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*translation*

CONVERSATIONS OF LESYA HUNDER IN THE PAVILION OF THE UKSSR

20 September 1959

1. CONVERSATION WITH IVAN (See conversation No. 7 of previous report by Lesya)

LESYA complained to Ivan that they did not permit her to come to the reception for S'ENIN. She complained about the discourteous treatment she was getting, that she is a Ukrainian, is interested in the Ukrainian, is a member of the USSR-French organization, that she is studying the Ukrainian and Russian language. She stated that, in general, there was much she was beginning to dislike. The people in the pavilion appear suspicious, as if they feared something, they are even afraid to tell you their names. They are afraid to leave the pavilion with anyone, etc. Why do they photograph everyone who comes to the pavilion, and especially why do they do so covertly?

IVAN denied the fact that they photograph people covertly. "We all have cameras and use them. Almost every one of us has a camera now. And we trust you. If you had come to me I would have permitted you to see our minister. But we had to be very careful, remember there are many new nationalists here - emigres. They have come only the devil knows from where - from America, England, Germany. These are our worst enemies and therefore we must be very careful in our associations with people who come to us."

LESYA said she had been thinking of going to the Ukraine for a visit, but after seeing what she saw there she is not very anxious to go. She is afraid that the nationalists have many good reasons for their activities. Even here at the exhibit one can smell a police system. Why is it so? It is ridiculous to blame everything on the few emigres who came here especially since they are Ukrainians and not devils.

IVAN: "Oh, but you do not know them. I told you they are our worst enemies. To us, you are a Ukrainian and therefore have no fear. Come to our country and you will see that what the nationalists write and say are lies. It is true there were all sorts of things happening at one time. At present everything is changed. They don't deport anyone anymore. Everyone lives well. I still believe you will visit us."

LESYA: "Visit whom? I don't even have your address. How could I visit you?" She continues to criticize the regime and especially the "ridiculous atmosphere" of the pavilion.

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IVAN: "You exaggerate, and you don't need my address. My wife would give me no peace about you. I have daughters as old as you. You know our director, don't you? He will locate me for you if it will be necessary."

LESYA: "I shall not come to see you anymore." She waved her hand, bid him farewell and left.

2. CONVERSATION WITH VIKTOR SIL'NYTSKY

LESYA came to bid him farewell.

VIKTOR: "What did you think of our exhibit and our people?"

LESYA praised certain phases but also criticized some of the exhibit. She criticized some of the ceramics, the book display and the general atmosphere of the pavilion. She was disappointed that there was so much Russian spoken in the pavilion. She has the opinion that there are both good and bad people there. She fears that this is a taste of what one could expect in the Ukraine and perhaps it is even worse there. Why does the older brother insist on "protecting" them at every move? "Start talking to one of you and immediately a Russian comes along. Undoubtedly it is that way in the Ukraine also. There is much written here about Russification, pressures from the Russians, etc. In general, you don't at all act like free people."

VIKTOR: "Oh, no, we are completely free. We have our own nation. The Russians only help us, just as we help them. We do what we like but the emigres deny all this."

LESYA: Made some critical remarks about "National attributes of the UkSSR". Asked him where the Ukrainian embassies and consulates are.

VIKTOR: "There are Soviet (embassies) so why do you need separate Ukrainian ones? We are a federation. Believe me the Ukraine is independent and it would not be good for us without the Russians. Not only without the Russians, but in general, without other nations who are with us. We would be pulled apart in pieces, but we are safer, with the other (federated) nations."

LESYA enumerated the "help" received from the Russians: Russification, purges, famine, forced repatriation, etc.

VIKTOR listened to her and remained silent. Then said, "But things are much better for us now. We are free."

LESYA made some critical comments regarding their freedom here in the pavilion. "You are not even free to talk to someone. You watch one another. And one ~~doesn't~~ even <sup>have</sup> suggest going out to the city with someone."

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VIKTOR: "We are very busy and overworked. You can see that we have no one to substitute for us. We rarely go into the city. Ordinarily, we are so tired after working hours that we go straight to bed. Now in the Ukraine, we could go out with you. Come, you will see. We won't be tired there."

LESYA bid him farewell and departed.

VIKTOR: "Don't think badly of us. We don't think badly of our compatriots who are here."

### 3. CONVERSATION WITH VALERIAN

LESYA came to bid him farewell. She stated that some of the exhibit appealed to her and other phases of it did not. She made some critical comments regarding the atmosphere in the pavilion, protection by the older brother. She expressed her fear regarding the situation in the Ukraine, Russification, etc.

VALERIAN: "The same old independent's record. We know your kind. Good health to you. We are not on the same road."

### 4. CONVERSATION WITH VASYL FROM LVOV

LESYA said she just didn't like some of the people at the Fair. They are complete strangers to her, although she has no prejudices against any of them. "But you from Lvov, you seem to be different from the others. You are from Galicia - the régime has been in power there for a shorter time. Your parents must undoubtedly still be Uniates. Here (at the pavilion) they all make fun of the church."

VASYL: "Not only my parents but I too am still a Uniate. There are all kinds of people wherever you go."

LESYA: "Do you have anyone in the West?"

VASYL: "It is not good for me to talk too much with you. It would be better if you went and signed the book. I am being watched, therefore it will be better for you to leave me. That is if you don't want to cause me any unpleasantness."

LESYA bid him farewell and departed.

### 5. CONVERSATION WITH L'ONA (L'ONKA)

L'ONA: "LESYA, they are suspicious of you. That is why they didn't permit you to attend the reception for the minister (S'ENIN). But don't be too concerned with this. Not everyone here is bad. The consul and officials from the embassy in Paris were here and they suspected that you are connected with some organization."

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LESYA is amazed what the embassy in Paris can have against her. She can only see in this more of the "protection by the older brother". "It is not surprising that you can't even get out of here to go anyplace."

L'ONA: "And what good would it be for us to go out? Do you think we all go? We have our interpreters and always go in groups. I am an ordinary person, a tractor operator, but I am as sincere a Ukrainian as you. Not everyone here is the same."

6. CONVERSATION WITH THE WIFE OF A TEXTILE ENGINEER FROM KIEV

About 36 years of age. Average height. Stout, brunette.

LESYA came to bid her farewell. She said she liked some of the exhibits and disliked others. She enumerated the shortcomings of the exhibits and her impressions of the pavilion in general.

WIFE OF ENGINEER: "It doesn't harm us one bit that you didn't like some of the things here. Look at how impressed the visiting foreigners are with all that is ours. And those that write in the books can't say enough to praise our exhibit."

LESYA called attention to the fact that there are various types of comments in the book.

WIFE OF ENGINEER: "But the majority are good comments. Your comment undoubtedly will be like the others made by those who have found fault with our exhibit. There are all sorts of people - unfortunately."

LESYA bid her farewell and departed.

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