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CONVERSATION BETWEEN MRS. MYTROYCH AND DIRECTOR KRYVOSHEYEV

20 September 1959, in the UkSSR Pavilion

Mrs. Mytrovych was interested in buying an embroidered blouse and was sent to the director. Kryvosheyev greeted her warmly, asked her to sit down, and heard her request and stated that it would be difficult for him to do anything for her just now. All items are part of the exhibits and it might be possible to sell a blouse at the close of the Fair. He asked her how long she planned to be around there. She said she was leaving shortly and might possibly ask one of her acquaintances to follow-up on her request. She presented herself as a new emigre who came to France during the war--taken by the Germans to work.

Kryvosheyev asked her how she liked the exhibit.

Mrs. M.: Said she liked many of the things and expressed criticism of others. Why for instance didn't they have Ukrainian girls working at the Fair but French women who don't know the Ukrainian language nor anything at all about the Ukraine. She also criticized the book display, the clothing and ceramic displays and others.

Kryvosheyev: Agreed that her comments were objective. "However, remember that our main interest is from the commercial standpoint and not political. You see everything from the political standpoint, whereas we are first interested in the commercial aspect. Even so far as the girls are concerned--it was more convenient and less expensive for us to find girls here instead of going to the expense of bringing girls from the Ukraine. Besides, as you can see, the auditorium is small and it won't hold much. It is not surprising that some of the displays don't give the true picture of our cultural and other achievements." He asked Mrs. M whether she was thinking about returning home (to the Ukraine).

Mrs. M: Said that at present she had no such plans. She would return if things changed. She reminded him of the terror, forced resettlements, etc.

Kryvosheyev: "Much has changed. There is more freedom now. I know that many people suffered innocently at one time, but such things aren't happening at present."

Mrs. M.: It doesn't appear that much has changed. There is no religious freedom. There is an atheistic campaign. Greek-Catholics continue to be persecuted.

Kryvosheyev: "Well yes, it is a bit difficult. Innocent individuals suffered but I think that things are better now."

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Mrs. M.: Said she doubted this. Metropolitan Sl'ipey has been sentenced again.

Kryvosheyev: Remained silent

Mrs. M.: Russification continues. The Russian language dominates.

Kryvosheyev: "Unfortunately is often is so, but this is mostly left-overs from the past. You know that Czarist Russia forbid the Ukrainian language and as a result many Ukrainians still don't speak Ukrainian. Don't think that only he who speaks Ukrainian well is the only good Ukrainian. Some individuals had no opportunity to learn the Ukrainian language. Even so there has been a change in this aspect - much has changed."

Mrs. M.: Enumerates general limitations of the freedom--the flavor of a police system. Even here at the Fair everyone is photographed.

Kryvosheyev: "Yes, the photographing (of individuals) is not a pleasant situation, but we must be cautious. All types of people come here, those who cooperated with the Germans and others unfriendly towards us. You exaggerate a bit and you don't want to understand us."

Mrs. M.: Stated that there was no freedom thought, and that here one can do and say what one pleases. That is why so many professors and others in the field of education, writers, and intellectuals in general remain in the West.

Kryvosheyev: "It is a great loss for us and for them individually when they don't return. We had amnesties and even those who collaborated with the enemy returned and are returning. Why should they waste their talents in foreign lands? Why for instance shouldn't you return? You undoubtedly miss your homeland.

Mrs. M.: "Naturally, but where is the assurance that if I return to the USSR that I will ever see my fatherland?" She cites the example of an acquaintance of hers who was sent not to the Ukraine but to the far east, to Vladivostok.

Kryvosheyev: "Well you see there were all kinds of people and all kinds of incidents. But I feel sure that she will return from Vladivostok to the Ukraine."

Mrs. M.: "Well, and even right in the Ukraine, doesn't the 'older brother' do as he well pleases?"

Kryvosheyev: "All of you here are very sensitive politically. The situation is no less important for us. Without a doubt we are independent to a certain extent from Russia, more specifically from federation. There has to be some dependence for the benefits which we derive from federation."

Mrs. M.: Gets ready to leave and asks him whether he has any message for his compatriots in the emigration.

Kryvosheyev: "Tell them that we understand them but that we can't change too much at once. Everything will come in time."

Mrs. M.: Bids him farewell and departs.