

2 May 1961

SUBJECT: KOSTIUK, Platon Hryhorovych

SOURCE : [ ]

DATE : 12 April, 1961

PLACE : AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, CANBERRA, Australia

~~SECRET~~ " At 2 PM on 12 April, 1961 I visited the lecturer of Kiev  
AND MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, U.R.S.S.R

University, Dr. P.H. KOSTIUK, physiologist, who works at the Australian

National University for 3 months and is going to stay there for 3 more months.

who is a remarkable scientist/

Subject, was invited and brought over to Australia by the ~~Union~~ by the

Government of <sup>Australia</sup> ~~Austria~~ and the government pays for his work. The Australian

National University is a research institution and therefore does not have

teaching programs and does not enroll students. Many foreigners including

negroes are doing research at this university.

SUBJECT received 2 letters from me. He replied to one. I also sent him an issue of a special edition of the paper VILNA DUMKA (Free Thought) published in Australia. This issue contained a thorough review of the achievements by the Ukrainian emigres in Australia.

After my arrival at the university I reported to the secretary at the John Curtis laboratory, gave her my name and asked her to inform professor KOSTIUK. After a few moments he came down smiling and behaving very freely, shook hands with me. He is somewhat over medium size, thin, blond, 35 years of age. He said : "I am glad to meet you, I apologize for not replying to your second letter, thank you for the newspaper you sent me. I did not write because I have <sup>to</sup> complete my work , and I have only 3 months left. In order to finish laboratory experiments I have to work sometimes day and night".

SOURCE: Who paid for your trip?

SUBJECT: Australia pays for all expenses.

SO: Which education system (level) is better the Soviet or Australian?

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SU: It is impossible to compare because this is a research university

SO: I was very pleased when I learned that a Ukrainian is doing such important work

SU: It is not so important. Was my name really in the Australian press?

SO: Yes it was and 2 other names of Russian professors who were in Sidney.

SU: O yes, they already left.

SO: Why don't you get in touch with Ukrainians here abroad, not all of us are as bad as is claimed by the Soviet press. We are pleased with every time some Ukrainians come abroad.

SU: You know... I don't have much time. During these 6 months I have to finish my work. And by the way I got acquainted with professor PARAMONOV and we have many mutual friends in Kiev.

SO: Is PARAMONOV a new emigre?  
left/

SU: O yes he is new , he ~~came from~~ left/ Kiev during the war. Not long ago his wife died in Kiev so he has no family ties in Kiev any more. He is a very wise and experienced man. He took me on a trip and showed me the capital and vicinity. He has a very important position , as ethymologist, he knows his job excellently. You see the emigres have no lesser chance than I have.

The conversation continued in friendly atmosphere. SUBJECT was very calm, behaved freely with his hands in in pockets of a white coat. He answered almost every question and did not try to avoid answering them. At the same time he was thinking about the answeres.

SO: Your Ukrainian language is so pretty

SU: Why do you wonder, this is normal. Did you expect that I will use Russicisms , I lectured in Ukrainian language at the university. I also noticed that you are from Galicia.

SO: Yes, I expected Russicisms in your Ukrainian language and no wonder,

because Rylskyi and Smolych spoke up in defense of Ukrainian language because it is so much abused there.

SU: Yes, one has to take into consideration the displacement of peoples,  
SO:

~~normal~~ This is true, but I say to you that it <sup>is</sup> abnormal that in Galicia, and particularly in Lviv there are so many Russian s. And so many Russian schools which never have been there before. This is to build communism with one common language. ( At this SU. smiled, did not say a word )

I mentioned Geography of Ukraine by O. Dibrova which was published only 3500 copies

SU; I know Dibrova, I met him at the Black Sea. # 3500 copies of Geography is ridiculous , it wouldn't be sufficient even for libraries.

Ukrainian/  
SO: There are not sufficient publications in Ukraine and there are no Ukrainian emigre publications reaching Ukraine. Here you go to the bookstore and buy any of Soviet Ukrainian publications and therefore we have a possibility for comparing. In Ukraine people do not have such a possibility.

magazine/  
SU: Now a good ~~publication~~ is being published in Ukraine -VSESVIT.

SO: Who is the editor?

SU: I don't know

SO: I remember -POLTORATSKYI ( I said it intentionally, to prove that I know something about the present situation in Ukraine. ) I met here with one Pole and we talked about you. The Pole said that he heard about you and that you were in Paris.

SU: Yes, I was in Paris, but not in my profession.

SO: I asked him about the Kiev subway and SU: started to talk about it in some detail. Then I asked: Have you been in Lviv?

SU: Yes, I was and in the Transcarpathian oblast too. Now you can go there, it is not the same times as it was in 1940-41.

SO: And what about the tragic landslide in Kiev?

SU: That is probably an invention of the local press here, they like sensations.

SO: But ~~EE~~ the paper SOVIET UKRAINE brought the news, although one month late.

SU: What do you say, and were there injured and killed?

SO: There were 143 dead and the same amount of injured. How could it occur?

SU: There were landslides often in that area. It is surprising that few days ago I received a letter from home and they don't say a word about it. I have friends in the area. ( He explained the geological structure of this location and how water washes it)

SO: SOVIET UKRAINE brought the news about the victims and losses and added that the "guilty ones have been punished". We both laughed.

And you must know well BABYN YAR, because there the Germans shot many Jews.

Do you also know well the Germans?

SU: No, I was evacuated to Stalingrad, but my mother and sister were under the Germans and I know them from their stories.

