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23 November 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs Reneges on
Interview Promised to Ukrainian Emigres

The following was reported by Aecassowary/29 on 21 November 1966:

1. In response to the wishes expressed by Dr. Maria KLACHKO in earlier contacts with Victor CHERNYAVSKY (2nd secretary to the Ukrainian Mission at the United Nations) and Sergei T. SHEVCHENKO (Head of the Ukrainian Permanent Delegation), to the effect that she and some of her Ukrainian emigre colleagues would like to have an opportunity to discuss topics of mutual interest with the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs (Dmitriy Z. BELEKOLOS), an interview with the Minister was arranged for Tuesday, 15 November 1966. The interview was to take place on the premises of the Ukrainian Mission. Those Ukrainian emigres scheduled to participate in the interview were Dr. KLACHKO, Vsevolod HOLUBNYCHIY and Evhen STAKHIV. It was mutually agreed that a list of questions and topics for discussion would be made available for the Minister to review in preparation for the interview. The list of questions was prepared by the AECASSOWARIES and sent to KLACHKO via HOLUBNYCHY, who received them from ACEASSOWARY/29 on Monday, 14 November.

2. On 14 November, CHERNYAVSKY called at Dr. KLACHKO's apartment to pick up the list of prepared questions. After scanning over the list, CHERNYAVSKY indicated all was in order. He then told KLACHKO that BELOKOLOS may not be available for the interview, due to the fact that he was extremely busy preparing a paper concerning the carrying of bombs by American airplanes over foreign territories, a question to be raised by the Ukrainian representation at the United Nations. He said SHEVCHENKO and Georgiy G. SHEVEL would probably be available for the interview instead. (SHEVEL, who is in New York with the Ukrainian delegation, was secretary of the CC, Komsomol of the Ukraine after WWII and is now chief of the ideological department in the CC CPU and a member of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet.) KLACHKO informed CHERNYAVSKY that unless BELOKOLOS

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would be available for at least 15 minutes, the schedule interview might as well be cancelled.

3. CHERNYAVSKY thereupon began to try to impress upon KLACHKO how important a personality SHEVEL was. CHERNYAVSKY stayed at KLACHKO's apartment from 8:15 that evening until 12:30 a.m. during which time various subject (see below paragraph 5) were discussed.

4. Three hours prior to the scheduled interview on 15 November, SHEVCHENKO telephoned KLACHKO to offer the apologies of BELOKOLOS, who he said was tied up on some important matters and would not be available for the interview. In response to KLACHKO's inquiry whether he would be available at a future date, SHEVCHENKO said that they had neglected to discuss that aspect. No mention was made about SHEVCHENKO or SHEVEL receiving KLACHKO and her colleagues either, and there has been no further communication with KLACHKO regarding the interview.

5. CHERNYAVSKY told KLACHKO during the evening of 14 November when he visited her apartment that SHEVEL was the man to be reckoned with in the Ukrainian Delegation. He said he was the top man in the CC CPU today. It was a shame KLACHKO did not talk with him. CHERNYAVSKY said that at the reception held in New York for Pavel VIRSKY, he was bringing SHEVEL over to introduce the latter to KLACHKO, but as they approached her, she turned to talk to SHEVCHENKO. SHEVEL was so insulted, he insisted on leaving the party. CHERNYAVSKY told KLACHKO he could influence SHEVEL as they are buddies. (Ivan YAREMKO told KLACHKO that KOCHUBEI was SHEVEL's fair haired boy at the United Nations.)

6. SHEVEL's field of interest, according to CHERNYAVSKY, is political thought and literature. CHERNYAVSKY said that it is SHEVEL who decides what is to be written on one or the other subject in the literary field. For example, he said, the article on Mykhaylo HRUSHEVSKY, which appeared in the 30 September 1966 issue of Literaturna Ukraina, was the result of SHEVEL's effort. CHERNYAVSKY said he was now trying to convince SHEVEL that it was time also to rehabilitate Alexander ARKHIPENKO in the Soviet Union. (Note: A. ARKHIPENKO, now deceased, was an American architect of Ukrainian birth.)

7. KLACHKO asked CHERNYAVSKY to admit the real reason for Ivan DRACH and Dmytro PAVLYCHKO being in the West. CHERNYAVSKY replied that this was not the first time Soviet Ukrainian poets were included in the Ukrainian U.N. delegation. When KLACHKO

insisted she wanted to know "the truth", he said that they were here in an effort to neutralize emigre slanderous attacks against Soviet Ukrainians, which damage Soviet Ukrainian relations with other missions at the U.N. "We want to make our cause presentable." It wasn't that they objected to emigre criticism but "when you renounce the Soviet Ukraine, you also renounce the Ukraine."

