

SECRET

Re : General Situation in the Ukr SSR as of late Oct 1969

Source: A Visitor from Ukraine

Date : 16 Jan 1970

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. The Source is Ukrainian, aged approx. 60, female, former teacher (now on retirement), widow, most of her adult life spent in Lvov, West Ukraine, where she has her close relatives ; quite active in Ukrainian social life as a member of local intelligentsia. Late Oct 1969 she arrived on a 3 month visit to her relatives to Canada and on this occasion visited also New York, N.Y. and Newark, N.J. in Nov/Dec 1969. Following is the gist of the interviews made in this country.

2. In Source's opinion recent years in the Ukraine were marked by a meaningful growth of national consciousness of Ukrainians, both in West and East Ukraine. However strange it may sound but even the arrests and trials of 1965/66 had an opposite impact on local population and in particular on young Ukrainians than the one anticipated by the regime, and in the end turned out to be conducive to the strengthening of Ukrainian potential. Source "witnessed" the arrests of 1965 in Lvov and even one of her relatives was subjected to a strict search at his home. She saw people's, particularly young people's reaction to those arrests and trials, of Herms and others, and it was quite encouraging.

3. Asked whether there was an underground or some sort of illegal organization behind all this developments, she replied, " Why, what is an organization needed for? ". She explained that people are doing things somehow by themselves and she was sure there was no organized underground such as had been OUN or UPA. " Somehow people are learning to do things without organization". The situation is such that any good initiative is getting support from "good people" and it is sufficient. Instead of resorting to illegal organization people are doing all on social basis or using existing legal possibilities. Thus, for instance, under auspices of Society for Preservation of Cultural Memorials in Lvov a collection of money and auction of paintings was organized for the purpose of expanding the Ukrainian Ethnological Museum in Lvov and in this way, ^{to} save old altars, paintings and other exhibits piled up at Virmensky Sobor.

SECRET

SECRET

Incidentally, only after the auction took place Kiev was asked for permission and referred it in its turn to Moscow. From there came a negative answer about the museum's expansion but the people are not giving up.

Kaniv with ^{Taras} Shevchenko's grave became a Ukrainian Mecca. Again, there is no organization behind it but every year people are streaming to Shevchenko's ^(grave) Mohyla, young and old, from all parts of Ukraine.

During holiday season in 1968/69 there were 18 groups of carrol singers in Kiev. Again, young people gathered in groups by themselves, on social basis. Incidentally, a similar attempt in Lvov was foiled by authorities' explicit order forbidding singing of carrols. The reconstruction of ~~Hosiarskyi~~ ^{house in} Poltava became a rallying point of "all Ukrainian" in this city. Now added to it is the old Bell Tower which became also a focus of local attention.

6 years or so ago died Skaba's wife. She ^{was} buried at Baykiv Cemetery in Kiev. Next day after a monument was erected on her grave, someone overturned it. Again, there was no organization behind it but it was done.

From personal experience Source knew that people were collecting money and levied "taxes" on themselves for the purpose of aiding those in need".

Similarly, as a rule all really talented graduates are kept at local universities and organizations, and every effort is being made not to send them to ^{The} Russian ~~Union~~ Republic. "Of course, one cannot succeed always, but one tries."

4. According to Source, the center of "things Ukrainian" is in Kiev and not Lvov. As to Kharkov and Odessa - they are still "quite Russified". But things are moving there too.

5. Taras Myhal who writes against "bourgeois nationalists" has a very bad reputation among Ukrainians, No one takes him seriously and everyone knows that he is an alcoholic ~~who~~ "sold out to Russians". Also Mykhailo Rudnytsky does not fare much better. Belayev is no longer around him but young girls still are... It is no secret in Lvov that both, Rudnytsky and Belayev, organized orgies at their homes.

Andriy Davilovich
former SKABA,
CC CPU in
charge of
idea logg.
Now Director
of Inst. of
History, Ukr.
Acad. Sciences

SECRET

-3- SECRET

6. Semen STEFANYK who was succeeded by TELISHEVSKY as chairman of Lvov oblvvykonkom, in general, is spoken of in positive terms. He suffered "a ~~cerebral~~ hemorrhage" and was partially paralysed for some time. It happened, by the way, in presence of Telishevsky when they were both going home from their office. *

7. Maria KIKH is now chairman or rather Directress of Ivan Franko Museum in Lvov.

8. According to Source people in the Ukraine listen to foreign broadcasts (Madrid, ^{Vatican} Liberty, Free Europe, BBC) and are quite well informed about what is going on abroad. Thus, Source knew in detail about the consecration of Ukrainian Cathedral in Rome, in Sept 1969.

9. Source's opinion about Ivan Kolasky's book was that " he slightly overdid it, it is not as bad as he claims to be".

10. In Source's opinion the mass-emigration ^{of intelligentsia} from West Ukraine in 1943-45 to the West was harmful to Ukrainian cause and ~~that~~ many an educated ^{individual} ~~could~~ and should have stayed at home. This would have ~~had~~ prevented a massive influx of Russian intelligentsia to Lvov and other West Ukrainian cities. Also her opinion about the UPA was somewhat reserved as she thought that UPA activities in late forties led to too great sacrifices.

*According to Petro KRAVCHUK, a leading member of the Ukrainian branch of the Communist Party of Canada, Semen Stefanyk resigned from his post of Chairman of the Lvov Oblvykonkom of his own accord. Other sources state he was forced to resign. Also according to KRAVCHUK, during a banquet/commemorating the reunion of West Ukraine with the East Ukraine in Lvov in October 1969 Stefanyk reportedly commented to a member of the Polish delegation present that the Poles were in a better position than the Ukrainians because the Poles had no language problem similar to the Ukrainian language problem in the Ukraine. This was interpreted as a reference to Russification in the Ukraine and reportedly created some consternation among Soviet officials present.

SECRET