

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

Subject: MEDSKAYNO, Petro, Prof.

Source : [ ] [ ]

Date : 28 Mar 1966

1. On 12 Mar 1966 from 18.00 to 23.45 hrs Subject visited Source in company of CHE. NIAVSKY, Viktor. Present at the conversation was also Eve P. The guests were treated with dinner and drinks. Subject was drinking as usually quite a lot whereas CHE. NIAVSKY stuck to one glass only. After exchange of greetings and pleasantries, Subject told Source that he had to convey "most sincere regards" from TRONKO who had accompanied him to the airport in Kiev and asked to visit Source while in New York.

2. During the conversation Subject told Source how important he himself and his colleagues in Kiev regarded their contacts with Source and stressed that despite all the ideological and political differences their co-operation should continue and develop. "We know you will never be a Marxist but we trust your sincere good feelings for Ukrainian people and value highly your integrity and personality" was the general tone of his talking. Subject wanted to know "how fast Klachkiivtsi were growing" and whether it would be possible to organize ~~ka~~ a Society ( Tovarystvo) for cultural contacts with Ukraine. Its aim would be to organize student and lecturer exchange between Ukraine and emigration, mutual visits of groups, exchange of artistic ensembles, and artistic expositions of painters and others. They (in Kiev) would welcome Source any time as a lecturer at Kiev University for one year or so. In connection with that Subject wanted to know how tightly she was bound by her contracts here in this country and what she was doing at all. Subject and Viktor were very much interested in what source was working on, and wanted to know more in detail about her research on "Navy policy and power politics". In particular they wanted to know whether she had access to "contemporary documents" and when Source confirmed that she had, Subject and Viktor exchanged their looks quite meaningfully. "To impress them", Source also mentioned that she was seeing "all kind of admirals" from time to time

for interviewing. A few times Subject asked Source how much freedom she had in her contracts and "whether she was a free individual" able to do anything she wanted. Source replied that she was completely free and did not even think of "putting herself into any restricting situation".

As to the eventual Society, Source blamed for everything people in Kiev repeating her old accusations against Kiev for not having met any of her demands and wishes. She made it clear again that as long as TRONKO, KOLOSKOVA and others do not even care to reply to her questions and opinions Source was not going to undertake anything along this line. She gave a few examples how her questions and desiderata were left unanswered or bypassed and she was not in mood to tolerate such attitude of people in Kiev and here in the Mission any longer. Subject agreed with Source that "this situation has to change" and told several times Viktor that the latter should take that into account and do something about it. On his own part Subject asked Source not to get discouraged and maintain contact with SMOLYCH and LEVISHCHENKO. Subject did not mention KOLOSKOVA in this context.

3. Asked about Church question Subject replied that this was not his field. As far as he was concerned Uniates themselves joined the Russian Orthodox Church in 1946. Eventually, he would like to study all the pertaining materials because he knows very little about it. Among other things he said something to the effect that maybe instead of restoring Catholic Ukrainian Church it would be better to organize some Autocephalic Ukrainian Church. When Source wanted to learn something more about it Subject skipped the question as just "his loud thinking".

4. Additionally, CHERNIAVSKY was interested in Source's research on relations between the Ukrainian Republic and the Allies in 1917-1921 particularly on their American aspect. He asked Source whether she would allow him to see it one day. Source replied that basically she had nothing against it but was not willing to do it now.

5. According to Subject they are building now in Kiev near Exhibition Hall a huge University for foreigners mainly Africans and Asians. It should be finished this summer. "The lectures will be read in Russian but we shall teach them (students) about Ukraine" - Subject replied to Source's question on this matter. In Subject's opinion one should not neglect the fact that in this way many foreigners who study in Ukraine are becoming instrumental in spreading the knowledge about Ukrainian people and their culture.

