

S E C R E T

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

6 November 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Victor BATYUK, First Secretary, Ukrainian Mission  
to the United Nations (201-824047)

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: AECASSOWARY/29 from AECASSOWARY/57

1. AECASSOWARY/57 telephoned Victor BATYUK at the Soviet Ukrainian Mission in NY on 5 October, stating that having learned that BATYUK was a poet, he was anxious to talk with him about Soviet Ukrainian literature. BATYUK said he was willing to talk with A/57 and suggested that they meet at a dance, which he was planning to attend that same evening in New York sponsored by the New York Ukrainian emigre students' group. A/57, along with other members of the students group, met BATYUK at the door when he arrived at the dance. BATYUK was alone, and following introductions, he and A/57 went to the bar for a drink. A/57 described BATYUK as about 30 years old, 5 feet 11 inches tall, wears glasses, has brown curly hair, and is talkative, with a pleasant, easy-going manner. BATYUK seemed well informed about Ukrainian emigre student affairs and the emigration in general.

2. Following various pleasantries, A/57 directed the conversation to Soviet Ukrainian literature and Ukrainian intellectuals. He mentioned past and recent attacks against Ivan DZYUBA in the Soviet press. BATYUK said he had read DZYUBA's Internationalism or Russification, and that he felt the author had taken too harsh a stand with regard to the nationality program in the Soviet Union.

*Classified To*  
S E C R E T

5X-16132

He further stated that a book containing such harsh criticism of governmental policies would not be allowed to be published even in the United States, but he had no retort when A/57 called to his attention Eldridge Cleaver's Soul on Ice, which he said criticizes certain American policies even more harshly than DZYUBA's does Soviet policies, and that the book is available to anyone who wants to buy it. When A/57 mentioned the letter written by Ukrainian students in New York to Petro SHELEST protesting the campaign against DZYUBA, BATYUK said he was not familiar with the letter and said he would like to see it. He said that he reads the works of emigre poets, and that he reads Suchasnist (Project AERODYNAMIC Monthly Journal) regularly at the Soviet Ukrainian Mission.

3. At BATYUK's request, he and A/57 met again at 6 p.m. on 16 October, on the corner of 67th St. and Lexington Avenue, from where they went to Madison Square Garden to watch a hockey game, and later for a snack and several drinks in a restaurant in Pennsylvania Station, where they remained until 11:30 p.m. BATYUK volunteered the following information about himself: He is Ukrainian, 30 years old, married to a Russian. He and his wife have one daughter and are expecting another child. His parents lived in Soviet Asia for a long time, but he did not specify where or when. BATYUK said he completed his studies in Moscow over a period of 5 years at the Institute for International Relations, where he studied English and Swahili, as well as "diplomacy." He has been employed by the Soviet Foreign Office since 1962. He was stationed in India for a while (time unspecified).

4. BATYUK told A/57 that he had read DZYUBA's book, and that he thought it was well written, but that DZYUBA placed too much emphasis on the nationality problem in Lenin's teachings. He considers DZYUBA to be a brave young man, who is sincerely concerned with the welfare of the Ukrainian nation. When A/57 asked about Bohdan STENCHUK, author of Scho i Yak Obstoyuye I. Dzyuba, in which DZYUBA is attacked, BATYUK said he never heard of him and that the name most likely is a pseudonym. He criticized STENCHUK's book, stating that he went to the other

extreme, placing too much emphasis on Lenin's writings on social themes, completely ignoring his statements on the Ukrainian problem. When asked why it took so long for a reply to DZYUBA's book to be published, BATYUK had no reply, but he ventured that STENCHUK, whoever he might be, wrote the book because others refused to do it. When A/57 commented that if DZYUBA were arrested there would be repercussions not only among Ukrainians in the West but in the Western press as well, BATYUK merely commented that DZYUBA was free and working in Kiev, and that he did not believe he would be arrested. (Information was received on 6 Nov 69 by the AECASSOWARIES that DZYUBA has recently been expelled from the Writers Union. This has not been confirmed.) He further stated that SINYAVSKY and DANIEL were arrested on charges of sending their manuscripts abroad for publication, but that he felt DZYUBA would not be arrested on similar charges.

