

Subject: Volodymyr Havrylovych SOKURENKO

Date: 25 Nov. 1966

Source: S

Personal data: Sokurenko was born in 1921 in the Odessa area. He is married and has a son. His wife's father was a Pole and mother - Ukrainian. She suffers from asthma.

Sokurenko is the dean of the Law Faculty of Lviv State University. He is a docent and his academic rank is that of a Candidate of Juridical Sciences. His dissertation topic was: "On Socialist Awareness in Laws" (Pro sotsialistychnu pravovidomist).

He has served in the Red Army. Since 1946 he has lived in Lviv where he graduated from the University in 1950. He holds the chair of Theory and History of State and Law -- his specialty. Sokurenko is also on the editorial board of Radyans'ke Pravo since 1962. He is particularly interested in the Ukrainian political thought, e.g. Drahomanov.

Purpose of the trip: Sokurenko received a UNESCO Fellowship for travel to the USA, Canada, and Great Britain. He is doing research in the field of human rights. His trip is broken down as follows: USA -- from August to the end of October; Canada -- two weeks; England -- two weeks. At the end of November, 1966 he is due back in the Soviet Union.

In the United States he has visited: New York, Washington, Philadelphia, Harvard Univ., Chicago, Bloomington, Ind. (Univ. of Indiana). He has been here to government, private, community and academic establishments.

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Topics

Sokurenko did not discuss the following very readily, quoting Peter I, who said, that we simple sinning folk have no business in these affairs. Let the people in high positions take care of these things. That's high politics. "It's better for us to sit still and low."  
"What can we do about it? We are not as yet in high places."

Arrests in Lviv: About ten (10) persons were arrested and tried in Lviv. They were tried in the Lviv Oblast Court, chief judge -- S. Ryndyk, Oblast Justice, a native of Zhytomyr. Sokurenko attended only the first day of the trial, when only the formal questions were asked: Who wrote what and where. The trial was carried on in Ukrainian. He did not hear the charges by the prosecutor.

Sokurenko's characteristic: "These were young boys, who played high politics, they formed some organization, figuratively speaking, they tried to be better Catholics than the Pope. He knew no other details, but insisted that an item about the trial was published in either Lvovskaya Pravda or Vilna Ukraina. He said the defendants were "hot-headed boys."

Law School students attended the trial during lectures, and the professors tolerated this behaviour. About the other arrests he does not know anything.

Dzyuba and Svitlychny: They also played high politics. For that they were called in and questioned. "They are unwise boys, know-it-alls, they think they know everything better than anyone else. They are little known in Ukraine, especially Svitlychny. The older writers -- Sosyura, Rylsky, were much wiser in their attitudes." He praised Pavlychko, as one of the smarter men of the younger generation, and denied an allegation that Pavlychko is an apparatchik.

Sokurenko seemed hurt about the fact that the emigres praise only the younger poets and writers, as those, "who guard the Ukrainian culture and language." He said that in Ukraine the entire intelligentsia cares for the Ukrainian culture and language, everyone works for the development of culture, not only Dzyuba and Svitlychny and others like them, who make a lot of noise, often unwisely.

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As far as he knows, the defendants in the Lviv trials were charged under article 62 of the UkSSR Criminal Code, which is exactly the same as article 70 of the RSFSR CC.

Arrests of Jurists: He insisted that he knows absolutely nothing about it, and suspects that it is an emigre fabrication, because he knows all Lviv lawyers. When he was asked about STRUTYNSKY, he said that the only persons by that name that he knows is a former guerilla, who after World War II discovered the grave of a fellow guerilla-intelligence agent Kuznetsov. That Strutynsky had been a member of Lviv City Council, and his present whereabouts are unknown to Sokurenko. He also does not know whether that Strutynsky was a lawyer.

Academy of Sciences Library: Much was said about the fire in the library, that the archival materials were burned, that it was an intensional act of arson etc. He said many versions about this fire had circulated. He knows for certain that Pohruzhal'sky was tried, but he does not believe that the fire was planned from above. "One just cannot accept something like this." He also insisted that the document "On Pohruzhal'sky's Trial", which was received from Ukraine is an "emigre fabrication."

Ukrainian Language: Before the start of the 1965/66 academic year there was a meeting of Lviv University faculty and administration, at which the question of Ukrainian language as the language of instruction was taken up. He does not know of any written directives in this matter. He said that now the custom at Lviv U. is to use Ukrainian in all lectures, with certain exceptions: visiting professors from other republics, technical and medical institutes, where neither the professor or the students know the Ukrainian terminology, or where the majority of students is non-Ukrainian. In cases where a professor on tenure does not know Ukrainian, he is expected to learn it within a certain time and lecture in Ukrainian.

There were cases, where students protested the use of Ukrainian, but they had to accept the new terms. He mentioned one situation, where a high school student protested the use of Ukrainian in class, and the teacher told him, that he could attend a near-by Russian school, if he found it difficult to understand. The student took his protest to the school principal, but did not find satisfaction there either, and had to accept his fate.

