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Translation

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CONTACTS AND CONVERSATIONS IN VIENNA

4 August 1959 (Tuesday)

V.V.K. (Translator: Volodymyr Vasylovycz KULYK, ca. 30, teacher from Lvov) and about eight or nine young men and women came to the Prolog bookshop at 1045 hours. They were all very modestly dressed as befitting tourist citizens of nations dominated by the Soviet Union. Among those present I knew only V.V.K. and two of the girls about whom Tamara undoubtedly gave you a more detailed report.

In addition to the Austrian owner of the bookshop and his assistant, Tamara and I were there.

V.V.K., looking very much like the speaker at the public meeting, began his "speech" more or less in the following manner:

"We received with great interest the news that there is a Ukrainian bookshop in Vienna. We thought it would display books containing truths about our fatherland, the Ukraine. However, we see lies in various foreign-languages. There isn't one publication here which tells about the great cultural and economic achievements in the Ukraine. Instead we see only the dirty propaganda of Ukrainian bourgeois nationalists. What reason did Mr. STAKHIV and PROLOG have for arranging such a display of books? To slander your own people? You spend huge sums for publications which blacken our and your fatherland, and all this is written in foreign languages."

Turning to Tamara who was trying to give both girls postal greeting cards, he continued:

"Tamara, you are a young and nice individual and you are being wasted away on foreign soil. Such politicos as Mr. STAKHIV and Dr. ORTYNSKY paint for you a Ukraine which is only a figment of their imagination and tell you about dreamed up repressions and persecutions. They want some kind of sovereign Ukraine. Our people now live happily in their own nation and have plenty of everything from both the cultural and economic standpoint. Tamara, don't believe those politicians who live on politics. Come to us, to your fatherland, where you will be able to continue your studies and become a true Ukrainian. Don't listen to those gentlemen who in return for foreign money blacken their own people and their fatherland, the Ukraine. You were still a very small child when you last saw the Ukraine. Come and you will see how well the people live."

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Tamara explained very calmly that she lives with her parents and that she isn't thinking about going to the Ukraine at present. She asked V.V.K. to stop shouting because the people are beginning to look at us as something odd. She then continued to talk with the girls telling them to help themselves to the Ukrainian books and picture postal cards.

STAKHIV interrupted V.V.K. several times asking him to lower his voice and not to create unnecessary scandal because the two Austrians were growing uneasy. "Listen K., STAKHIV said, I have heard you talk in another tone of voice. Return to your natural tone because the Austrian shop keeper will throw you and your friends out of here. Why should you suffer such scandal?"

V.V.K. paid no attention to my words of caution and continued: "Dr. ORTYNSKY, who came to the Festival at the expense of the Americans - because how can an ordinary laborer have enough money to come to Europe? - speaks only about a free and sovereign (Ukraine). He called me a galichman (old German expression for those in Western Ukraine who sided with the German occupation) and he refers to our native art 'hopakivshchyna' (from hopak, a Ukrainian folk dance). Can you trust such a person, Tamara? He is so absorbed in politics that he didn't even ask about his family, how they live and what they are doing, or whether they are well. I forgot to tell him this on Saturday and to inquire why he doesn't ask about his sister, Ortynska in Dorohobytch, vul. Strys'ka No. 124. She is ill, all swollen, and all he thinks about is politics. He dreams of a free and sovereign (Ukraine). He never even asked about his sister. And you, Tamara, trust in such an individual and Mr. STAKHIV? They are only taking advantage of you as a young, naive, nice individual. Come, return to your fatherland and you will see how these gentlemen and others like them are lying."

Following this tirade, they all left.