

Re: Contacts Kiev Dance Ensemble in Caracas Venezuela.

Date: 1 August 1965

Source: R.

Source and friend B. met PAVLENKO and KOSTUCHENKO in the lobby of the hotel El Conde, they started a conversation, and MISCHENKO and his wife approached the group. The group sat down in the lobby and started some small talk, STUPAK joined the group and source proposed that they all go for a beer to the bar.

In the bar the gathering was very friendly, with everyone joining in telling anectodes. This lasted until 1:30 in the morning. (3 hours). The atmosphere at first was strained with STUPAK, MISCHENKO and his wife addressing PAVLENKO and KOSTUCHENKO formally, and waiting for them to give the signal when to laugh, and when to keep quiet. After some time, PAVLENKO and KOSTUCHENKO themselves started telling jokes and the atmosphere loosened up. There was no political discussion that evening.

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

*See 30 July 65 report
+ 3 Aug*

*3 Aug
10/1/65*

Subject: KOSTYUCHENKO, Viktor Andreyevych

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1. B. met Kostyuchenko again on Saturday afternoon, July 31, in the hotel lobby, and they sat down to talk. B. gave him the book "NA Novomu Etapi", and while B. had his attache case opened Kostyuchenko took a couple of other books, the title of which he does not remember.

At first the conversation went along the lines of the unfinished talk from the night before about the cultural relations, but soon it turned to politics.

2. B. explained to Kostyuchenko that besides the exchange of books and publications, and cultural and artistic groups, there should be an exchange of information between the two groups, and they should also hand over some interesting unprinted materials to the emigres.

Kostyuchenko replied that the emigres receive all their (from the Ukraine) newspapers and other publications from which they could gather all the informations they are interested in. As to the unprinted materials, he explained that everything that is worthwhile is always published sooner or later, and then again obtainable by the emigres.

3. It was evident from Kostyuchenko's answer that it is useless to talk further about this matter. Therefore B. expressed his dissatisfaction about the narrowmindedness of the Ukrainians who are under the influence of the Russian false propaganda, and accused Russians for enslaving and exploiting the Ukraine, adding that every phase of economic and social life is infiltrated by the members of the KGB.

Kostyuchenko denied all this and stated that B. is misinformed about the present situation, and added that the time has changed and all of it went out with Stalin.

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4. B.: Who is to blame for all the crimes committed by STALIN and their consequences? Is it the "personality cult", or perhaps the system itself? Where was the Party at that time? Who created that "personality cult" and supported it?

For a moment there was no answer from Kostyuchenko and he seemed to be somewhat cornered. Then he explained that Stalin had good as well as bad sides, but he (Stalin) was a hard ruler, he had the Party in the palm of his hand and could always mold it to his advantage.

5. B.: Where is the guarantee that STALINISM will not return? there is at present a partial rehabilitation of Stalin -- does it mean that soon there is going to be a comeback to Stalinism?

Kostyuchenko replied that the partial rehabilitation of Stalin does not mean a comeback to Stalinism because "now this can not possibly happen". First ~~xx~~ of all, he said, many of the old guard have been pensioned off voluntarily, and some of them were asked to go (he does not know any specific names but knows that there were such cases), and secondly, there is a different spirit of the times now.

6. When asked about the new leaders in the Kremlin at present, Kostyuchenko answered that BREZHNEV and KOSYGIN have been there for too short a time in order to tell something definit^e about them, and said that we have to ~~xxx~~ wait a little longer.
7. When asked about the changes at the Kremlin -- whether it was for better or for worse, Kostyuchenko replied that all the changes are always for the better, otherwise they would ~~xxxx~~ not be able to succeed. When further asked in what way it is better, he answered that it is better in every respect -- a lot of good has been already done in economic and in social life, and much more is planned to be brought about.

8. B. asked Kostyuchenko what changes occurred in the politics -- what is the present attitude towards RED CHINA. He explained that there is a great number of Chinese, they are poor and hungry, not very cultured and very impulsive, and therefore they could be very dangerous. There are attempts to straighten out the conflict with them and many changes have occurred in policy and in diplomatic personnel in order to ease the situation. Even ■■■ ambassador CHERVONENKO was transferred. When asked of the whereabouts of Chervonenko, Kostyuchenko answered that at present he has some diplomatic position in Czechoslovakia, but does not know exactly where.
9. When asked about VIET NAM, Kostyuchenko replied that if the Americans will continue its present policy much longer it is not going to be good.
10. The conversation was short and could not continue any longer because Kostyuchenko had to attend a meeting concerning some administrative matters and the future of the tour.
11. B. met Kostyuchenko the next day, Sunday, in the hotel lobby. He was with Pavlenko, but they were busy and only had time for one beer with B.
12. On Tuesday, August 3, B. met Kostyuchenko again. They had a short conversation during which Kostyuchenko was asking B. about his field of studies, different subjects, etc. Otherwise the conversation did not amount to anything interesting. Kostyuchenko gave B. his address (attached).
13. KOSTYUCHENKO, Viktor Andreyevych is of the Ukrainian nationality. He was born on January 1, 1929 in Kiev. He is married and has one child (daughter age 3-4 ?). He is about 5'10" tall and weighs about 170 lbs. He has dark brown hair combed back, dark complexion, and is well built. He is soft spoken and quiet most of the time, however, on occasions he likes to attack the Ukrainian emigres-nationalists. He seems to be a know-it-all, and usually has an answer to

all questions. Otherwise he is friendly, although a little reserved.

