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XAAZ-5923
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DATE

15 Feb 60

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DATE

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SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 302B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Translation of AECASSOARY 6's Report Re Marseilles

VISITS AT THE PAVILION

XAAC 528
Card as marked
page 9

FIRST DAY. Contact with an engineer from Kiev ca. 30-35 years of age.

I approached him and asked the price of the camera. He answered \$110, but said that they are not allowed to make any sales.

He: Where are you from?

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I: From Munich. I work for a Ukrainian newspaper.

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He: Who publishes the newspaper?

I: The ZP/UHVR. (He remains silent.)

He: What is this Prolog which has spread its brochure in the French language all over our tables? It (the brochure) contains a New York address, and we know from home that Ukrainians in America live on American bread.

I: (Pretending naivete) They don't send them Ukrainian bread so they have to eat American bread.

He: No, no. That isn't what I mean. It is said that they are in the service of the Americans.

I: Ukrainians in America live, work, earn and do whatever they please with the money they earn. But tell me, what changes took place after the death of Beria?

He: I didn't feel any changes neither before nor after the death, unless perhaps that fact that we are represented as a nation here in Marseilles.

I: Are people returning from Siberia?

He: Yes, many have returned. Some of them have settled there after having served their sentences.

I: Are they resettling (involuntarily) people now?

He: This I do not know.....And where are you from, from what area in the Ukraine?

I: From Lvov.

He: There is a compatriot here from Lvov.

I: It would be very pleasant for me to become acquainted with him.

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He: Good, I shall introduce you but this man has gone out for a bite to eat.

I: Would it be worth ^{while} returning home?

He: (Smiling) that depends on whether or not an individual has something on his conscience; because, as is known, Ukrainian nationalists collaborated with the Germans in the Ukraine.

I: Yes, a certain portion of them did travel with the Germans but in September 1941 they turned their arms against the Germans.

He: Yes, a certain portion of them did.

I: Why were there such numerous deportations to Siberia?

He: There were armed bands who were killing people, among others they killed HALAN in Lvov.

I: I am not very anxious to try to convince just any one here in the Pavilion. If you are willing, we can go some place, sit down and talk quietly on the subject of the "bands." Since you are calling others bandits then please permit me to tell you this. They come at night, they forceably take your old father and mother and send them to Siberia. There they die. I also have the right to call certain people bandits.

(He remained silent.)

I: I propose that we meet this evening so that we can peacefully continue our conversation.

He: I can't because we do not go around by ourselves. (At this moment another engineer from Lvov came along, about 25-30 years of age, born in Stanislav, married, has a four-year old daughter, works in Lvov in a television factory, earns 1,700 rubles monthly, The suit of clothes which he wore cost 700 rubles. His shoes (so-called vitrivky) (translator's comment: this probably means sandals) 250 rubles. After an exchange of a few words, as for instance, "what are the names of some of the streets in Lvov now? vul Tarnavs'koho now vul. Maykovs'koho," we began our conversation.

I: What language is heard on the streets in Lvov?

He: Ukrainian, Russian, Polish.

I: Are there Jews in Lvov?

He: Yes.

I: Where do they work?

He: In the stores, in the administration and in the militia department.

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I: How do the Ukrainians treat the Jews?

He: (Smiles and after a few moments answers) No how.

I: Are there many Jews?

He: I don't know exactly how many.

I: What do the people in the Ukraine know about the emigration?

He: That which the local press publishes. (Having said this he smiles).

I: Are people returning from Siberia?

He: Yes, many have returned.

I: Are they still resettling people?

He: No. (He laughs and adds) It is not necessary to resettle them now because they have resettled everybody.

I: What do you think? Would it be worthwhile for the emigration to return home?

He: (After thinking for a short while) This is an individual problem.

I: Who is in charge of the railroads and the city transportation?

He: Ukrainians. And in some areas the Russians.

I: Can you tell me percentage-wise how many Ukrainians now live in Lvov.

He: I don't know the statistics exactly but there are more than during the Polish occupation because there is a large influx from the villages.

