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Subject: Volodymyr Oleksiyovych KRAVETS

Source: R

Date: 1 January 1966

(Note: There is some mystery about Subject's name. He generally introduces himself as above, yet a few days before Jan. 1 he phoned R and said that it was "Petro Kravets speaking!")

This meeting took place at a private house in Queens, where a New Year's Eve party was held for some 60 invited guests. Subject was asked to come to the party by the Znayenkos, one of the sponsors of the event. Subject, and three other persons met at Znayenkos' place and drove to Queens with Znayenkos in their car.

See earlier report 14 Dec 65

At the party Kr. was an object of curiosity, as he was introduced to various guests and they in turn showed amazement at meeting a man from Kiev. For the first few hours Kr. circulated among the guests, talked, drank, ate, sang and danced. About 2 a.m. a more serious discussion with him started in the study of the house. There he became surrounded by about a dozen persons, pretty well all of them fairly high. Subject had also had a few drinks but in the course of the discussion he seemed to have sobered up, because as usual, he thought very carefully before answering any question.

Some of the persons participating in the discussion decided to be somewhat militant, bringing in the 1933 famine in Ukraine, the low number of copies of Ukrainian books printed in the USSR, Russification process in Ukraine, and Ukraine's sovereignty. As during the previous encounters, Kravets either avoided a touchy question, said he did not know the answer, or quoted the official line.

Vasyl Znayenko debated at some length the weaknesses of the UkSSR Constitution, quoting some articles from it. But it appeared th at Kr. is not as familiar with the Constitution as is Znayenko.

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It was obvious that these people tried to get from Kravets some concession towards their point of view (the nationalist point of view), but Kravets proved steadfast in defending the Soviet system. On sovereignty he insisted that Ukraine is sovereign, that it produces more iron than France, etc., but that it, like the other fraternal republics, decided, of ~~its~~ own will to transfer some of the attributes of statehood, such as foreign policy, armed forces, etc., to the Union government. Znayenko tried to make him admit that it was unfair that only Ukraine and Byelorussia were represented at the United Nations, while the other republics were not. But Kravets insisted here the fault lay with the Western Powers, and Roosevelt in particular. He agreed to the suggestion that Ukraine is like Pennsylvania or Texas of the USA ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and said that all the states of the USA should also, by right, be members of the U. N.

An interesting observation he made, claiming it to be his own, was about the three types of Ukrainian emigres in the ~~United States~~ United States: those that sympathize with the present government of and the political system in the Ukraine, those that violently oppose it, and those that are neutral, but who are interested in what is going on in the Ukraine. These three categories were also included in an article by Yuriy Smolych, in the issue of Visti z Ukrainy, which was received in New York several days before the party

R brought up the question of status of members of the Ukrainian delegation to the U. N., and said that they could not even visit Canada as diplomats, only as private Soviet citizens. He said that Palamarchuk had that trouble, and Tronko had to go to Canada as a tourist. Kravets did not find anything strange in this, saying that they, like he, have USSR passports (he pulled out his own, in blue cover), and for this reason have to travel as USSR citizens, although they may represent "sovereign Ukraine."

After the party the Znayenkos dropped off Kravets at the UkSSR Mission about 6 a. m. just as the party at the Mission was breaking up, and people were leaving. On the way back he assured everyone that he was not angry or disturbed about the drilling he was subjected to. He did complain, however, about one lady (it appeared to be a Mrs. Shmigel, whose husband is an OChSU leader), who was particularly offensive towards him; who had told him that her parents used to be landowners, that she was proud of it, but that the Soviet authorities look on them as on traitors and kulaks and in that way prevent them from any sympathies towards the present-day Ukraine.

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As he was leaving the car Kravets remembered that he was to transmit greetings from Yuriy Kochubey to R, and he did this, excusing himself for not doing it earlier in the evening.

Kr. was to go to Washington the next day, and said he should return to New York at the end of January.

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Before Kr. went to Washington the Znayenkos gave him the address and phone number of S. O. there.

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