8. In response to KLACHKO's inquiry as to what he thought was the reason DRACH and PAVLYCHKO were not being treated like Yevtushenko was in the United States, CHERNYAVSKY said that YEVTUSHENKO was here as a private citizen. His trip was sponsored by "American Jews" in appreciation for his "Babi Yar." "If the Jews want to take care of him, let them. We want nothing to do with him." CHERNYAVSKY implied YEVTUSHENKO was a sissy, and "he uses cosmetics." He further stated that if Ukrainian emigres were interested in Soviet Ukrainian writers coming to the United States, they should issue the writers invitations. KLACHKO reminded CHERNYAVSKY that he knew he was talking nonsense. (Note: DRACH, PAVLYCHKO and CHERNYAVSKY joined a group of Ukrainian emigres who had attended the 11 November poetry reading for a drink. CHERNYAVSKY at that time told Evhen STAKHIV that if he could arrange to have an invitation issued to Mykola VINHRANOVSKY, the Soviet Ukrainian Mission would finance his trip, if the Round Table Club would cover his expenses during his stay in the West. STAKHIV said he would have to discuss the matter with Club members and that the Club did not have very much money at its disposal.) She asked him why he attended the DRACH and PAVLYCHKO poetry reading at the Overseas Press Club on 11 November. "Do you have to be everywhere? Don't you know what people say about you?" CHERNYAVSKY said he had no choice but to go because PAVLYCHKO and DRACH insisted he accompany them. They wanted him around as a witness, according to CHERNYAVSKY, in the event the emigre press misquoted them. (Note: Following the poetry reading on 11 November, CHERNYAVSKY was invited by Vera SHUMEYKO to join her party for a drink. When DRACH overheard Vera inviting CHERNYAVSKY, he turned to the latter and asked him not to go. "You stay with us Viktor until the very end.") (DRACH and PAVLYCHKO each received \$100 for their appearance at the club.) CHERNYAVSKY told KLACHKO he had already written a news item about the 11 November poetry reading and had forwarded it to Kiev. It contained only the facts, no added comments of "our own." He said it would appear either in the Literaturna Ukraina or Radyaska Ukraina. (Note: Such an item did appear in the 17 November Literaturna Ukraina). CHERNYAVSKY expressed his satisfaction about the 11 November event. He promised it would be an aid to future developments between Kiev and the Ukrainian

emigres. Two years ago, in his opinion, such an event could never be realized. The 11 November evening was a concession on both sides. "We made concessions when DRACH and PAVLYCHKO were permitted to participate and you made a concession when you agreed to receive them. You cannot imagine how much the continuance of such concessions will help Ukrainians in Kiev. We need your help." He implied that Ukrainian emigre activities receive much attention in Kiev. He said Soviet Ukrainians have great hopes in the writing talents of DRACH. He is expected to become more famous than TYCHYNA or RYL'SKY.

9. CHERNYAVSKY wanted to know why KLACHKO and other emigres do not trust Ivan YAREMKO (of Chicago). "Don't you know," said KLACHKO, "it is said that YAREMKO is your man through whom you finance all kinds of activities, for example Yurk' KOSSACH and his Za Syn'em Okeanom." This was denied by CHERNYAVSKY who continued that YAREMKO makes a pest out of himself at the Ukrainian Mission with his endless requests for explanations about the unsatisfactory deliveries of items ordered from the Soviet Union. (YAREMKO imports and sells Soviet Ukrainian objects of art.) "We don't have as much money as you think," CHERNYAVSKY said, "We cannot even buy all the books we want."

10. In the opinion of CHERNYAVSKY, the situation in the Ukraine is much better today than it was in the 1920's. There are now 30 thousand Ukrainians who have received a higher education and most of them are Ukrainian patriots. He said there are continuous improvements in the educational system. It is now necessary at all technical institutions and universities for all graduates to know, in addition to Ukrainian and Russian, two foreign languages and to be proficient in one of them, either French, English or German.

11. KLACHKO criticized CHERNYAVSKY for the lack of any action concerning the Ukrainian Catholic church problem. CHERNYAVSKY said he does only what he can, that for example, he has made a request for the seven volumes on the church history which were taken from Cardinal Yosif SLIPYY when he was in Siberia to be returned to him in Rome. CHERNYAVSKY also said that Kiev now pays more attention to advice coming from the Ukrainian U.N. Mission so he is hopeful there will be more accomplished in the field of cultural exchanges.

12. KLACHKO asked about Kateryna KOLOSOVA. CHERNYAVSKY said she has changed a great deal in the recent past, that she is now a very nervous individual and can no longer be of any help.

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13. CHERNYAVSKY told KLACHKO his wife, Rita, had been ill and, thanks to the effort of TRON'KO (Petro T.), arrangements were made for her to spend some time in Truskavets (a health resort). KOCHUBEI's wife is expected back in New York in the near future and will probably have a message from Rita. CHERNYAVSKY said he would like KLACHKO to be in touch with his wife when she returns, and he indicated Rita and the wife of KOCHUBEI do not see eye to eye on many things. The personal belongings left behind in New York by the BERKANS were recently shipped back to Kiev, according to CHERNYAVSKY, so it was not expected they would be returning to New York.

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