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Re : Recent Developments in the Ukraine

Source: <sup>4</sup>Tourists to Ukraine in April/May 1968  
and Visitor to CSSR in early May 1968

Date : 27 May 1968

1. According to <sup>the</sup> people in Kiev since two years the regime is intensively trying to resettle as many Ukrainians as possible to other Soviet areas from Ukraine. This is being done by the method of "artificial unemployment". Accordingly, in ~~last~~ <sup>the</sup> last two years about 2-3 million people <sup>from Ukraine</sup> ~~have been~~ resettled to other areas of the Soviet Union .

Also, on some other occasions, Sources were told about a great deal of unemployment ~~felt~~ strongly everywhere in the Ukraine.

2. Most popular songs among Ukrainians in Kiev nowadays are "The International" and another old revolutionary song " Shaliyte, Shaliyte Skazheni Katy". The Russians are very angry when they have to listen to these songs, and Ukrainians, especially students, use to ~~sing~~ ostentatiously sing them, in restaurants, in the street, on meetings, <sup>on</sup> also.

<sup>the</sup> following slogans are being advanced now among Ukrainians, and people in Kiev asked to use them also abroad:

"Bud'mo! Shanymosya! Khay vony vyzdykhajut' "

( Let us live! Let us respect ourselves! Let them all perish!)

Everyone knows that by "them" are meant Russian communist oppressors and their Ukrainian collaborators.

3. OVCHARENKO is not bad but he cannot do much under the circumstances. SKABA is active even now after his demotion. Prof. BRAY-CHEVSKYY'S dismissal from <sup>his</sup> job at the Kiev University was SKABA'S doing.

4. PAVLYCHKO Dmytro was one of those who did not attack HONCHAR Oles at the party meeting and even somewhat defended him.

5. Svitlychny Iva<sup>4</sup> is jobless, so is Kostenko Lina. The latter is writing now a long poem entitled "Bohdan Khmelnytsky".

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SECRET

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6. KOZACHENKO is leading all the attacks against HONCHAR among the writers. 90% of writers are supporting HONCHAR.

7. VOROBYOV, KORDUN, and SACHENKO, the three young poets, whose manuscripts were confiscated by Soviet Customs from Vira Vovk, so far were not persecuted and even could perform at literary evenings. Vira Vovk's poems will be included in an anthology prepared now in Kiev.

BAZHAN Mykola is trying his best to include in his History of Ukrainian Art also some emigre contemporary artists.

8. People in CSSR are somewhat unhappy the book by Chornovil has first appeared in Ukrainian. They would have preferred to have it first in some foreign language.

Some have suggested it would be better not to publish any zakhalavna literature in Germany and the USA.

People in the Ukraine stressed not to identify them and their writings with emigration's "politicum".

They also asked to refrain from commenting on books and <sup>other</sup> works by controversial authors to be published in the Ukraine and ascribing it to emigration's efforts, because it usually impedes <sup>respective</sup> publication process in Kiev. As an example they mentioned Vynnychenko's works.

9. Suchasnist and Prolog books enjoy general respect in the Ukraine and CSSR.

10. According to Sources from CSSR, early 1968 the KGB sent SOROKA - ZARYTSKY, fnu, son of the imprisoned Zarytska Kateryna and Soroka Mykhailo, to the latter to persuade him to change his attitude, to stop organizing hunger strikes aso. Instead, SOROKA, jr. only encouraged his father to persevere in his stand and told him and the KGB he was very proud of his father.

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SECRET

-3-

11. As indicated by visitors to the Ukraine this year the Intourist KGB is particularly active ~~and~~ in such practices as searches of suitcases in hotels, ruining of films, breaking some small parts in cameras. They also use young people - boys and girls - with perfect knowledge of Ukrainian to approach <sup>of Ukrainian descent</sup> ~~tourists from the west~~ to provoke them into political conversations which after a while start with complaints against the regime also. These young "activists" are particularly active in Kiev. They try to present themselves as non-conformist young ~~writers~~ students and artists. As a rule they make approaches in the street.

*Kepler  
5 June report*

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