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SUBJECT: General situation in the Ukraine in October 1963

SOURCE : DZYGALO, Evheniya

DATE : 16 March 1964

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1. Source is Ukrainian, widow, DOB -4 Jan 1893, teacher retired since 1957; 1945 to 1957 lived at CHERNIV, BUKACHIVSKYI r-n, Ivano-Frankivska obl., 1957 to 1963 in IVANOFRANKIVSKYI, wul. Ivana Franka (former Kaminskoho). Source arrived to the States on 26 Oct 1963 to join for good her son VYSOTSKY, Bogdan of 500 184th Street, New York, N.Y. She flew from SHEREMETEVO Airport to HELSINKI by Finair and from there by PAA to New York, N.Y.

While in the Soviet Union Source did some traveling to LVOV, ROHATYN, and TARNOPOL. She also visited once KIEV prior to her departure from IVANOFRANKIVSKYI for MOSCOW. It was either in 1961 or early 1962. Source is quite intelligent and sophisticated with average memory for her age (71). She was interviewed at her son's house by C. and George on 13 Mar 1964.

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16 March

"Zapretni zony"

1. Missiles basis near TURYE, STAROSAMBERSKYI r-n, LVIVSKA obl.

Source heard people talk that in woods near TURYE there is located a missile basis. It was built in 1959. The base and its surroundings constitute a "zapretnaya zona". Source heard this information confirmed by a far relative of her who told her he was glad not to have had to serve there. This relative lived in the Far East and it happened very often that people living there though stemming from West Ukraine were sent to serve in the Western oblasts.

2. Approx. 10 km SW off DELATYN, West Ukraine there is located a zapretnaya zona. According to hear say there was found "uranium ore" still in 1950s. One village (Source could not remember its name) was resettled to other parts of the Soviet Union, mostly deported to Siberia, and some military personnel took it over. People say that the object consists of 3 circles, all strictly ^a guarded. The most inner one, the third is the most strict. Among people working there should be also prisoners sentenced to death. Whereas military personnel and "engineers" wear special anti-radiation suits, the prisoners work without any protection.

In 1962 there was an attempt of some prisoners to break out. They succeeded in getting through all three circles with allegedly help of guards who joined them. At that time, it was probably late spring 1962, there were strict mass searches and controls on buses, trains and on roads in general. Military units and militia were looking for escapees. Source was, however, unable to tell any other data or details.

3. According to hear-say approx. 7-9 km South of ZHURAVNE, ZHYDACHIVSKYI r-n, LVIVSKA obl. there was found in 1962 uranium ore. All people in the vicinity

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were worried that they will be soon resettled and a zapretnaya zona established instead.

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1. Resistance against Russification

The resistance to Russification was quite strong - according to the Source - and she was rather optimistic about the future of Ukrainians. Against such ~~factx~~ phenomena as widespread usage of Russian in Kiev, Lviv, and other large cities, she mentioned the following facts:

a/ smaller towns and countryside as well as "conscious" part of Ukrainian intelligentsia in large cities speak Ukrainian, and together with many other who use Russian but nevertheless feel Ukrainian, constitute strong basis of Ukrainian element;

the
b/ in spring 1963 people talked that some representatives of higher party-, administration-, and cultural echelons in Kiev appealed to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and Khrushchev ~~himself~~ personally to stop Russification of the Ukraine. Source did not know what happened to them. Probably nothing, but the main point in her view they were not afraid to put forward such demands.

c/ In 1962 Ukrainian educational and cultural institutions in CHERNIVTSI, Bukovina, West Ukraine, protested to Kiev against the refusal of Jewish people there (in CHERNIVTSI) to learn at schools Ukrainian and their preference for Russian. End 1962 or early 1963 a representative from Kiev decided in favor of Jews and their preference for Russian but his decision was quite conducive to strengthening Ukrainian nationalistic feelings directed against the regime.

d/ The bulk of Ukrainian intelligentsia in West Ukraine consists of people stemming from the countryside. They remain Ukrainian by virtue of their origin and do not easily get russified.

e/ During BERia even Russians tried to speak Ukrainian and many of them either returned to Russia or planned to; Ukrainian were promoted in their

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jobs, given more responsible positions at expense of Russians, and there was a general revival of Ukrainian activities. Source thought that had this process lasted for a year a fullfledged Ukrainization were irreversible. ~~Thenceforward~~ Even so, Ukrainians who were given responsible jobs at that time, retained them mostly later on. Thus, for instance, Prof KOLESSA of Lviv retained his post as Director of the Institute of Music also after BERIA'S liquidation.

f/ Ukrainian youth on the whole is "nationally conscious". Ukrainian students demanded ~~only~~ often in recent times that lectures be read in Ukrainian and not in Russian. Such demands were put forward in Lviv and in Ivanofrankivskiyi. There were also ~~scuffles~~ when Russian students protested that they didn't understand Ukrainian.

