

~~SECRET~~

Re : General Situation in the Ukrainian Countryside, Summer 1968
Source : *Source* 2
Date : 9 Nov 1968

Following is the gist of information obtained from a former lady teacher, aged 40, Ukrainian, of Buchach-area, West Ukraine obl. Ternopil, who visited Yugoslavia in July 1968 and met there with her close relative from the West. Source's knowledgability was limited to rayon-level although she also knew about Ternopol and the situation in other parts of the Ukraine in general. Since 1967 she stopped teaching because of a chronic illness. She is quite well read, of average intelligence, with moderate interest in politics.

1. West off BUCHACH ^{there} have been found very rich oil deposits which reach up to Rumania's oil fields. Final explorations on their exploitation have been concluded in 1968 and soon they will start with building of one of the greatest refineries in the Ukraine. Buchach which had until now only a _____ and a meat and fruit conservation factory, will soon become an industrial city and should increase its population accordingly due to the future refinery.

2. In 1967-1968 there increased a pressure on local population to join party membership and militia. People still show no particular enthusiasm about it.

3. The chairman of the Buchach kolhosp is a local Ukrainian. On the whole lately there is noticeable some sort of a drive to engage more and more local Ukrainians into responsible positions in kolhosps.

4. Similar trend is also in administration but such positions as chief of rayon and higher remain still in hands of Russians or Ukrainians from Eastern oblasts.

5. In Buchach all schools are Ukrainian, majority of teachers are local Ukrainians. Buchach itself is a Ukrainian town (a rayon center) and even in rayon-offices as a rule one hears Ukrainian language. As to the countryside - it is definitely immune against Russification.

pre-
SBIR
6 Dec

SECRET

6. In 1968 authorities allowed parents to take their children to church. Children, however, are not permitted to visit church on their own. Still in 1966 two churches - one in BUCHACH and the other in PEREVOLOKY-which served until then as stores, had been restored to their proper use. As a rule even militia and party men baptize their children. Usually when father is on a trip outside, mother and grandma arrange for baptism of child. In villages people openly listen to Holy Mass translated from Vatican radio. Recently also religious processions have been re-introduced. The only restriction is that the priest cannot wear his robes.

7. People are talking that the Underground still exists. All kind of stories are being circulated about it. In 1965 in quarries near ROKOMYSH, r-n BUCHACH a man has been discovered in hiding and when people approached him he shot himself. According to hear-say still warm needles had been found in his hide out and allegedly he stemmed from Rokomysh but was sent lately from the West. As a rule all "underground activities" of this kind are ascribed to banderivtsi.

Similar story was told about a former UPA man who was hiding in a village with a lady and who in 1964 was arrested by Ternopil KGB. Later on - according to rumors - he was kidnapped from the KGB by some other Underground men who were dressed in KGB uniforms. After a while the lady was seen in Lvov where she allegedly was under Underground's protection.

8. In summer 1967 near STRYM or rather in one of its suburbs there has been found a secret weapon cachet. Involved in the affair were several higher officers of militia and KGB incl. a colonel of KGB, from Stryy. They were all arrested. What happened with them no one knew to tell.

9. Source heard about recent arrests of Ukrainian young intellectuals (in 1966) but nothing in detail.

10. After Bandera's death rayon -papers were writing about his assassination by West German intelligence. Few people believed it.

SECRET

SECRET

11. Beside Radio Vatican people are listening mostly to Radio Rome and Radio Liberty. Many also listen to RFEurope (Polish broadcasts).

12. People are waiting for a change. This will come as a result of conflict between the Soviet Union and China. Some people hope that West Germany with the NATO will force the Soviets "to give in".

13. Vietnam war is of interest in connection with China's attitude to the Soviet Union. Otherwise population is not concerned about it. There were rumors that some local Ukrainians serving with the army were sent to North Vietnam and died there during bombardments.

14. All kind of wild stories are being told about Chinese incursions into Soviet territory. From ^{time} to time there are notification from the Far East Army about "someone who had died a hero's death". This gives ground to all kind of speculations about ~~Chinese~~ skirmishes with the Chinese.

15. In people's view the emigration is very strong, particularly in West Germany where it seems to them to be most active. On the whole their knowledge about emigration is rather "subjective" and they exaggerate its role. Source was quite disappointed when her relative put emigration's picture "into proper perspective".

16. In last months of Khrushchev's rule, the life was becoming simply unbearable. There was such a shortage of food and other consumer goods as under some periods of Stalin. Although, she had to admit, that there was more freedom. After Khrushchev the material life changed to the better almost over ~~the~~ night but there was less freedom otherwise. Still people continued to criticise the regime and its leaders.

17. From among Soviet Ukrainian leaders Source mentioned SHELEST who in people's opinion was not too bad, definitely a Ukrainian, and a good manager,

18. In recent years in Ternopol the chestnut trees were three times replanted because of continuously changed city plans. Ternopol was to catch up with Kiev's fame as chestnut trees city.

19. The RR tracks between PIDHAYTSI and POTUTORY have not been restored and are not in use.

SECRET