

Re : Soviet Ukrainian "Cultural Group" in New York in Dec 1968

Source : []

Date : 23 Dec 1968

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

1. On 9 Dec 1968 Source and her friend Eve were present at the ceremony of granting Human Rights Awards at the United Nations in New York City. They were invited by Prof. ^{Dr. Petro} Petro Omelyanovych NEDBAYLO, one of the winners of this award. During the ceremony Source was approached by ^{and only Sov. Ukrainian Mission to U.S.} BOLBOTENKO who expressed thanks on behalf of Prof NEDBAYLO for her coming to the United Nations. Prof. NEDBAYLO wanted BOLBOTENKO to stress to Source how ^{very} much he was grateful for Source's congratulations.

On this occasion BOLBOTENKO gave Source a list of the Soviet Ukrainian "Cultural Delegation". It included :

BYCHENKO, T.V.

*HORKUN V.Sh. decent dept Balkan history, Kiev Univ., attended Party in home of ^{on 14 Dec 68}

DYPTAN O.K.

KAYKAN P.F.

ROBUS H.A.

*KOLOMIYETS' N.S., of the Academy of Sciences, Ukr SSR ^{on 14 Dec 68}

*LAZEBNYK I.A., Editor

PALADIYEVA N., Heroine of Labor / ?/

*BYVACHENKO H.E., chairman of the Ukrainian Znannia Society

Mrs BYVACHENKO, T.P.

SYCH A.S. - according to BOLBOTENKO a good friend of POLYANYCHKO

SURVACHEVA O.D.

*CHAYKA V.P. - soloist of Lvov Opera - attended Party in home of ^{17 Dec 68}

*P. REPELITSA N.A. secretary of Kharkov Section of Ukrainian Society of Friendship and Cultural Contacts

YARMAK P.F., editor of Visti z Ukrayiny, Kiev

The group was going to pay visit to Source's house and BOLBOTENKO said that it was up to Source to pick up the date. "The progressives" will have to wait. BOLBOTENKO indicated that POLYANYCHKO would like to know whom Source will invite to the party on her side but Source ignored this remark hinting that it was "against etiquette" to demand the list of her guests. BOLBOTENKO

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added that originally the group consisted of 22 persons but today arrived only 15. The others were prevented by illness.

Source was sitting in the "Soviet ^{guest} box" and behind her were all the "progressive notables, like TOLOPKO, SENUK, TORCHENKO, VARENYTSIA. She heard ~~to~~ talk about the group and TORCHENKO was explaining that DMYTRUK Vira was scheduled to head the group but got ill at ^{the} last moment. Deputying for her was PEREPYLYTSIA.

Contrary to the original plan the group was to go directly to Washington, D. then to Detroit, staying in both places for one day only. From Detroit, Mich they were scheduled to go to Chicago, Ill for two days (12 and 13 Dec) and then return to New York where they will stay until 17 Dec. From New York they will go to Canada, first destination - Montreal, Quebec.

Source chose Saturday, Dec 14, for her party, and BOLBOTENKO promised to make all the necessary arrangements. Source heard the "progressives" talk about Chicago, Ill. and someone said that the group will ~~probably~~ be taken care of by Dr LAPICHAK Thoma, who - they hoped - will arrange for a party, too.

2. BOLBOTENKO told Source that the Ukrainian Mission is giving a party in honor of Prof NEDBAYLO on 11 Dec 1968 at their premises at 136 East 67th Street and handed over the invitations. Source promised to come.

3. On 11 Dec 1968 source went to the Mission (see separate report) and on 14 Dec gave a party at her home for the Soviet guests. The Sovs arrived around 19.30 hrs. and left around 22.00 hrs. Altogether there were 13 or 14 Soviet guests including BOLBOTENKO Leonid, ~~and~~ ^{Vladimir A. Kravets, Communist} and KRAVETS Petro / with their wives. From the others source recalled HORKUN, KAYKAN, KOLOMIYETS, LAZEBNYK, SYVACHENKO, CHAYKA, PEREPYLYTSIA, YARMAK. Also NEDBAYLO came. From the emigre side there was Prof PRITSAK, EUGEN, KONOLYZ, ZMAYENKOS, KOROPECKY as a medical doctor, friend of Eugen.