Kostyuchenko is working for the Ministry of Culture, and is the member of the Party.

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СРСР
Україна,
Київ ст, вул. Трибова 4/10, 26/6
КО с.т.озенко Вікінор

НИ.ЛАВИНИТНО.РЕК.ТАМА

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Subject: KOSTYUCHENKO, Viktor Andreyevych
and PAVLENKO, Mychaylo Ivanovych

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1. On Friday, July 30, B. met Kostyuchenko twice. First -- with his friend R. late afternoon (report submitted by R.). The second time, also with R., when they went to the hotel el Conde after the performance. They met Kostyuchenko in the lobby and he was with Pavlenko, whom B. met for the first time. After a brief talk about the performance they sat down ~~in~~ in the lobby and continued the conversation. The conversation was conducted partially between the four of them, and partially between B. and Kostyuchenko and between R. and Pavlenko.
2. At first, Kostyuchenko and Pavlenko were discussing the Ukrainian emigres in the Latin American countries. They were displeased and disappointed by the small ~~number~~ number attending the performances, although they were aware that a great number of the Ukrainians live in Latin America. They were surprised at some picketing too. On the other hand, they were praising very highly some of those Ukrainians that they have met, especially Bohdan HALAYCHUK. Pavlenko was also comparing unfavorably the social life of the Ukrainians in Latin America with that of their countrymen in the USA and Canada. B. explained to them that there are many Ukrainians in Argentina and in Brazil but they live far away from large cities and this must be the reason they could not ~~meet~~ meet many of them. For the same reason they could not observe the social aspect of their organized life either. When asked if those that were picketing were Ukrainians, Pavlenko answered that although the individual who was making the most commotion in ~~the~~ Argentina said that he was from Kharkiv, the way he spoke, he must have been Russian.
3. The conversation turned to the literature, and when asked if the publishing ~~of~~ of SYMONENKO's poems and diary by the Ukrainian emigres abroad caused any repressions or affected in any way other young poets and writers in the Ukraine, Pavlenko replied that Symonenko is very popular in the Ukraine, and most of his poems published by the emigres were already published in the Ukraine. As to repres-

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sions, he said that there weren't any and that the young poets and writers will continue to publish. Kostyuchenko added that Symonenko was his good friend and that they went to the school together. When they were told that in Symonenko's poems published in the Ukraine there were many verses left out and many words changed, they did not argue this and just said that it is difficult to believe why that was done.

4. Kostyuchenko and Pavlenko were asked why, if there were no repressions of the young artists, Ala HORSKA was expelled from the Association of Artists of the Ukraine for her stained glass window in the Kiev University, which was destroyed. ~~K~~ Kostyuchenko stated that he and Horskka are acquaintances and that recently he visited her in her home. He further explained that the stained glass window was destroyed because this whole thing was not thought over in advance, and especially because the most offending point was the inscription which did not please certain individuals. As far as he knows, Horskka is working somewhere in Kiev at present, and she has been readmitted to the Association. When ~~he~~ Kostyuchenko was told that she was readmitted only after the artists and writers put the pressure on, he ~~did~~ did not say anything.
5. Talking about the repressions of young Ukrainian poets, B. said that it is unheard of in the western world that a head of state would stick his nose into the literature and criticize poets, like it was in 1963 when Khrushchev expressed strong critical views about them, and young Ukrainian poets like Mykola VINHRANOVSKYY, Lina KOSTENKO, Ivan DRACH, Vitaliy KOROTYCH, and Vasyl SYMONENKO were severely criticized. Pavlenko explained that Khrushchev did not criticize the Ukrainian poets, just Russian, and it was only fitting for the Ukrainian leaders to do the same in their Republic. A few minutes later, after the topic of the conversation was already changed, Kostyuchenko turned back to the young ~~poets~~ poets and writers saying that it is very nice that many of them are working at present in the movie industry, and started to enumerate them, naming practically everyone of those mentioned above.