This problem has its own complications in Lviv, because there is a number of Red Army soldiers in the city, who are transients, but who want to attend schools. Many of them do not know the language, and have little time to learn it.

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All court procedure and official documents are in Ukrainian. Also it is now difficult to publish a book in Russian (in Lviv, in particular). There is a publishing plan to be fulfilled and a certain number of books has to be published in Ukrainian. (This does not apply to the technical or scientific publications, including social sciences.)

The New Constitution: The Commission appointed by Khrushchev "is now dead." It no longer exists, "there isn't one anymore." There were two drafts of the Constitution, and he saw both of them. Both were drafted by non-professional people. He said that if either of these drafts were accepted "it would be harmful for the people as a whole." He did not specify what he meant.

At present the problems of constitutional changes are in the hands of professional people at the universities and specialists in the field of constitutional law. Articles are published in journals about them. But he does not know of any imminent amendments or changes of the Constitution.

The Stained Glass Window in Kiev U. : He has heard nothing about it.

Schools outside the UkSSR Borders: As far as he knows, there are Ukrainian schools only in the Virgin Lands in Kazakhstan. He was there and saw such school, but he "can't remember the locale." There are no such schools in other republics as far as he knows.

Ukraine's Future: The rights of all republics are being expanded, especially in the economy and planning. Now only the main guidelines are set in the center, and the republics do their own planning. The fact that some ~~uk~~ republic ministries were made Union-Republic ministries means very little: these ministries are still in the republics.

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Ukrainian culture is developing. The days of Stalin are gone. (He referred to this period as "the forties", "old times", and "Beria's methods.")

He admitted that "Valuyevs" are still around, and even in administrative positions, but he doubts that Russification is pushed on from the top. If some people are Russified, it is of their own will. There are reasons for this. Several times he mentioned the fact that Ukrainian intelligentsia cares for the Ukrainian culture and language.

When a free flow of ideas was suggested to him, in order that the best ideology may win, Sokurenko said, "Why should any one ideology win out. Who knows which ideology is best. There are a number of ideologies, flows, ideas. Yet we should maintain a dialogue."

Miscellaneous: "We can read all the press, including that published by the emigres." He said he saw Suchasnist and Svoboda and other foreign journals in Lviv.

\*\* Radio broadcasts are no longer jammed. People listen to all kinds of broadcasts.

\*\* The Chinese broadcast in Russian from very powerful transmitters. He has not heard any of their Ukrainian broadcasts, but he suspects that they do broadcast in Central Asian languages.

\*\* The wife of MAKSYMENKO, chief bibliographer at Lviv Univ. is a daughter of a Ukrainian priest. All her relatives were exiled in the 1930s and as the result she is somewhat mentally ill, and talks nonsense. One day she was looking for UNESCO in Lviv, because she had some "project for Ukraine." Maksymenko has a lot of trouble with her. She has a brother or a cousin in Canada or the USA by the name of Kravchuk (not the Communist leader in Toronto).

\*\* Either the son or a relative of PALAMARCHUK studies at Lviv U. He (the student) said Palamarchuk likes it in Morocco. Sokurenko added: "although there's not much doing there, no high politics."

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**\*\*PIDHORNÝ is a good Ukrainian, but a bit of a peasant.**

**\*\*During the cultivation of Virgin Lands there was much opposition from the Kazakh intelligentsia, because they were afraid that the lands will be populated by the Slavs, and the Kazakh ways will be changed. But he said there's no fear about the decline in the number of Kazakhs now. They have a great increase in population .**

**\*\* He admitted that there's unemployment in the USSR, but he ~~said~~ said the reason for it is that the people don't want to move to where the jobs are.**

**\*\*He knows BELAYEV. He is a Russian writer, member of the Union of Writers of Ukraine and of the USSR. He is rich, because he made a lot of money on the book which was translated into 30 languages. Now he has a villa in Crimea. After the sudden death of his 16-year-old daughter he left for Moscow, where he now lives. Sokurenko does not know why he chose to write on Ukrainian nationalists.**

**\*\* When Ostap VYSHNYA was mentioned Sokurenko said that in the 1940s Ukrainian nationalists drilled a lot of "independence holes" (?) The people have <sup>have</sup> censured this, because that's not the way to do things, and many innocent persons suffered .**

**"There are better ways to do things." He did not say what they were.**

**He said the Ukrainian guerilla activities have done a lot of harm. A villager once complained to him that "they have done much trouble for us, and then left for overseas. Why don't they come back here, and let us tell them a few things."**

**\*\*SOCIALIST LEGALITY means keeping the laws (written laws), not deviation from the existing laws.**

**\*\* The enrollment at the Law Faculty of Lviv Univ. is as follows:**

250 day students

300 evening students

1700 correspondence students.

**There are no foreign students at the faculty, and no Afro-Asian students.**

**An article by Sokurenko appeared in the May, 1966 issue of Radyanske Pravo .  
It's entitled "State and Law Views of Ivan Franko."**