoe.

The life in general, however, changed considerably during the ~~K~~Khrushchev's reign. During that time no one was afraid to go to bed at night knowing that there will be no searches in ones home, no arrests or deportations, as it was during the Stalin's rule. There were no political arrests, as such, and the majority of political prisoners were released from prisons and slave labor camps. There was also more freedom of speech, and one could hear even in public places the people criticizing what they did not like.

SECRET

3. The people in the Ukraine know a lot about the Ukrainian emigrees abroad -- how they live, what they do, and about their organizations. They also know about their quarrels, disputes, and intrigues, and all of this grieves everyone very much. Many people, however, even refuse to accept it as the truth.

4. Some people talk negatively about the underground activities, esp. the time after Gen. Sauchevych's death in 1950. There was too much of irresponsible behaviour and disorder, and everyone was acting on his own behalf. Wherever 3-4 people got together, they called themselves "banderivci" and went robbing the people in the villages. This kept the people in a constant horror and repressions from the authorities.

There were many instances when such groups attacked the villages and hanged those peasants who signed up to the kolhosps, without understanding that it was the only way out for the peasants because the authorities used extreme measures for its accomplishment.

At one instance a leader of one of such groups announced that if even one person goes to vote during the election he will hang the whole village.

5. All the people are still hoping that the political situation will change and are waiting for something to happen, believing

that the USSR must fall. By what means, they do not know.

The people look at the American politics with a joundest eye and blame them for everything bad, saying that they should have started the war with Russia right after the fall of Germany instead of having fussed with Stalin.

6. In Lviv there is a great number of soldiers. All former Polish barracks are loaded to its full capacity, and the establishments are constantly enlarged.

The citadel is the off-limits area and no one knows what is going on in there. In order to hide it the authorities have built a wall in the front of the windows facing the citadel of the home of one professor who lives next to it.

At the present, the authorities began to resettle the population from the Kulparkiv district in Lviv because they need space to build an electric-bulb factory. However, there is a rumour among the people that it is going to be a factory for some kind of amunition.

7. The rumours that in 1963 there were arrests of the Ukrainian Catholic priests and nuns in Lviv were not correct (this was also confirmed in a recent letter from nuns in Lviv, with whom source corresponds, using in advance agreed language).

8. Some former Ukrainian Catholic priests did not turned to the Ortnodoxy. Most of them were sent to the exile and those x who returned later or those who were not sent away are working as ordinary laborers in different factories and other establishments.

The nuns, Sisters of St. Basil the Great and Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, are working mostly as cleaning women in hospitals, offices, etc. There is still plenty of them in Lviv but they xx are slowly dieing out because most of them are quite old.

9. The people knew "all" about Metropolitan Slipyy -- when and where he was resettled, what was he doing or what was done to him, etc. Certain people were corresponding with him and even visited him. Source ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ knows of only two such visits, but thinks there were more. About the first visit she does not remember when or who visited him. The second visit took place about 5 yrs ago and it was former Ukrainian Cathplic priest, Rev. Zaliznyak. The nuns from Lviv prepared a package containing, among other things, consecrated bread and wine. When Rev. Zaliznyak arrived at the camp of a kind for the old people on Lena River, Metropolitan Slipyy was not in his barrack but went for a walk, so Rev. Zaliznyak sat down in a garden while waiting. When the Metropolitan returned, he asked him what he wanted from him and he stressed that he needed nothing, and refused to accept the parcel, sending away Rev. Zaliznyak with words: "I have already suffered a lot". Rev. Zaliznyak left, and on

his trip back, while waiting for another train in Moscow, mailed the same package to the Metropolitan which was then accepted. The people's comment on this incident is that the Metropolitan Slipyy was at that time under strong restrictions as to any contacts with outside, esp. those that were not controlled or censored.

10. The former Ukrainian Catholic Chaplain of the pre-war Polish prisons, Rev. Kladochnyy (at first he turned to be an Orthodox priest, now he is working at some factory in Lviv), suspected in the past to be an informer of the Polish authorities, now was suspected to be working for the Soviet security organs. About 8 yrs ago he was in Kiev and accused the Metropolitan Slipyy that he had poisoned the Metropolitan Sheptycky in 1945. As a result of it, there was a trial and Metropolitan Slipyy's imprisonment had been prolonged. Metropolitan Slipyy himself emphasized twice that Rev. Kladochnyy "had helped him a lot".

Another Ukrainian Catholic priest that is also suspected of being an informer of the KGB is Rev. Kotiv. For a long time he was associated with the Metropolitan's chancellery and Metropolitan ~~KLIK~~ Sheptycky himself in Lviv.

11. About 15 yrs ago, the Ukrainian students in Lviv were victims of Rudnytskyy's and Belayev's provocation. The book "Pid Chuzhy-my Praporamy" (Under the Foreign Banners) by Mykhailo Rudnytskyy, the Ukrainian, collaborator, and by Belayev, a Russian,

accused the Ukrainian students that they had killed in Lviv 12 university professors at the end of German occupation. He also accused them of cooperation with Gestapo. The KGB used it as a pretext for new investigations among students and many of them were arrested and deported. Rudnytsky has written this book in order to gain good graces with the communist chieftains. He is considered by the local population as a very bad individual, ^wunwilling to help even his relatives but rather ready to harm them.

12. Stefanyk, the Voyevoda of Lviv, is a very good person and helps everyone if he can. He has never done any harm to anybody.

Irena Vilde is another good-hearted person, and she has helped many people through her influence and connections. Herself, she had a few unpleasantness and troubles too -- about 10 yrs ago, her son, who was then not quite 16 yrs of age, was caught with a few of his friends by the police at the Lychakiv's Cemetery where they frequently gathered in some tomb. They were accused of being members of the underground organization. Of course, through her influence and lack of evidence, Vilde managed to avoid punitive measures, she had, however, to move out of Lviv for a while and went to Ivano-Frankivsk.

She also had plenty of trouble after a son of former Ukrainian Catholic priest of Soroky village, Rev. Lukashevych, together with his friend had assassinated Galan.

The point is that an acquaintance of Vilde persuaded her to have a church wedding with her second husband, which took

14. About 15 yrs ago, the former Ukrainian Catholic priest, Rev. Sternnyuk, was thrown into a cell in one of Kiev's prisons (after a long interrogations, during which he was terribly beaten to the point that he was fainting, poured water upon and beaten again, and had his arms broken). When he recovered his consciousness after two days, he noticed that in the corner of the cell was lying Vasyi Vyshyvanyy (an Austrian, Wilhelm Habsburg, who was one of the high ranking officers in the Sichovi Strilci). Rev. Sternnyuk recognized him at once, drew near^y and spoke to him in German. When Vyshyvanyy looked at him, he asked whether he is a catholic priest. When the answer was yes, Vyshyvanyy said that he is catholic too and would like to confess. Rev. Sternnyuk answered that he needs some time to prepare the Communion and therefore will do it tomorrow. Someone must have overhear^{ed} it because the following day, early in the morning, Vyshyvanyy was taken away from the cell without having a chance to confess. There was a news that he died two days later.

15. The city of Lviv is beautifully developed and many improvements have been made there (new parks, new buildings, etc.). There is a strong tendency among the Ukrainians to elevate themselves into the status of a satellite rather than to remain in the position of the Union Republic. The people openly say that "since everything is already done now is a high time for the Russians to leave the city and go away".