The Soviet guests arrived and returned by a Mission limousine. In charge of the group was KRAVETS who also ordered the limousine from the mission and quite unexpectedly interrupted the party ^{shortly before} 22.00 hrs announcing that "we have to go". The Sovs brought all kind of small gifts and also a few bottles of horilka and cognac.

After a short welcome "speech" by source, SYVACHENKO replied in his turn, starting with a quotation from the New Testament about good and bad guests and assured the hostess that they were ^{the} good ones.

The talking was going in groups, there was also some entertainment - CHAYKA sang several Ukrainian songs.

From the very beginning there was some hot debating ^{going on} between the Sovs and their counterparts , particularly between Eugen and KRAVETS, KAYKAN and one or two others. On several occasions Source had to interfere to calm down the interlocutors. The Sovs , as a rule, stuck to their official line and did not go beyond phraseology and propagandistic banalities. The only exception was LAZEBNIK , NEDBAYLO and SYVACHENKO who tried to be "objective" and "on the level".

4. Referring to his activity as Soviet representative at the Teheran Human Rights Congress of 1968 , NEDBAYLO complained about the Ukrainian emigre delegation who allegedly instead of concentrating on some abuses of Soviet Constitution in "practical sphere", started with personal attacks against NEDBAYLO and his Soviet colleagues.

As to individuals, members of the emigre delegation to Teheran Conference, NEDBAYLO criticized very strongly Rev. KUSHNIR "who only compromised" the people ~~xxxx~~ who came with him. In NEDBAYLO'S words, Rev. KUSHNIR " is just an ordinary drunkard whom one had to bring out of room at least on one occasion". He is also "politically uneducated" and particularly unsuitable as a representative of Ukrainian church. In a tete-a-tete talk with Eve, NEDBAYLO stressed that he would like to recommend ^{very strongly} ~~not~~ to send anymore Rev. Kushnir on such and similar missions because he real was unfit for any kind of diplomacy.

On the other hand NEDBAYLO praised ^{Arch} Bishop MSTYSLAV as a good representative, prudent man and quite a good diplomat. He also complimented HALAYCHUK as an honest opponent, knowledgeable, with whom despite his hostile attitude to everything Soviet, one could talk. DUSHNYK, Walter - he described - as a man with some good ideas who however, does not know how to present them.

KVITKOVSKY - was good for nothing, an arrogant and stupid man, unrepresentative, unable to get any respect for the cause he stands for.

Dr MUSIANOVICH of Paris - not very good representative either but better than KVITKOVSKY.

Member of Ukrainian Cultural Delegation who attended Party in home of [] 17 Dec 1968

5. KAYKAN Petro Fedorovich denied that "we made any arrests at Sheshory during Shevchenko celebrations in 1965" and as to ZALYVAKHA - so he was convicted for "his immoral life".

Home as above
6. LAZEBNIK Yulchim Antonovich , Editor of Robotnycha Hazeta confirmed that KOTSIUBYNSKA Mykhailyna and Zina FRANKO were " at one time released from their jobs for disseminating ~~in~~ illegal literature". He did not go, however, into details. He also wanted to meet with Eugen again

but later on it turned out "he had changed his mind". When Eugen tried to reach him next day, contrary to the ^{previous} agreement, he was not in his room and, incidentally, LAZEBNYK moved to another room on 15 Dec.

Also Dr LEVYTSKY, Wolodymyr complained on 15 Dec 1968 to Source against Eugen who allegedly "upset very much Lazebnik by attacking not only Soviet shortcomings, - what Lazebnik would not mind, but also having ^{had} the audacity to criticize Soviet system as such".

In the conversation with Eugen LAZEBNYK was particularly interested in cultural emigre activities. He told Eugen that he was a good acquaintance of KOLOSSOVA who lived vis-a-vis in Kiev. Besides his editorial work LAZEBNYK lectures at the School of Journalism. He has a PhD degree.

KOLOSSOVA has now "a high position" as a Vice-Minister.