5. BATYUK again told A/57 that he reads Suchasnist frequently, and he and other members of the Ukrainian Mission consider it to be the most serious and intellectual emigre publication. He added that Suchasnist does on occasion publish articles which are opinionated and biased against the Soviet Union, although it is not alone in this regard, and many journals in Kiev are guilty of the same error in reverse. BATYUK was interested in the current dialogue in Suchasnist concerning the translations of LUKASH and regretted the fact that it is impossible for LUKASH to reply in Suchasnist. Although BATYUK said he had not read the book, The Chornovil Papers, he said he read all the reprints from it in Svoboda (Jersey City Ukrainian-language daily). He commented in this regard that it was sad but true that certain circles in the USSR pay no attention to what is or is not legal, which was why the arrests took place, but that arrests of intellectuals was not limited to the Ukraine, they were Union-wide, and should not be considered exclusively anti-Ukrainian but rather anti-democratic. He said harsher measures may have been taken against Ukrainian intellectuals, except for pressure from the Canadian

Communist Party and the "attitude of SHELEST." BATYUK commented that SHELEST really does care about the development of Ukrainian culture, while previous first secretaries only paid lip service to the problem. As for the case of the group of lawyers, the lawyers were arrested because they had formed an illegal organization. A/57 argued that this statement was absurd, that the lawyers had merely discussed the possibility of the Ukrainian SSR separating from the USSR on legal terms, which were stated in the Soviet Constitution, and that this activity could not be viewed as anti-Soviet. He added that the Communist Party in the United States is legal, even though it agitates for a change in the system of government. To BATYUK's argument that the American CP was constantly being watched by the FBI, A/57 replied that it was true, but that no members of the American CP are arrested and tried in secret, as were the Soviet Ukrainian lawyers.

6. Solution to the nationality problem in the Soviet Union is far from completed, in the opinion of BATYUK. He said the most important factor is education. Immediately following WW II, there was a lack of Ukrainian intelligentsia, which has since then began to appear. Ukrainian national consciousness has greatly increased in the last few years, and is continually growing. Russification, however, is evident in many Ukrainian centers, the problem being caused by the fact that 25% of the population of the Ukraine is Russian, and in addition, there are many Russified Ukrainians.

7. Due to a lack of time, BATYUK said, ~~that~~ as a poet, he has not written anything original recently. Currently he is working on translations from Swahili into Ukrainian, but he would like to translate something from English into Ukrainian. A/57 gave BATYUK copies of Koordinaty, Tom I (Coordinates, Volume 1) and Novi Poeziyi, No. 10 (New Poetry, No. 10), the latter a copy of which BATYUK said he already had purchased, and he left it in Kiev on his last visit. Both books are Project AERODYNAMIC publications.

S E C R E T

-5-

8. BATYUK told A/57 that he talked with Vera Wowk of Brazil (Ukrainian emigre poetess) when she was in Kiev on her first visit, and he praised her poetic abilities. He was critical of Oleksiy POLTORATSKIY, editor of Vsesvit, for his article in the July 1968 issue of Literaturna Ukraina, in which he attacked CHORNOVIL and KARAVANSKY, and Ukrainian nationalists abroad for slandering the Soviet regime, and he said Lyubomir DMYTERKO was no better than POLTORATSKIY. BATYUK wanted to know where Wolfram BURGHARDT and Ivan KOSHELIVETS (editors of Suchasnist) lived, and he asked the age of Yaroslav STETZKO (head of the ABN).

9. According to BATYUK, Ranok, a Kiev youth journal, was looking for information for an article about Ukrainian emigre youth, and he asked A/57 whether he could supply him with some documents. He said he would write the article for Ranok. He wondered whether there was anything being put out by Ukrainian emigre students on the order of "underground literature." A/57 told him there were various publications being published by the students themselves, which criticize the Ukrainian emigre community and that he would gladly supply BATYUK with some copies.

10. A/57 and BATYUK agreed to meet again but set no time or place. BATYUK said he would obtain tickets for a Broadway show and then call A/57 to arrange a meeting place.

ccSB/X/DO for   
cc74-124-29/3  
ccA/57

8/24/68

SB/PO/M

[unclear]

S E C R E T