I: (asked him about the writers, journalists and the cultural life.)

He: There are theaters, I don't know about the writers and journalists. I am employed in my own profession.

(I asked him about St. George's Cathedral in Lvov.)

He: The churches are open but I do not go to church.

I asked him to meet with me this evening and go to supper with me.

He: I can't. We travel two and three individuals at a time.

I: Who are these girls working as translators in the Pavilion?

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He: These are Russian "d'evushki" who work in the Embassy in Paris.

(Nobody was present during our conversation. During our conversation some of the Soviets and the girls from Paris would come up close and try to listen at which time my interlocuteur would change the subject.)

I: How much does this television set cost? (The one by which we were standing)

He: 120,000 French Francs which means twice as expensive as a French television.

(Having said this, he laughed)

I: Is it possible for any one in Lvov to buy such a television?

(He shrugs his shoulders and doesn't give me an answer.)

I asked him once again to join me, an old Lvov compatriot for supper.)

He: I already told you that we travel in twos and threes. Therefore, don't ask me. It would be better for you to come tomorrow, then we will talk about a few more things.

I again met the first engineer from Kiev and said to him that I will come again tomorrow and that maybe we will have lunch together here in the Pavilion.

He: Good. Come and maybe we will go.

SECOND DAY:

I come to the Pavilion but I do not see my two acquaintances. I wait a half hour and the engineer from Kiev comes along.

I: Where were you? I have been waiting for you and you weren't here for a long time?

He: I went to see a French television program. They invited me to clarify certain things.

I: Well, how about it? Will we go to lunch?

He: Good. Wait a while. I will take my friends.

(After five or ten minutes he comes with an older man walking beside him who is dressed in black and a third man who it turned out was an engineer from Kharkov. The engineer (Kievan) introduces his friends.)

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He: This is Nikolai Nykytsoroaim SHEVCHENKO who just yesterday came from Moscow. He is Director of all electrification in the Ukraine. And this third man is the engineer from Kharkov, a sympathetic blond with big blue eyes.

(The initiative was taken up by SHEVCHENKO. One could recognize that this was the "boss" and that is how the two engineers later referred to him. SHEVCHENKO begins being aggressive right from the start. He spoke in Russian and asked me why I didn't speak in Russian.

I: I speak a little and understand a little. You have such a lovely patriotic Ukrainian name and you do not speak in Ukrainian. It is a pity that your name is SHEVCHENKO. (Everyone laughs) Don't think that I am a Chauvinist. I respect the Russian language and it is not important to me what language any one speaks in. What is important is what he has to say, although I consider that every Ukrainian should know his own language. In Vienna there also was a SHEVCHENKO, but he spoke well in Ukrainian.

SHEVCHENKO: The Ukrainian language was forbidden during Tzarist times and therefore I did not have opportunity to learn the language.

I: (Patting him on the shoulder) My but you are a likable "dya-dya", similar to Mykyta Sergevich.

(In the meantime we approached the restaurant located behind the Exhibition where the waiter spoke Russian.)

DURING LUNCH:

SHEVCHENKO: Where are you from?

I: From Munich. I work for SUCHASNA UKRAINA. I came to see the Ukrainian Pavilion.

SHEVCHENKO. Do you like the Pavilion?

I: Some of it I do and some I don't.

SHEVCHENKO: What are you going to write about the Ukrainian Pavilion?

I: That, which I was able to see in the Free World and which can freely be written.

SHEVCHENKO: I don't understand you.

I: I am going to write about both the positive and negative aspects of the Pavilion.

SHEVCHENKO: How many thousands of newspapers ^(copies) do you print.

I: 9,000.

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SHEVCHENKO: Who reads your newspaper?

I: All Ukrainians in the Free World. Some of them we send to you, for instance:

An order was received from your organization for cultural ties with the West--Lytvyn.

(The engineer from Kharkov enters into the conversation.) "This means that a subsidy is needed."

