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Re : Vacation Course of Hungarian Language and Literature in Debrecen, Hungary, 1965

Source : ~~NECESSARY~~ 36

Date : 18 Aug 1965

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

1. The University of Debrecen organizes every year a Vacation Course of Hungarian Language and Literature for foreign students, from both, East and West. In 1965 the Course lasted from 20 July to 10 Aug. Applications were to be sent to: Kulturkapcsolatok Intezete, Budapest V, Doro-
ttya ut 7. Participants had to pay For. 2,700.- for the course and lodging. At least half of the sum was to be exchanged prior to obtaining visa (official rate - DM 1 = For. 5.-, black market - DM 1.- = For. 10.-). Students were accommodated two in each room at the Dormitory of Humanistics Department (Tudomanos Egetem). The program included also excursions to TOKAI, Pusta Hortobad, Haidusoboslo; two last days in Budapest and one day on the lake Balaton. At the end of the course there was also an amateur talent show.

Among participants of the Course there were ~~xxxxxxx~~ students and lecturers from France, Italy, Holland, England, East Germany, West Germany - 7-10 people from each; from Austria, Yugoslavia, CSR, Rumania - 2-5 each; from Bulgaria - 1, and from Soviet Union - 9.

As Source had ascertained in the same Dormitory stay usually also tourists from the socialist block incl. Soviet Union. They are handled by the Hungarian Tourist Agency - IBUS. Among them, ^{as} also Ukrainians ("they spoke Ukrainian, too".)

2. Soviet students were late for one week, and one female even for 2 because she had to go from Uzhgorod to Debrecen via Moscow.

Source contacted the following of them:

A. *IVANOV, Vladimir Sergeevich - Russian, ^{deh. c. 1942} aged approx. 45-47, Docent of Hungarian Language at the Institute of Foreign Languages for Soviet Diplomatic Corps in Moscow, head of the Soviet group in Debrecen, self-assured, intelligent, tactful. He was very interested in western political systems, how they worked in practice, also. He was also interested in Source's past and tactfully tried to encourage him to return to Ukraine stating that at the present Ukrainians and Russians had become very good friends and partners and the situation changed also in general. When Source mentioned the famine of 1932-33 Subject seemed to be surprised by such a high number of victims (5 mil.)

SECRET

As they were talking in the same context also about the year 1941 in the Ukraine, IVANOV commented that "of course, no wonder, under such conditions you will surrender even to the devil", referring to "mass desertation" of the Red Army in the Ukraine.

Ivanov seemed to have a genuine respect for German organizational and industrious talents, and a fear of German future potential in both, military and economic aspects.

B. X. OROS, Ivan Vasylovich, Ukrainian from Carpatho-Ukraine, aged approx. 45, Docent of Uzhgorod University (Ukrainian and Hungarian languages), "in love with Carpatho-Ukraine and would not leave Uzhgorod even if he could exchange it for Moscow" - according to other members of the Soviet group; a ruthless careerist; owns a dacha and Moskovich; studied at Prof KNEZH at Budapest University, knew personally MARKUS Wasyl of Chicago from the time of early studies, avoided political topics and his interests seemed to be genuinely limited only to his scholarly field and personal well-being. He "advised" Source not to write or do anything that would hamper him on his eventual visit to the Soviet Union and refused to take a pul over for Source's sister in Lviv Obl., though Source had asked him twice. Somewhat reluctantly he only took two books for Prof DZENDZELIVSKY of Uzhgorod University (one book in German on Smotrytskyi's Grammar and one in Ukrainian on Isydoriv Sluzhebnyk. One of his compatriots described OROS to Source as a spineless careerist like LINTUR (another lecturer Source met at Slavonic Congress in Sofia), and stemming from a clergy family with Hungarophile affiliations in the past.

C. X. LENIO Melania, Ukrainian, female, appr. age 25, lecturer of Russian literature at Uzhgorod University; daughter of a teacher near MUKACHIV, her husband is a surgeon, also from Carpatho-Ukraine and Ukrainian; her mother is Hungarian; in Budapest she introduced Source to her uncle, a Hungarian. Conscious, self-assured Ukrainian "like her father", a former Scout and Ukrainian activist. She told Source that when her father returned at one time from his visit to Kiev he was "shocked" by the Russification he had found there. She took from Source "Suchasna Literatura" by Koshelivets, Blauer November and a pen for her father with Shevchenko's imprint "Vstane Ukraina".

According to her, there is ^{now} a deliberate policy to send to Carpatho-Ukraine ^{only} Russians from Central Russia as teachers of Russian to Ukrainian schools and not Ukrainians from Central Ukraine as it had been previously.

In Hungarian schools in Carpatho-Ukraine Russian is now taught instead of Ukrainian.

