

Subject: ZHURAVETS, Yuriy Ivanovich (?) of Toronto Canada, his trip to the Soviet Union in the summer of 1965.

Source: M

Date: 29 Sept. 1965

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SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
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WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. ZHURAVETS, Yuriy Ivanovich (?): Canadian of Ukrainian descent, aged app. 23-25. Graduate of McGill University, B.A. degree. Lives in Toronto with parents, who came from Ukraine, Bukovyna. Subject was in Ukraine in 1962, and again in 1965 as a tourist. Presently he is touring Canada with slides of Ukraine, and giving lectures about his trip. He has been to Winnipeg and other cities.
2. Subject travelled to Ukraine via rented car together with his sister. They went through Germany, Czechoslovakia and Roumania, entering Ukraine at the Roumanian border in the vicinity of the town KISHINOV. The border itself is separated by three rows of barbed wire, with a plowed field separating each one. After the usual passport examination, subject and his sister were thoroughly searched: clothes, baggage and finally the car itself was dismantled partially and searched. Subject had to inform the Soviet authorities of his intended route, and was warned that he could not visit any village. Since his route was to CHERNOVETS, and his grandfathers village was nearby, subject decided to visit the village illegally.
3. In Kiev, subject was given a copy of document about fire in Kiev library by a student. This student asked subject to publish document in the west. Document is identical to the one published in SUCHASNIST # 2/65, and was given by subject to the editors of the "Ukrainian Voice". (A Ukrainian language newspaper in Winnipeg)
4. Subject had contacts with students in Kiev, some of which he had met in 1962. They were very open and truthful with him, telling subject of student clubs which base their activities on the correct use of the Ukrainian language, and its development. At meetings of such clubs, Ukrainian is spoken exclusively, and for every error made (linguistic) a voluntary fine is paid to a common fund.

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5. Subject visited a village in the vicinity of CHERNIVTSSI. On the morning of the second day of his visit, subject was approached by members of the KGB and told to leave the village immediately. This took place in spite of the fact that subject had received permission from the commandant of militia to leave CHERNIVTSSI for a few hours. Later it became evident that the KGB took all persons who had talked with subject for questioning, and made a certain teacher and another person write a full report of the conversation which took place. Subject was sternly warned by the KGB that if he tried such an action again he might be deprived of his liberty,. In spite of this warning, subject had an opportunity to visit another village for a short period of time.

6. The Kolhosp of the village near CHERNIVTSSI pays workers on the basis of a workday. Three kilograms of wheat were given for one workday ,plus 1.25 Rubbl. This being one of the lowest paid kolhosps, (Average pay on a kolhosp being 1.50 -2.00 rubles.) This factor leads to complaints by the people, Beauracracy is evident everywhere, subject remembers that on a tour of the kolhosp he noticed that the water shed for cattle was empty. The day was very hot, and the cattle were standing nearby waiting for a drink. Subject commented on this to his guide (a local peasant) and asked him to fill the tank. The peasant replied, "this is none of my business, another person is in charge of this." Subject at last filled water shed himself. Tractors are left standing in the middle of the field between shifts. Generally there is no interest in the kolhosp and its work, people are indifferent since, "this is not my land".

7. Older people like to talk about the war, and the post-war years. Ukrainian underground usually refered to as "banderivtsi" is divided into two seperate era's; up to 1945, and after the war. During the war years the underground is considered by many to have been disciplined and with high ideals, while the post war years are considered worse, due to many harmful people who belonged, and some harmful actions initiated. There are complaints about inquisitions against peasants by members of the underground, which leads some peasants to refer to "banderivtsi" as "bandits".

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8. Subject did not notice a big difference in the food situation now, from the situation in 1962. Prior to the removal of Khrushchev there were strikes in some cities, and threats of workers and warnings of party members demanding not too exacerbate the situation on the part of the party, and to make some concessions to the public. The purchase of wheat from Canada saved the situation. Another factor that was to save the people from starvation was the planting of peas in between corn. This was done by everybody although Khrushchev demanded that corn be the staple crop. Result of this action was that peas were everywhere; there was pea soup, pea grain, everyone was fed up with peas. One night in CHERNIVTSI a beggar's bag was hung on the monument of Lenin and in that bag there was pea's flake cake. The local police had a long investigation which proved nothing.

9. Radio Liberty is listened to, although it is jammed constantly. "Voice of America" is not jammed, and is also listened to .

Foreigners are not permitted to visit the Carpathian mountains, only citizens of the USSR are allowed. Same applies to IVANO-FRANKIVSKY region.

10. It was subjects impression that the kolhosps in the POLTAVA region were the poorest he had seen in eastern Ukraine.