10. B. asked Kostyuchenko if the fact that almost all films produced in the DOVZHENKO Studio in Kiev are first made in Russian and only then dubbed in Ukrainian also is not Russification. The same thing applies to the Odessa Studio. Kostyuchenko answered that B. must be confused because the opposite is true. B. replied that it should be not him but the journal "KULTURA i ZHYTTYA" confused in which he read that statement and the remark that the only exceptions in the last years were "TINI ZABUTYCH PREDKIV" and "MRIYA". Kostyuchenko was displeased with B's answer and said, "You read it in 'Kultura i Zhyttya'?", and added that he has seen the first of the mentioned pictures, it is very good and he liked it, but he never heard of the second picture.
11. B. asked Kostyuchenko why it is so that in the Kiev Opera the Russian singers sing only in Russian, while they should be singing the Ukrainian operas in the Ukrainian. Kostyuchenko replied that he often frequents the Kiev Opera but has never heard any singer singing in Russian.
12. The conversation turned to the topic of relations between the Ukrainian emigres and the Ukrainians in the Ukraine. Both Kostyuchenko and Pavlenko expressed an opinion that there should be a close relations ~~between~~ between these two groups. B. asked them what has the Ministry of Culture done in that respect so far, is doing, or is ~~planning~~ planning to do. From their answer it was evident that besides a lot of useless talk nothing has been done at all. Both of them were under the impression that there were at least some ties between these two groups, but during their ~~ix~~ tour they have found out ^{the} opposite. They stated that it is a sad state of affairs and Pavlenko stressed that this matter really does not belong to the Ministry of Culture but to the Association for Cultural Contacts with Foreign Nations.
13. When asked if the Ukrainians in the Ukraine care that The Ukrainian emigres stay Ukrainian and not assimilate themselves, Pavlenko answered that they care very much and that the emigres should not be

ignored. When they were further asked what they expect of the Ukrainian emigres, they just said that the emigres should make a good name for the Ukrainians abroad.

14. Both Kostyuchenko and Pavlenko agreed with B. that there should be a free exchange of books and other publications, artistic ensembles, and cultural groups between the emigres and the Ukraine, and added that it is even desireable.

15. When asked when and where in the near future some Ukrainian ~~ensembles~~ ~~ensembles~~ artistic ensembles will be visiting abroad, they answered that next year their ensemble will be in the USA. This is all that they know for sure. Pavlenko also mentioned that impresario HUROK refused to contract the Ukrainian State Choir and Dance Ensemble "VERYOVKA" for the tour of the USA.

16. Pavlenko further asked why the emigres do not have their own impresario, since they have people with money among them, because it would enable to bring more and different ensembles to the USA and Canada. B. explained that money alone is not enough. Such an impresario should have his name already well established and many contacts made. It could have been possible some 20 years ago, but now the competition is so strong that it ~~is~~ would be difficult to break into it. Pavlenko agreed.

17. Talking further about the relations between the emigres and the Ukraine, Kostyuchenko agreed with B. that if there were embassies and consulates of the Ukrainian SSR abroad it would greatly contribute to the development of cultural ~~exchange~~ exchange and relations with the Ukrainian emigres abroad. When B. stated that even a cultural attache at the already existing New York mission would be of a great help, Pavlenko replied that this is what they were talking about with Kostyuchenko earlier in the day.

18. The conversation took another turn and B. asked Kostyuchenko and Pavlenko about the activities of the Ministry of Culture. Pavlenko

answered that with the exception of the past two years it amounted to nothing. When asked about its activities during the past two years and currently, from Pavlenko's answer it was evident that it also amounted to practically nothing. Kostyuchenko was not very happy about Pavlenko's explanation, but he was not able to add anything to it in order to correct the impression.

19. When B. asked them about the ~~divisions~~ structure of the Ministry of Culture, they answered that there are 5 divisions and listed them as follows: 1. museums; 2. cultural institutions -- such as music conservatories, drama schools, libraries (with the exception of the academic), and library schools; 3. theatrical -- theaters and ensembles; 4. mass culture activities -- amateur groups, etc.; 5. financial. Pavlenko also added that at one time movie and newspaper ~~in~~ industries belonged to the Ministry, but now they are on the independent state level (samostiyni-derzhavni).
20. When asked about the workers of the Ministry -- their background and age, Pavlenko answered that almost all of them studied liberal arts and all of them, with the exception of the minister, are in the mid-30's.
21. Kostyuchenko mentioned that he has read somewhere that the Ukrainian emigres have awarded Ulas SAMCHUK the emigre Shevchenko Prize, and since he has not read anything by him he would like to have some of ~~books~~ his books in order to get acquainted with ~~him~~ his writings. He also mentioned that he would like to have the "Istoriya Ukrayiny" in 10 vol. by Hrushevskyy. R. promised to get him some books by Samchuk.
22. Pavlenko, seemingly in error, called B. twice by the name of "Bohdan" instead of "Borys", as B. identified himself. At one point Kostyuchenko corrected him saying that B's name is "Borys" and not "Bohdan". At another point Pavlenko looking straight into B's eyes asked him whether they have met before. When B. replied that they didn't, Pavlenko asked again if B. saw the performance of their ensemble in

New York in 1962. B. replied that he did see it but in Philadelphia and not in New York. Pavlenko was almost positive that he met B. in New York and they had there an ~~ix~~ interesting conversation, especially about the literature. Pavlenko remembered that his ~~name~~ first name was "Bohdan" but could not remember his last name. When Pavlenko started to talk more about that "Bohdan", both B. and R. came to the conclusion that it must have been Bohdan BOYCHUK, a young poet from the New York City. Pavlenko said that maybe so, but B. in his appearance and in his manners resembled Boychuk very much.

23. The conversation was very ~~ix~~ interesting and probably would have continued, except it was ~~xxx~~ already very late (about 3 AM) and the group had ~~ix~~ to part.