2. Anti -American propaganda

In 1963 Soviet propaganda inside increased its efforts against the USA aiming at convincing people at all kinds of public and internal meetings that America was not as good as it seemed to be. In this campaign were used such "arguments" as very high costs of medical care, debts, unemployment. Among other thing the propagandists claimed, for instance, that parcels sent to the Soviet Union were being purchased for borrowed on a high interest money, that people in the States borrow suits before taking pictures to be sent to the Ukraine, aso.

According to Source this propaganda had practically no effect whatsoever. Even propagandists themselves did not believe it.

3. Penkovsky affair

People discussed widely Penkovsky's trial. Contrary to official line all people were actually satisfied with what he did. Usual comment was : " At least one (man) knew how to hurt them". Particular importance was paid to the fact that he was well off, had very high position, was "one of theirs"

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and therefore the damage he inflicted upon the regime was very great indeed. In general, Penkovsky was regarded rather a hero than just "a spy".

4. Assault on Khrushchev's life

In 1962 - 1963 people still talked that a high ranking officer tried to shoot Khrushchev in MINSK. As to explosion in Horodetska wulytsia in LVIV Source heard also voices ~~mined buildings~~ that these were gas pipes which blew up.

5. Pasternak

People talked in general that ^{the} essence of his "Dr Zhivago" was an assertion that the Revolution of 1917 did not bring about what ~~was~~ it was supposed and expected to. Therefore Pasternak was right. He was a great man and was buried as a Christian. People knew that his wife and daughter were deported and had great sympathy for them.

6. Russians in Western Ukraine

They occupy all the better positions and because of that, naturally, are disliked by local element. Moreover that very often they show openly their chauvinism and on the whole behave quite provocatively. Source herself knew a cleaner from a hospital in IVANOFRANKIVSKYYI who demanded to be addressed ⁱⁿ only Russian.

There is a very strong anti-semitic sentiment among Russians. Source thought it was also inspired by instructions "from above". Her explanation for the latter "because the higher his position the more anti-semitic he is".

During Beria Russians were in quite a panic. They were afraid Beria will substitute them completely with Ukrainians in the Ukraine.

In 1953 -1954 there were rumors about Russian inside party underground. A party secretary threw himself under the train at BUKACHIVTSI, and another one shot himself in IVANOFRANKIVSKYYI. Both - according to rumors- belonged probably to the party-underground.

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7. Ukrainian Underground (in the past)

It was liquidated more or less in 1948-49 in the region of BUKACHIVTSI. Source knew some ^{of} members of the Underground like :

PANKIV, Bogdan of CHERNIV, Bukachivskiyi r-n, who was killed in forests near CHERNIV during an oblava in 1947;

POPOVICH, fmu of CHERNIV, officer of the UPA, sentenced in 1948 to 25 years;

RUDYK, fmu of CHERNIV, who was caught in Kiev in 1949 on false documents.

There are many legends and songs about Ukrainian Underground and on the whole the memory about it is quite alive in spite of Russian ^{some} propaganda. There are also some critical appraisals of Underground activities :

a/ crass excesses of the Underground against own population that took place in 1947 -48 (Source mentioned as an example the case of a KULYK, Han of Verbylivka, a peasant woman who while caring for two orphans was killed by the Under ground for allegedly working for the MVD and what turned out to be false;)

b/ the wrong policy of the Underground directed at the complete boycott of Soviet administration, party, and even schools. By forbidding and punishing those who joined the Soviet apparatus the Underground helped Russians to introduce their own element and to divide local population in its loyalties.

Re-trials of former Underground people took place as lately as 1963. Two men who had returned from Siberia, were sentenced to death in a public trial in TLUMACH in 1963. They were denounced by local informants for their "atrocities" in the past/.

8. Religious sects

Most persecuted were Jehova's witnesses. There was a trial in 1963 in IVANOFRANKIVSKYI. The press called them American agents and accused of "ritual atrocities" such as "sacrificing young girls". Source could not say anything more about it.

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9. Expropriation of private houses

In 1962 - 1963 the expropriation of private houses became quite widespread. Special communal commissions consisting usually of 3 or more officials of Gorkom "reviewed" many cases and where the owner could not prove that he had ^{bought or} built his house "by honestly earned money", he was deprived of his property. The only consolation remained ^{was} that he/she could usually ~~remain~~ continue to live in the house. The commission usually checked banking accounts, interviewed neighbors, talked to builders, etc. Similar procedure has become now obligatory in cases where new houses are to be built.

Source belonged to those whose house was taken away under the pretext that it was bought by her brother-in-law who was a priest and that "the capital" was obtained illegally "by speculation".

10. The countryside

There is a misery in the countryside but somehow people learned how to help themselves. Shortly before Source's departure the food-situation was much worse than usual.

