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SULGECT: A trib to R OVNO, Ukraine in August 1962

SOURCE: F. vilo was debriefed by H. on 21 August 1962 after F's

arrival in Stockholm

DATE: 28 August 1962

1. It took Source only 5 days to get a visa through "Nyman& Schulz"-Travel Agency in Stockholm.

2. On S August 1962 at 23.10 hrs Source left Stockholm by, railroad and after one day stay in WARSAW arrived again by train in BEREST LITOVSK on 8 August 1962 at 22.00 hrs.

In BREST LITOVSK Source discovered that his BERLIN-train was late and the one for KIEV had already left. He was told that he will have to wait about 24 hours for the next one. The Kiev train leaves only once in 24 hours from BREST LITOVSK.

Source was told that he could spend the night at the RR-waiting room, and was going to do so. But when he was checking his baggage he started a conversation with a Ukrainian working there and the latter advised him to take a bus instead of waiting so long for the train. The man was from ZAPORISHA, his wife was also Ukrainian and he was quite happy to be able to help Source after he discovered that Source was going to visit his father and had very little time. Thus instead of waiting for the KIEV train, Source took the bus at 8.00 hrs in the morning which left for ROVNO on 9 August 1952, and arrived the same day at ROVNO at 15.00 hrs.

hen Source explained to the man that he was afraid to take the bus because according to the regulation told him at the travel agency he had to stick to the means and root of comunication indicated on his ticket, the man laughed it off as "yarunda" and told him to go on the bus and there just not to do any talking with anybody. Then everything would be fine.

Source did so, he did not talk to anyhody and just pretended to be sleepy. He admitted that he was quite afraid. And he got even more frightened actualy shocked after his arrival in ROVNO when he saw all the misery all around him. The contrast of ROVNO as he knew and remembered it before the war and mixed moreover compared to the cities like Warsaw was almost horrifyeing.

in RCVNO Source stayed at his fathers room, there was only one bed and Source had to sleep on the floor. As Source was told this was normal nowadays in WOLHYNIA. Next day, after his arrival came his coucin (Slawko) from Hungary who was employed there as electro-technician. He kept company with Source until the latters departure on 14 August 1962.

4. Source left ROVNO on 14 August 1962 by bus for BREST LITOVSK at 8.00 hrs and arrived there at 15.00 hrs. From E BRESK LITOVSK he went to WARSAW where he stayed for two days and then via BERLIN returned back to Stockholm on 19 August 1962.

S WAR

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5. bounce shent most of his time in RCVNO with his father and coustn. The net some neighbors and had a look around in the city but had no time to actually to do anything more. He also seemed to be somewhat scared and overwhelmed in general by the misery he met. Not as much buildings (the city has been actually rebuild) as the people in the streets and their behavior made a rather depressing impression on the Source.

6. Two days after Source's arrival in ROVNO he was called to the militia and asked why he didn't stay in a notel. They spoke to him in Russian. Source explained that he preferred to stay with his father whom he hadn't seen for 27 years. The militia officer replied that he had nothing against it, its up to Source, he only thought that in a hotel Source might be more comfortable.

7. COSMONAUTS. A sefar as Source could jugge the flight of Vostok III and IV raised no special moreover exhuberant reaction among the population. One day Source was was walking with his cousin in the street and the latter asked him whether he knew about "two other Soviet Cosmonauts in the space". He mentioned also that one of them is "ours", (he referred to POP CVICH) and in his tome some element of pride was discernable. Source passin pointing at a passing-by man who was rather poorly dressed replied: Thase are your Sputniks, you see "The cousin sight kept silent for a moment and then said "You are right, Uncle, but what can we do". Later on Source told his cousin that people are soing hungry and barefoot and the bosses in Moscow don't care about it but think of new Sputniks. The cousin hodded with his head and an confirmed his views.

Also when talking to other people Source discovered that instead of unutnike the people would prefer to have more bread, butter and meat. The fact that at that time some foodstuff were almost unavailable created more anger then delight with Southike among the comon people

5. Aloc OF MIAT AND BUTTER PRICES. Lecide normal general complaints about the food situation Source noticed no special reaction to the rise of prices. To the simple reason that the main problem is not the price but the food itself. As for many/weeks tiere was practically deither west nor butter available in shows it lian't matter weether prices of raise in not.

Sure by Course lent his cousin to buy one hilogramm of Sausage and to buy any price they asked. After two downs the dousing the came back well and emptymanded explaining that he couldn't get it anywher in the whole bity. We felt very embartsed and apologized many times, but this was all he could bo.

Source went also dimself to a few shoot just to have all look tround and so buy something for his father and got an the impression that stores were practically empty. He could not, nowever, explain one thing and that was what the situation must have been under Stalin taking into consideration that living standard moraling to the people there much improved in recent years.

Actually, according to what he was told, since the years or so the diffustion is takenessed was rather stagment and number even rekropkskike regressive. This is quite consulive to lectioning of Mhrushquay's nonclarity although as it asemed he never enjoyed it to very such.

Course notical that every so-many kilometers the bus turned off the main road and frove on its side. This was because on the main road he saw hills that looked like sand streehing for kilometers. He asked a weman sitting in front of him whether they were building a new road because there was so much sand. The woman bent closer to him and whisperel: "Have a better look, this is not sand but wheat" and Source noticed tears in her eyes. He but his glasses on and realized that it was really all wheat. He was shocked by that, moreover thinking of rain and thought this was part of explanation why people were starving.

