

Subject: Contacts with members of the PRYASHIV NATIONAL THEATER in
Paris, France.

Source: ~~M. of Paris~~ (cc: [redacted])

Date: 22 March 1966

1. The Priashiv Ukrainian National Theater left CSR on 29 Jan. 1966 for France and performed there for 6 weeks. Initial contact was made on 5 March 1966 in Paris, when Source went backstage to congratulate the members of the ensemble on their performance. There he met the following persons: SURNAK Fedor, the director of the ensemble, MURASHKO Oksana, nee BONDARCHUK, bandura player with the ensemble and SARVOZY Julius, the director of the orchestra. Other contacts by Source and his wife were made on 7th and 13 March 1966 in Paris and vicinity, and by a student on 16 March in Lion. It performed in Paris and vicinity from 5 March until 13 March 1966 and left for CSR on 20 March 1966. Previously, the ensemble had performed in Poland, Hungary and the Trans-Carpathian region of Ukraine. In July 1966 the ensemble is scheduled to return to France.

2. During the ensemble's stay in Paris, Source contacted the following persons.

A. MURASHKO, Oksana, nee BONDARCHUK : Bandura player with ensemble aged 23-25, Ukrainian, born in Lutsk, Ukraine. Married to MURASHKO, Pavlo, who works as an editor with the Ukrainian language journal "DUKLYA" in CSR. She is quite friendly, willing to talk, but feels that she is not being trusted in the ensemble and of being watched. In matters concerning Ukraine is not well informed. When Source mentioned the journal Suchasnist, she seemed familiar with it, but said that she had never seen it. Source showed her reviews written by Mrs. HONBA-SCH Halyna and Murashko seemed familiar with the name, saying that her husband corresponded with her. The editorial staff of Duklya according to Murashko is very cautious regarding Western literature since there have been

incidents whereby the police have made inspections of literature received. Duklya maintains contact with Ukraine by means of periodical trips to Kiev and Lviv by members of the staff. Soviet Ukrainian newspapers are subscribed to, and studied carefully. A certain amount of cooperation with Slovak intellectuals exists. Among personalities in Duklya she mentioned IVANCHOV Fedir, chief editor of Duklya, who was born in CSR and who together with her husband is "Ukrainianizing" Priashiv. MOLNAR Mychailo, an editor with Duklya came to CSR from Ukraine and is a sympathetic person. ZILINSKY Orest, prof. of Prague, promised to turn over his archive to Murashko's husband since he is unable to make use of it ~~any more~~. When asked about the possibilities of sending Ukrainian literature to CSR from the West, she replied that it would be wiser to send literature on the address of the Ukrainian National Theater in Priashiv, instead of ~~the~~ private addresses. This is due to the fact that controls and censorship is rather strict. An acquaintance of hers going to Kiev was stopped at the Soviet-CSR border and accused of smuggling literature into Ukraine. He was released afterwards, but Murashko believes that his life is still in danger. Source gave her the following books: 2 copies of Suchasnist, Suchasna Literatyra V URSR, Panorama Nainovishoi Literatyru v URSR, and Bereh Chekan' by Symonenko. She explained that she was afraid to take the books back to CSR with her, but promised to read them and tell her husband about them.

B. CISARIK Ivan: Member of the party, well read, speaks Ukrainian fairly well, and is moderately informed about life in Ukraine since he reads the Kiev newspaper Literaturna Ukraina and the journal Zhovten. Source regards him as a cautious person who did not tell all he knew about life in Ukraine. He mentioned that in Priashiv University lectures are held in both Slovak and Ukrainian. When asked if there was a separate "Ukrainian group" in the CSR party, he replied no, this would be nationalistic and un-Marxist. But added that Ukrainian communists in Bratislava are doing very much for Ukrainian cultural life. There are no direct contacts with the Ukrainian CP, nor will anyone from Priashiv attend the Ukrainian party congress. According to Cisarik all greek Catholic priests were converted to Orthodoxy, some of

them were sentenced for nationalism as HOYDYCH and HOPKO after the war. Source sent Suchasna Literatyr V URSR and Bereh Chekan' to Cisaryk's room in an envelope. When he asked him later if he received the books, Cisaryk said he did, adding that he read parts of them, but commented that: "This is somewhat slanted against us, and I as a party member cannot agree with all that is written, besides, many literary figures have been rehabilitated, Zerov for example. Presently literature is taught in a very different manner and Shevchenko for example is presented in a very nationalistic manner". Cisaryk added that he will take the books with him since he finds them very interesting. He also took Source's address and promised to send a book about DUCHNOVYCH published in CSR. He asked Source not to send anything to him personally, but to the address of the Ukrainian National Theater .

- C. SHYRNIAK Fedir: Director of the ensemble, was not eager to engage in political discussions. Received Suchasna Literatyr V URSS and reprint from Suchasnist about Kiev dance ensemble in Paris.
- D. VATASIN Juriy: Dancer with the ensemble, received Suchasna Literatyr V URSS, Bereh Chekan' and reprint from Suchasnist about Kiev dance ensemble in Paris. Upon parting, Vatasin thanked Source for the books and said that they seemed very interesting.
- E. HEMCOVA Melania: In charge of wardrobe with ensemble, Slovak, studied art in Moscow and Kiev. Said that she was an acquaintance of P. Virsky. Received a French book about Paris from Source.
- F. SLYTOVYTS Michal: Dancer with the ensemble, received reprint from Suchasnist about Kiev ensemble in Paris. No significant political conversation.
- G. LAMOR Vasyl: Dancer with the ensemble, received reprint from Suchasnist about Kiev ensemble in Paris. No significant political conversation.
- H. FORSELY Jaroslav: Administrator with ensemble, Czech. no significant political conversation.

- I. LARION Julius: Director of the orchestra. No significant political conversation.
- J. ZASADA Hanna: Member of the ensemble, went to theater with Source's wife. no significant political conversation.
3. On the 13 March 1966 Source organized a party at the home of the brother of VYRSTA, a Ukrainian artist in Paris. At the party were present: SURIJAK, NEMCOVA, CISARYK, VARASIN, LAZON, and a Ukrainian priest from Paris Father Iychallo KORSHAN. There was no significant political conversation at the party/With most of the conversation being about Ukrainian culture and Ukrainian emigre artists.