I: I know what you have in mind. If you wish, we can also talk about that. (There is silence for a few moments.)

SHEVCHENKO: We are going to continue living whether you publish the newspaper or not. (He waved his finger before my nose as he said this.)

I: (Struck the table with my fist.) I will not permit you, Mr. SHEVCHENKO, to wave your finger in front of my nose, insulting me. I did not come to insult you but neither will I permit you to insult me. If you wish we can discontinue our conversation. I came to speak with you as a Ukrainian. (I then tell them about when KHRUSHCHEV recently talked with a thief,--that we in the emigration are not thieves.)

There is great consternation. Both engineers and SHEVCHENKO wiped the perspiration from their forehead. They apologized and it was evident that the entire situation was not very pleasant for them. The Kharkovian talks about the fact that the Ukraine was ruined during the war, she still lacks much, there are large expenditures for Sputnik, for armament, because the Soviet Union is threatened, and he states that after all this is settled, life will be much better, and so forth.

I: I am in favor of not having the Ukrainian language forgotten, for the people to have plenty to eat and to wear, but most important, for them to have freedom. I know and I say that Ukrainian soil is rich and if the Russians would leave and go to the moon, then undoubtedly life would be much better.

SHEVCHENKO: You don't like the kaj'saps. (They all laugh) And now maybe we should do this. I will tell you the story of my life. Both of my friends will tell theirs and after this you will tell us yours.

I: (Smile and make believe that this does not interest me.)

SHEVCHENKO begins rapidly in Russian to give me a legendary biography.

I: Stop Mr., I know what you have in mind. You want to know about me. This is typical police methods. I have no interest in the biography of the two engineers. I will tell you about mine. (I gave them my legend--born in Lvov in 1939, went to Vienna to school, and so forth.)

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SHEVCHENKO: And what did you do during the war? Were you in the Army?

I: No.

SHEVCHENKO: Did the Ukrainians go voluntarily or were they forced to join the army?

I: And do you know what a totalitarian system is? If you want to know, then I will tell you. The Ukrainians went voluntarily and some were forced.

(We later talked about the UN, that it doesn't have a true Ukrainian representative, and even in Marseilles there is no Ukrainian Consul and so forth. As we approached the Pavilion and said good-by, I once again reminded them of my invitation for them to join me for dinner.)

THIRD DAY:

When I approached the Pavilion SHEVCHENKO was already waiting for me but he was alone. We greet each other and enter the Pavilion and both go to the restaurant. We sit down and drink lemonade.

SHEVCHENKO: Everything you talked about is very interesting. It is necessary for you to talk to the authorities. Find your way to them and to the journalist.

I: To what kind of authorities or journalists? We talked in Vienna with SHEVCHENKO also but there is nothing about this in the press nor any other mention.

SHEVCHENKO: (Writes down the full address of SUCHASNA UKRAINA and especially Editor STAKHIV's address) I will convey everything.

I: Send your ensembles to the West-Veriovka, Virsky, writers, journalists, as you did to Brussels. Don't become strangers, and even you yourself should come. Write an article (for publication) not about politics but a professional one.

SHEVCHENKO: Does your newspaper have sections on economics.

I: More than in yours. Every two weeks there are four pages, particularly about the economy in the Ukraine. Kost KONENKO, a well-known economist who until 1944 worked in the Ukraine, also writes in the paper.

SHEVCHENKO: I know him.

I: Well, then write an article to the SUCHASNA UKRAINA. We will publish it in the economics section and we will send the honorarium to you in Kiev.

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SHEVCHENKO: I know that you would publish it but "nada gavarit z pravitel'stvom."
(He laughs) Come back to the Ukraine. (He asks me whether I am a bachelor, why I don't get married.)

I: I will gladly return but guarantee that you will not take me to Siberia. As long as there is no freedom, there is no use to return. About the rest we can either talk further or drop the subject.

SHEVCHENKO: You keep talking freedom and freedom-----we have various interpretations of this.