Source also saw from his bus, on the way there and fack, cattle on pastures. The cattle was so meager and poor that Source thought that in Swelen the people would be sentenced xxxxixx to life prison for such a mistreatheat of poor animals.

international events and also about Eerlin. They fon't think there will be a war about Eerlin and rather expect that the West will give in. Source also noticed that Germans are still not liked among the population.

ll. <u>DFRAINIZATION AND RUSSIFICATION</u>. Names of streets are marked in Ukrainian . only some of them are in both languages, Ukrainian and Russian. In streets and shops Source heard, however, very often Rucsian spoken and his impression was that the average "respectable" city inhabitant seemed somewhat ashamed to speak Ukrainian and preferred to use Russian.

On the other hand according to what Source was told, the country-site is getting rapilly Ukrainized despite the fact that after the war it was almost overflooded with Russian element who ocupied most of administrative posts and schools.

le. POLES AND JEWS. There are only few Poles and Jews. The regime increased recently the preassure on Jews and because of various blockmarket trials created almost some sort of panick among the Jewish population. Source did not think that Jews enjoy any particular sympathy on the part of the population but rather latters attitude was neutral. The reason for this is that most jews installed themselves in various comercial institution and are much better of then the others.

The attitude of the population towards the Polles is very hostile. Poles are xxxxxxxxx to be "seksoty" (agents of the KGB) and many of them are.

Source hisself was approached by a Pole who asked him what did no think shout a dozen or so Argentinian families of Ukrainian descent who returned to WOHLYNIA. Fretty soon they were very disapointed and tried to he all they could to get back to Argentina. However, only those born in A reentina were let out, the others had to stay in the Ukraine. Source answered they asked for it, because notody told them to come to the Ukraine.

The Pole asked Source whether he spoke Polish and after latters confirmation, proposed to speak in Polish. Source replied that he preferred to speak in Ukrainian and the Pole left him.

the latter commented "they all are alike and even now preffer to apeak Russian instead of Ukrainian". It was Sources understanding that just because of the hostile attitude to all Ukrainian; and readiness to serve the Russians, the foles are not liked by the population.

13. UKRAINIANS. Afternarrival of the Soviet Army in 1944-1945 there was a mass terror against Ukrainian liberation movement and Ukrainians in seperal. In 1945 all families that were connected with the UPA were liquidated and practically all active Ukrainian element deported to Siberia. As one man put it this was a real "Sodoma and Gomora". Alministration and Kolhosps were almost completely in hands of Russians and Ukrainians from the Eastern Ukraine. The situation in this respect somewhat changed in favor of Ukrainians still before Stalin's death, and remarkably improvided in 1953-56.

There are still strong memories of the UPA struggle and many stories and legends are still circulating among the population. The UPA is generally spoken of as great boys who gave held to both, Germans and Russians. Source jid not hear anybody complaining about the UPA.

14. TEXIBRATION. The people know about emigration and are inclined to experate its activities and influence in the West. The most popular person from the West is Canadian Premier John Diefenbaker. They talk about him as of a real friend of the Ukrainian people.

People in ROVNO knew about axximization assassination of L. Rebet and S. Bandera but did not know who personaly killed them.

15. KOWEL. Source only passed through the city on his way there and back. The city seemed to be rebuild, in particular the new RR station was quite impresive.

16. CUBYOMS CONTROL. In BREST LITOVSK at the customs the first thing Source was asked was whether he had any literature. The same happened on his way back. After his arrival from warsaw Source had many suitcases full of textiles and other # "gifts" for his father. The customs officer baid little attention to the items on top of the suitcases but out his hand to the buttom checking on what was there.

The documentation and customs control at BREST LITOVSK was the only one Source had in the Ukraine. At no other Ukrainian place was he checked on his identity or baggage.

li. IN WARS-Aw. Source stayed in Warsaw for two lays. He visited "Our Word" (Ukrainlan paper published in Warsaw) and had a long and friendly that with members of the editorial staff and the chief editor BCR ANSWYI who is also from WOHLYNIA. They complained to Source that Ukrainian emigration in the free world called them Commists and Roesn't want to have anything to do with them not even mentioning eventual material support. Simultangously the Sove considered them "traiters of Motherland" and so they are between the devel and the deep blue sea. They assured Source that they are as not Ukrainian patriots as anyonly else and their only purpose is to serve their own noople.

They conclaimed about insufficient finances at their disposal. They balled it a real misery (" zlydni"). They have no belo from anybody with expection of some domations from time to time from anonymous resole in the Ukraine, sometimes amounting up to several thoughness zloty: There is impression was that some people organize on their own collections in the Ukraine and send as dotations to the paper. Similar dotations are also coming from time to time from Ukrainians in P land.

18. /IRLKYI IN WARSAW. VIRSKYI had a very had reception in WARSAW. The half was full up but as soon as he appeared and started to speak is due ian instead of Ukrainian all very shocked. Neither Poles a remosover Ukrainians expected him to talk in Russian on such an occasion. All were very disappointed and since then he was actually boycotted. Practically nobody aplauded performances though these were really excellent. "Our Word" restricted itself to the necessary minimum coverage, so did also Polish papers. Some of Polish papers did not even mention it.

19. Source subscribed to "Our Word" himself and for three friends of his in Sweden, incl. H. He also left Zloty 1,000.- as dotation.

It was H's improssion that Source had many friends in Warsaw not only in the editorial board but also in general, of both nationalities, Ubrainians and Poles.

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