D. ZHENZHUN, Eleonora (Ella), Ukrainian, female, aged 23, student of Hungarian language and literature (5th course) at Leningrad University, stems from Kiev, there live her parents, has some relatives in Lviv. She applied for a job with Vsesvit and thinks her chances to get it were quite good. Speaks Polish, of average intelligence, very anti-German. Has little knowledge of contemporary Ukrainian literature.

She told Source that her father had written her about the fire in the National Library ^{in Kiev} but according to what he said "only the Russian department burned down". According to her at the same time there were also ~~set~~ ^{set} on fire a park in PUSHCHA VODYTSIA and a building (she did not know details) of the Agricultural Academy.

She impressed Source as a critical, quite sophisticated young person, too cautious however and unwilling to take any serious risks. Source gave her Dokumenty Ukrainskoho Komunizmu and Vyvid Prav Ukrainy. After two days she brought them back telling him that she read them but did not want take them with her. "It's too risky". She gladly listened to political "enlightenment" Source used to give but did little participate in discussion herself. Once she commented: "I wonder what would Russians say if they would listen to our conversation".

She was not delighted with Kiev youth and the youth in general. In her opinion they are too much indoctrinated with what they are being officially fed. She herself realized that first after her arrival in Leningrad where she was called for the first time "a Ukrainian nationalist".

She had some complaints against Lviv: after her arrival in Lviv she asked for a street and was given a completely false information. When she reproached the conductor (a young girl) for having gone it to her (and she spoke Ukrainian) the latter attacked her with "Why did you come to our country, go away from here to where you come from."

She met Poles and knew about Polish resentments against Ukrainians. She also complained about Carpatho-Ukrainians who often still called themselves rusyny and were up to their necks in primitive provincialism. From her Hungarian colleagues she knew how disdainfully Hungarians were thinking because of that about them (Carpatho-Ukrainians).

SECRET

E. KALUYA, Vera, Hungarian, female, aged 23, stems from a village near UZHGOROD, student of Hungarian language and literature at Leningrad University, plans to return to Carpatho-Ukraine; very energetic, intelligent, very well informed about Hungarian affairs, both in Hungary and in the Carpatho-Ukraine. She was able to tell Source in detail how many schools they (Hungarians) had in the Carpatho-Ukraine (about 30) middle schools, where they were located, who were the ~~lecturers~~ lecturers at Hungarian Dept. of Uzhgorod Uni. also. According to her, official statistics gave the number of Hungarians in Carpatho-Ukraine as 1/4 of the whole population. She seemed to have contacts with someone in Hungary though she claimed to have no relatives there.

F. LENGEL, Tatyana, Russian, female, aged 20-25, from Moscow, student of journalism (jokingly she called it trepetologiya), daughter of a known Hungarian communist writer who was sent to Siberia during Yezhovshchyna and after his release in 1955 returned to his first /?/ wife and family in Budapest. He was the one who helped his daughter to get to Debrecen "out of quota".

She studies Hungarian in order to be able to stay in Moscow because it is very difficult to be registered with militia again after return from the countryside. And she was not going to miss Moscow, the cultural center. This earned a private comment of IVANOV to Source: "You see, this our youth today, they just want to have everything and at once, without toil." Tatyana herself told Source that indeed people became so audacious and talk so much that "no one knows whereto it will lead..." She did not like Stalin but she preferred him to Hitler.

G. L and fnu, Russian female from Moscow, aged 25-30, an employee of the Hungarian Department at the Economic Institute in Moscow, specialist in Hungarian economy.

H. L and fnu, Russian female from Moscow, aged 35, lecturer of Hungarian literature.

3. At the conclusion of the course there was arranged a party at which various national groups gave some small "artistic" performances. All were surprised that the Soviet group abstained. Later on it turned out there were some "organizational difficulties". However, when Source was asked by Western colleagues why this was so, his explanation was that probably Ukrainians and Hungarians (who constituted majority) did not want to represent

SECRET

SECRET

"the elder brother"(Russians). He told it also LENIO who "warned" him not to tell this explanation to their bosses "because they would verbally eat us up". The bosses were IVANOV and OROS.

4. One of the assistants at the Slavonic Department of DEbrece~~n~~ University is a Ukrainian female - DEMKO-PAGAN, fnu - aged 45, married, her husband is Hungarian; she was a classmate of OROS. Stems from Carpatho-Ukraine.

5. According to what Source was told in DEbrece~~n~~, a Carpatho-Ukrainian, by the name BALATSKYI, fnu - had good chances to head now ^{Department of} ~~the Slavonic~~ Philology at Budapest University. Former head of the Department was Prof KNEZH (he died in March 1965).

6. Soviet tourists in Hungary are very keen on shoes and nylons.

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