6. Asked about eventual re-Stalinization, Subject did not reply directly but by saying that "what we are striving now at is the construction of a society fully governed by law". "If by that you mean re-Stalinization then you are right but I don't think this is the case". He explained that they are going to eliminate any arbitrary interpretation of law and to respect ~~XXXXXXX~~ legal norms as such. In his opinion "this was a progress".

7. Both, Subject and CHERNIAVSKY denied that they had heard anything about arrests of Ukrainian intelligentsia .

8. According to Subject the 23rd Congress of the CPSU will be mainly concerned with socio-economic problems. The nationalities problem was being properly solved and there was nothing to be concerned about. He denied that there was Russification of the Ukraine, on the contrary, in his opinion "things were getting better and better".

When CHERNIAVSKY wanted to make a comparison between the USSR and USA, Subject sharply told him that "this was not right, you do not talk to the point".

Both denied that there could ever be achieved something like an amalgamation of nations, one can talk only about some getting-nore-closer while retaining their different identities.

9. According to CHERNIAVSKY, GROMYKO will go to Rome after the 23rd Congress, most probably early summer. Then he will discuss with proper circles also the problem of Ukrainian Catholic Church. There were some new "developments" in this field on the part of Soviet authorities and in his private opinion it will take at least a year or so until the question of Ukrainian Catholic Church would be solved in the sense favorable for Source. It might take even two -three years, actually.

10. Subject mentioned Prof HAZARD as his very good friend with whom he already had discussed the problem of lecturers' exchange between Columbia and Kiev University. Prof Hazard visited Subject last summer and they "had wonderful time together". Prof Hazard and his wife stayed with Subject.

11. Subject was to be elected ~~as~~ Chairman of the Human Rights Commission of the UN but at the last moment decided to give this position to the Costarican delegate after having had assured that next year Subject should succeed him. He talked a lot about his work on the Commission, mainly about recent sessions, repeating what was said in official press releases.

12. Subject mentioned that he had met "a chief of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare from Washington, D.C." who was of Ukrainian descent and whose father stemmed from Pidhaitsi, West Ukraine. The official himself was born in the States.

13. Both, Subject and CHERNIAVSKY were concerned about Source's involvement into a campaign for collecting finances for Ukrainian Catholic University in Rome, Italy. Subject wanted to know whether the University would be just another anti-Soviet institution and whether he would be able to eventually give there a lecture. Source replied that such a university was in Ukrainian interest and she simply could not understand why Subject and Cherniavsky were so much worried about it. "Finally - she said - Cardinal Slipyi, the founder of the University, is your citizen". As to the campaign itself, so in her opinion that should also be helpful in the world have to involve in cultural exchange with Ukraine.

Subject ~~khate~~ asked that he really wondered whether the university would invite him as a guest professor for ,let say, a year.

14. Subject expressed the wish to meet some emigre scholars and wanted to visit the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences in New York. He asked whether it would be possible to meet those scholars there but ~~CHERNIAVSKY~~ made it at once clear to him that this was impossible and suggested instead to meet at Source's house. Neither Subject nor ~~CHERNIAVSKY~~ mentioned any names Subject would like to meet with. Source agreed to arrange a meeting for next Saturday.

15. Source asked ~~CHERNIAVSKY~~ whether he could help in getting visa for Rev. SHARY Joseph of 3914 N. Bernard, Chicago, Ill. and his mother who plan to visit their native places in West Ukraine , in the rayon of Niska (Zorniv and Polana). ~~CHERNIAVSKY~~ promised to do so. Rev SHARY is of Ukrainian descent, aged approx. 35-37, a contributor to Nova Zoria .

16. Commenting on rumor about Cardinal Slipyi's going to ~~London~~ ~~London~~ , Subject said that "i wouldn't be a bad idea since in ~~London~~ (Card. Slipyi) could do much more than in Kiev or Lvov".

17. Subject expressed the wish to eventually get acquainted with various cultural institutions of Ukrainian emigres in this country and told source that he would appreciate her for taking him to some museums, libraries, and similar institutions. Source replied that she would gladly do it but they made no specific plans.

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