P. F. Yermak - Member Sov. U.K.R. Cultural delegation attended party in home of ✓
7. YARMAK (YERMAK), Editor of Visti z Ukrainy tried to defend their writings against Ukrainian nationalists as on "people's requests". He was, however, very weak in his arguments.

8. PEREPYLYTSIA pretended all the time to be dead-drunk and KRAVETS helped him in playing this role. KRAVETS asked Eve to give P. strong coffee and gave it to P. who in his turn "accordingly" replied, "You are drunk yourself, not me; leave me in peace". As it turned out later on, it was P.'s "mission" to find out with what questions he will be approached as being "dead - drunk". According to Source, P. acted strangely all the time; while he pretended to be drunk and hardly standing on his feet, at the same time his eyes betrayed that he was quite sober.

9. CHAYKA Volodymyra was very emotional and as she explained it next day to Source she simply could not control herself after having found herself here in "a genuine Ukrainian milieu" at Source's house. According to Source, Mrs KRAVETS kept all the time her eye on CHAYKA. The same Source was told by CHAYKA herself. The latter wanted to see Mrs Nadiia LYTVYENKO (widow of the famous sculptor) and next day met with her at the hotel. CHAYKA'S husband was co-author of Ivan Franko's monument in Lvov and a former student of the late LYTVYENKO. CHAYKA had also other addresses of her acquaintances from Lvov and wanted to meet with them, particularly with Nadia KYZYMA of 19 Varsity Road, Newark, N.J. and Claudia Hosch of 4913 N. Marvine St, Philadelphia, Pa 19141. She also had to convey greetings from an old engineer in Lvov, a friend of her husband to SENIUK Sophia of 43 Chylvick St., Wilkes Barre Park (old coupl

of this engineer's sister.

Source helped CHAYKA to get in contact with all those people, *by telephone.*

10. According to LAZEBNYK and SYVACHENKO, HONCHAR Oles' has a very strong position and no one could do anything to him.

11. HORKUN (GORKUN) Viktor Ivanovich, Docent or Professor, claimed to be chief of the Balkan ~~Language~~ ^{Current History} Dept newly created at Kiev University. He defended very strongly ~~the~~ recent trials of Chornovil and others ^{as public} were legal and "in accordance with Soviet Constitution!"

12. KRAVETS tried to be very pleasant with source and evidently wanted to patch up their former "misunderstandings". He mentioned Source's intervention on behalf of ZARYTSKA Kateryna, HASIUK and DYDYK, and "explained" that ^{last year} she had put ~~the~~ BILOKOLOS and KRAVETS into very ~~embarrassing~~ "embarrassing situation" when next day "Swoboda" wrote about ZARYTSKA'S nationalist activity. Source replied that she saw nothing wrong with it and ZARYTSKA'S and others' release was long overdue. Besides, she could intervene out of humane motives even for people who might throw a bomb into Soviet Mission tomorrow and she wouldn't see anything wrong with that intervention.

13. Towards the end of the party PEREPYLYTSIA approached Source and told her (still pretending to be drunk) that DMYTRUK was not sick at all, she simply got at the last moment ^{an} unexpected assignment. He also mentioned a Vitali of Kharkov (someone Source met on her trip to Kharkov but whom she forgot about in the meantime) and conveyed greetings from ~~him~~. Source still could not remember exactly who was this Vitali and only later recalled that he was one of their companions at Kharkov University.

14. At the party at the Mission on 11 Dec and even before at the United Nations, on 9 Dec, BOLBOTENKO asked Source to invite to her house on 14 Dec ~~also~~ Prof SHEVELOV and was very unhappy the latter could not come. Also NEDBAYLO asked about SHEVELOV. NEDBAYLO also told Source that he would like to see Ivan LYSIAK-RUDNYTSKY and he would appreciate very much her inviting him to the party. Source pretended she did not know where to look for RUDNYTSKY in Washington, D.C.

15. Mrs KRAVETS asked Source to have ^{more} ~~some~~ understanding^s for her husband "who really is a very nice man" and she was sure that everything will turn out O.K. She felt very unhappy about "this ^{between Source & Kravets} small conflict" ^{in the past} which certainly was nothing more than a slight misunderstanding.