

Re: MOLCHAN, Vladimir Nikolaevich

Date: 1 August 1965 in Caracas

Source: *Becksonway/57*

*Ukrainian State Bulletin*

\*MOLCHAN, VLADIMIR NIKOLAEVICH: Nationality Ukrainian, born 1936 in Zhitomir.  
married, is a musician with the ensemble plays the violin. 5'6". 160 lbs. brown  
curly hair, pug nose, rough facial features, heavily built, square shoulders,  
Subject is friendly and likes to mingle with others. Is quite emotional on the  
subject of Ukraine, and Ukrainian nation. Likes poetry, young Ukrainian poets in  
particular. In conversation is more of a listener but will make a remark every  
once in a while. Subject does not attack nationalists in conversation.

1. Subject was first approached on the night of 1 August 1965 in front of the  
hotel El Conde. He was in the company of VIKHAREV, Sergei ( a violinist with the  
ensemble), KOSEL, Alexander ( a musician with ensemble), and two unknown dancers.  
After preliminary greetings, KOSEL, who had been drinking already proposed that the  
group go for a beer, everyone agreed and the group went to a small bar. With source  
was friend B.

2. In the bar, B. gave subject a reprint from SUCHASNIST #1/65, a reprint of  
SYMONENKO'S poetry, and a reprint of leaflet about fire in library in Kiev. B. also  
gave a copy of MYTH and REALITY. Subject willingly took reprints and put them in  
his pockets. Source asked MOLCHAN about literary tendencies in Ukraine at the present  
and about young poets in particular. MOLCHAN praised the young poets very highly,  
saying that they are the rising force at the present, and a renewal of the writers  
and poets killed off by Stalin. Source explained that he too shared this opinion,  
and that in the last few years many young Ukrainians living in U.S. are finding  
out about them, and beginning to enjoy them, but source complained that there is not  
enough information at present about them in the emmigration , and their works are  
very hard to get. Subject agreed, saying it was almost impossible to get their  
works in Kiev. Source went on by saying that there are also young poets in U.S.  
of Ukrainian descent who are very good. Subject seemed very interested in this, and  
source proposed to give him some of their works. This proposition was accepted,  
and both agreed to meet the next day so that source could give said literature.

Subject proposed to give send books of young poets to source. This was also  
accepted, with source asking if subject could also send some local newspapers.  
At this moment subject and source went to the bathroom. There subject requested  
that source in his letters abstain from writing about political topics because he  
might get into trouble. Source promised this. Subject added that there is a strict  
censorship, and it would be better to stick to student topics in letters.

KOSEL came to the table and began to sing, being quite drunk at the time, this  
interrupted the conversation, and source proposed to B. that they separate. And that

the party of four leave the rest of the group, and go somewhere for a sandwich. Subject and VIKHAREV agreed, and the group left unnoticed. In the restaurant source asked subject about the state of Ukraine's sovereignty as a nation, Subject at first tried to defend position of Ukraine, by saying that it is much stronger as a member of the USSR. Source told subject that this is nonsense, that at the present time all over the world the trend is towards independence, and freeing of colonial states. Why then is the Ukraine still a colony of Russia, source went on to argue the fact that Ukraine does not have diplomatic relations with other nations, western or fraternal communist states. Subject pointed out that Ukraine is a member of the United Nations. To this source asked if such minimal representation is enough for a nation of 44 million people, adding that even Ghana with a population of less than 10 million has diplomatic relations with over 100 nations, in addition to being a member of the U.N. Subject did not argue with these statements and told source that he was right. Source went on with this line of reasoning, and asked subject why the people, especially the youth do not raise their voice in protest, or at least demand more rights for their nation. Subject replied that at the present it would be almost impossible to do because of the fear left among the people. This fear according to subject is left over from the Stalinist period, and the people still do not trust one another. Subject believes that there is still a certain amount of collaboration on the part of certain elements with the police. These people (paid informers) have always been present and help to keep the population in hand.

About this time it was getting late and the subject said that he had to get some sleep for the next day. A meeting was arranged for the next day in the Plaza Bolivar at 1:00 P.M.