The administration in villages is usually local. Thus in CHERNIV, r-n BUKACHIV the chairman of silrada is YATSENTYI, Andrei - local Ukrainian, aged 40, probably a party man; and the chairman of kolhosp is IVANYSHYN, Andrei - local Ukrainian too, aged 45, who in 1947 "responded" to amnesty declaration of Sovs and returned from the UPA.

All people, including youths, drink terribly.

In general, the countryside has now more educated people than ever before. Many people went to cities but recently there was a new official drive to prevent young people from leaving kolhosps. There is too much intel igentzia. As a result, admissions to Universities became very difficult and bribes increased; sometimes up to NRubel 2,500.--.

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11. Party

More and more Ukrainians join party. As an example Source mentioned sons of Prof SIOLYNSKYI of Ivanofrankivskiyi - one was an engineer and the other medical doctor. They were simply "drawn in" into the party.

In vil ages, however, mostly only primitive element joined the party. Source had often to "educate" such party members who usually could not even read.

Responsible posts in the party are occupied mostly by Russians and Ukrainians from Eastern Ukraine.

12. Virgin Lands

In recent years dust clouds reached as far as CSR. People consider the whole project as a failure. On this occasion one talks often about Malenkov and Molotov "who have known better". Both, assumingly, during the squabble with Khrushchev in 1957 contended that similar experiment though on much smaller scale had already been tried during the Tsars and completely failed.

13. IVANO-FRANKIVSKYI

After WW II Sovs established in the city:

- a/ the Institute of Medicine at Mitskevicha Ploshcha;
- b/ the Pedinstitut - at former Lypova wul., then Stalina, and now Shevchenka,
- c/ the Politechnical Institute - a branch of Lviv Politechnics, in form Sapizhanskoho wul, now Radianska wul.

In 1962 a new Ukrainian 11 grades school-internat was finished. Recently they also built a 11-grades Ukrainian school in Halytska wul. and a Russian one in Chermyshevskoho wul. Altogether there are 18 8-and 11-grades schools in the city. In 1963 Source heard their friends talk that Russian schools received a "quiet instruction" that Ukrainian might be dropped in their curriculum.

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In 1963 a new children hospital was built (600 beds) on the outskirts of the city on the route to NADWIRNA.

The KGB HQs is located in Chkalova wul. (former Polish court and then Gestapo). In the same building is also ~~with~~ obl-militia housed. KGB officers are usually Russian, among militia officers there are many Ukrainians, also local ones. Particularly in recent years many young people joined militia after admission to higher schools had been made difficult.

KGB informants are generally known and "people keep them in mind". Source mentioned OSTROVSKA, Maria and her husband Joseph of Horodenka, who lived in IVANOFRANKIVSKYI, wul. Franka 20.

14. Church

In 1962 - 1963 authorities intensified their pressure on church. Among other things, they became more strict on demanding from priests signed statements of both parents agreeing to baptize their child; a priest can have only one church; a priest's jurisdiction is restricted only to his church and thus even a son cannot conduct funeral of his own mother when she was outside of his jurisdiction; priests have to pay 30% of their "services income" as tax.

In 1961 or 1962 two catholic priests were sentenced to 5 years on denunciation of another priest that they performed illegally religious rituals. Both recently just had returned from Siberia.

There is also a strong drive against "official church". Orthodox priests are more and more being called "tuneyadtsy".

Source named the following priests:

Rev DZERA, fmu of TLUMACH, orthodox;
Rev IVANYK, fmu of PEREHINSK (bad guy, attacked catholics),
Rev MONASTYRSKYI of IVANOFRANKIVSKYI - "fine guy" refused to convert to orthodoxy;
Rev ZHOVNIROVYCH, fmu, aged 30, Ukrainian, near PEREHINSK, graduate of Orthodox Seminary at LUCK; very popular.

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15. Sino-Soviet conflict

People talk about it in general commenting usually that ~~that~~ because of it they have no rice. Most sympathise with Chinese for simple reason they they are against the Sovs.

16. Speculation

Speculation is widespread and the higher the echelons the bigger the "scale". In 1962 they put on trial a few directors of various enterprises, high party, and administration officials who were accused of a large scale speculation between curtain factories in IVANOFRANKIVSKYI and similar one in CSR. Source did not know the details.

17. Miscellaneous

a/ Foreign films are most popular in the Ukraine and stay on for weeks and weeks. Some people see them for several times. Source mentioned such films as "Voyna i mir" in American production, "The Great Waltz", "Rhapsodie" (German).

IVANOFRANKIVSKYI theatre can cover its deficit only by showing Ukrainian classical dramas, mostly in the countryside. No interest for Soviet ones.

b/ Still under Stalin there was a "quite" order to all schools to out out "Lubit' Ukrainu" /out of all books. This was the best advertisement for the poem. Everybody read it.

c/ People heard about Stashynskyi's trial. "We knew at once that both (Rebet and Bandera) were killed by Russians".

d/ Talks about exchange of Ukrainian territories with Poland somewhat subsided in 1962. There was much talk about it in late 1962 and early 1963.

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