

July 1959

INFORMATION REPORT NO. 1

Impressions from the ATHLETIC MEET IN PHILADELPHIA

1. Soviet sportsmen and sportswomen lived in the Hotel Warwick. The men travelled about the city freely, even individually, but the women were more disciplined. The captain of the women's group, Tasia Chenchyk, dealt very strictly with the women. The women would gather in a group in the hotel lobby before leaving for the city or to their rooms. However, it was still possible to talk to the sportsmen and women, especially in the hotel lobby.

2. The greatest obstacle in the path of conversations with the Soviets was certain American journalists, a great number of whom were at the hotel. When these journalists would see that somebody new arrived and got into a conversation with a Soviet, they would immediately appear with their interpreters, who spoke Russian very poorly, and interfere in the conversations. It appeared that these journalists tried to have a monopoly and control over all contacts with the Soviets. The Soviets got the impression that this was American security service protecting American visitors from becoming infected with Communism from their guests.

3. The chief "boss" from the American side was journalist Saul Koller (phonetical translation). His propaganda technique was very poor. For instance, he took the sportsmen and women to Louisetown (c/o probably Levittown) a wealthy suburb in New Jersey and showed off these rich homes as typical American homes. These homes have three television sets, two refrigerators, freezers, etc. Along the way, at a construction project, the sportsmen were very delighted when they chanced to meet one of the workmen, an easterner (c/o comment: reported by AECASSOWARY-2 as SKHIDNYAK, meaning eastern Ukrainian). When during the conversation he began to spout anti-Soviet "propaganda", the tour leaders sent the Soviets back to the bus. The "SKHIDNYAK" yelled after them, "Even here you cannot get along without your MVD!"

4. All the press, as well as President Eisenhower's representatives, spoke of the athletic group from "Russia". It cannot be said that this appealed to the Soviet sportsmen among which were individuals of all nationalities: Ukrainians, Georgians, Armenians, Turks and even Baltics (Estonians, Latvians). Even the Russian "Ace" agreed, when in the company of Philadelphia Ukrainians one of the sportsmen told journalist Jack McKinney that the group represents the USSR and not the RSFSR which is only one of 15 republics of the USSR. Viktor TSYBULENKO told Ukrainian sportsmen from Philadelphia that the Soviet Ukrainians are fighting to have independent representation, especially at the Olympics and that the Soviet sports organization agreed to this but the Olympics committee is against it. The high jumper champion, Georgian SHAVLYAKIDZE, very pointedly told correspondents of the press and TV that he is a Georgian and not a Russian, and this was printed

by the Philadelphia newspapers. Viktor TSYBULENKO plainly told Philadelphian Ukrainian sportsmen that he told correspondent Jack McKinney that he is a Ukrainian when they showed a report in which McKinney baptized him a "Rassian".

5. During the Soviets stay, many Philadelphian Ukrainians visited the Warwick Hotel and had conversations with them. The Soviet guests were interested in the life of Ukrainians in Philadelphia, their earnings, prices, sports, etc. They know about SNYLYK and said that he is a "good boy". They were interested in the Ukrainian "Trident" and its achievements, took photographs etc. Philadelphia visitors say that the best Ukrainian is spoken by TSYBULENKO, LYSENKO-SHEVTSOVA and HQLUBNYTCHIY, and that Athor TER-OVANESIAN even speaks with a Lvov dialect. Others speak "Surzhikan" (phonetical) or in Russian (CHENCHYK, MASLOVSHKA). That is how they wrote their autographs for Philadelphia Ukrainians (for instance, SHEVTSOVA: "Greetings to compatriots in Philadelphia from Kiev sportsmen".)

Original in Ukrainian
Submitted by AECASSOWARY-2
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*as Received from
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