I: (Pay for the drinks and we start to leave and SHEVCHENKO tells me that he is leaving today for Paris. I happened to see the Kharkovian. I sit down at his table. He apologizes for yesterday's carryings-on by SHEVCHENKO and he says that SHEVCHENKO considers everything from Munich bad because there are many nationalist parties there and also Hitler started his career in Munich.

I: What has Hitler got to do with this.

He: The wounds imposed by Hitler are still very fresh to the Ukrainians.

I: Let's you and I, Mr. Engineer, talk sincerely, face-to-face.

He: Good.

I: Tell me truly how many Ukrainians live in Kharkov?

He: I tell you the truth. Fifty percent. The others are of other nationalities. We don't control the cities. Our villager is tied to the earth. All the villages are Ukrainian.

I: Who teaches in the schools?

He: Ukrainians and Russians, because there are both Ukrainian and Russian schools.

I: Why Russian?

He: Because the Russians send their children to their own schools. The first language is Russian, the second language is Ukrainian.

I: Why is the Russian first?

He: Because it is the national language and with it one can be understood in the entire Soviet Union. For instance if I go to Armenia to work I will be able to make myself understood there only in Russian.

I: Are any of the teachers Jewish?

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He: No, because they have a bad accent and they do not have a good command of either the Russian or Ukrainian language.

I: Who sits in the Ministry of Education in Kiev?

He: Three or four years ago Russians were there, and now, Ukrainians because the Russians didn't know how to do things. I don't mean to imply that the Russians are not capable people. In the other ministries there are only Ukrainians also. We place great hopes in KIRICHENKO. Take for instance now when Nikita is in America KIRICHENKO is in charge of the Soviet Union.

I: I heard that KIRICHENKO is a careerist and a bureaucrat. At least that is what they say in the West.

He: That is what they say at home also.

I: Now I want to tell you something. When you go back home tell your closer friends that they should strive internally for sovereignty, that they should demand it. When foreigners come to your country tell them that you are Ukrainians. Try to get to the West with your theaters and choral groups and so forth. Send your Ukrainian writers and cultural workers to the West. Let Kiev establish diplomatic ties with all countries. Remember that in the West there is a white guardism with great influence and in your country a great white-Red guardism. The West will take you into consideration only when you create definite facts at home that 40 million Ukrainians want to live in sovereignty.

He: (Grasps my hand tightly) I am with you 100 percent in everything.

Meeting with Vasile - the Lvovian (engineer from Lvov)

I: Vasile, I would like to tell you why I invited you to have supper with me. I wanted to tell you everything about the emigration so that when you return you can tell about it to your acquaintances.

He: Do not be angry with me. I can't come.

I: But let's do this. Here, you have my address and let me have yours. Let's correspond.

He: Good. (He takes my address and gives me his.)

I: Would it be all right to send you a package.

He: (After some thought) Yes.

I: Will you come next year to Milan?

Vasile SEMOTYUK
d.o.b. 5 Aug 32
P.O.B. Stanislaw
UkrSSR

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had contact
with AECASSOCIARY-6
IN Trade Fair
Marseilles,
France
Sept 1959

Subj: Vasile SEMOTYUK
d.o.b. 5 Aug 32
Stanislaw

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He: I don't know whether they will let me out.

I proposed to him that he write something to me through an acquaintance if such a person comes out. We say good-by and part.

Short Meeting with an Older Man, Engineer from Kiev who Works in Lvov, Age 45-50.

I: What change has there been after the death of Stalin and Beria?

He: In some ways it is better.

I: Are people returning from Siberia?

He: Many have returned.

I: Are they resettling people?

He: I don't know.

I: How do you go to your family in Kiev?

He: By bus or train.

I: Let me have your address. We will correspond.

He: Not yet. Maybe next year in Milan I will give it to you.

I: Where will we meet next time?

He: If they permit me to go, then in Milan. We have been invited as Ukrainians. The Italian representative was here. (As we say good-by to each other he says to me, "May God help you." I ask him "And where did you learn this? He answers, "In Lvov.")

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