SO: And you don't believe that all the Ukrainians ~~in~~ abroad are German collaborators.

SU: Certainly not, there are many emigrations in the world, of many nationalities, why there should not be a Ukrainian emigration?

SO: There were some Ukrainian collaborators too, but not many.

SU: Many have returned home, they have been amnestied, they are not persecuted and the state helped them to settle down.

SO: For example they forgave professor KAMINSKYI who lectured at the Ukraina University in Prague and he writes in VISTI z UKRAINY that he had repented his past. What for has he been imprisoned for 14 years? Or another example. You say everything is well now, and my sister writes from Canada that one

of the progressives there, who of course is in favor with the Soviet went on a trip to Lviv and there he was not allowed to go to the villages only his family was brought to him to Lviv, this is a fact.

SU: This must be some misunderstanding, probably some local authorities did it this way.

like myself,/  
SO: And what about those who would like to go to Ukraine for a visit, but the fact that permission to go to my country must be obtained from Moscow is very unpleasant to me and makes me feel insulted. Why is it that say, some kind of a ~~Gameron~~<sup>of</sup> or any other have their own representations abroad and we have to obtain permission to travel to Ukraine from Moscow. My friend editor MacNikol from the Sidney Daily Telegraph was in Moscow and he told me all about it.

SU: You are oversensitive, it does not make any difference, particularly for me it doesn't make any difference.

SO: It makes much difference <sup>to</sup> for me, why should I turn to Moscow when we have our own capital. This fact deepens in us Ukrainians a complex of inferiority. (Feeling that a polemic ~~will~~<sup>might/</sup> start I changed the subject) This is a problem which cannot be solved either by you or myself, we just have a talk about it. (We then discussed the meaning of the word "natu-ralization" and then the economic situation in Ukraine, the prizes et cet.

SU stated that good quality goods are still very expensive in the USSR

SO: Do you know whether Ukraine is going to participate in the Trade Fair in Australia?

SU: I don't know, that is the matter of the Embassy, I don't have anything to do with it.

SO: From letters I happen to know that one woman in Ukraine bought a house for 22000 rubles, this is very expensive.

SU: Wait, this in new currency is only 2 000 or one thousand pounds. This is the same like here. I think that the present ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ruble corresponds with the value of the pound. In addition wages are much higher there than here. I myself receive much more pay there than here. All the scientists receive more.

SO: It is a pleasure talking to you, because you have all first hand information from Ukraine, nevertheless it is a pity that only very very few Ukrainians come out, and those who come are afraid to get in touch with the emigres.

SU: Why, I am not afraid, but people are different.

SO: There was HNATIUK here, but he sang only two songs ~~in~~ Ukrainian, the rest were Russian songs.

SU: Maybe his program contained only classics.

in Russian language/

SO: No there were ~~Russian~~ classics and Russian songs as well and HNATIUK said that the program was worked out in Moscow and that he could not change it.

SU: I think that more Ukrainians will come abroad now, because the Petrow affair spoiled relations with Australia and there was no diplomatic contact.

SO: But I still think that Ukrainians from Ukraine are afraid of emigres because officilly we are blamed as foreign agents.

SU: No <sup>are</sup> don't think so, in Canada there <sup>are</sup> so many Ukrainians and do you think we are against them?

SO: Yes, I think you have in mind the "progressives" and we are "regressives" sincerely/  
(We both laughed meaningfully, but I thought that he believed that the progressives were better.) I read recently, that religion is also free now?

SU: <sup>are</sup> here are monasteries for man and women.

( We talked about the Laura monastery in Kiev which is partially converted into a antireligious museum which stands empty and at the same time peasants pay 10 rubles for a candle in the church).

SU: So what , we even have a religious magazine, the state helps the church.

SO: You shouldn't talk such a think, you know that all this is "Kazyonne"

SU: Why, it is not "Kazyonne" at all.

SO: Religion is the matter of conscience of an individual

SU: What churches do you have in the emigration?

SO: Orthodox and Catholic. The only trouble is that the orthodox quarell to much among themselves and the catholicx priest are not allowed to get married. But anyway the Ukrainian catholic church in Western Ukraine has been liquidated. (Silence)

While in Sidney you should not forget to come to see me. I assure you that I shall not try to convince you to "choose freedom", <sup>there</sup> it is no~~n~~ reason of having one more displaced person.

SU: Yes I shall visit you with pleasure, by the way I want to see Melburn and Sidney, but I have so little time. Where do you live? Is it far from Sidney?

SO: No it is about 6 miles from the city. When you come to Sidney, you have my telephone, give me a call, I have an old car and I will show you around and whatever you wish. You will get acquainted with my wife . Are you here alone or with your family?

SU: No, my wife is at home, I shall visit you while in Sidney.

And what is your patronimic, excuse me for asking this?

SO: Bohdan Stepanovych.

I apologize for disturbing you at work

SU: I am very pleased , while in Canberry , please come again.

SO: I rose first, Don't forget , that you promised to see me in Sidney.

And I can write to you, can't I?

SU: Why not, please do.

He accompagnied me to the corridoe and we parted.

During the conversation SUBJECT made the following comment while Russification of Ukraine was discussed: there were good and bad deeds (by Moscow) and it is difficult to tell whether the positives ~~were~~ or negatives prevailed.

CONVERSATION WITH PROFESSOR PARAMONOV

Dr. Serhiy PARAMONOV, zoologist-ethymologist at the Australian National University in Canberra, informed SOURCE that he got acquainted with SUBJECT and took him for a drive around Canberra and the vicinity in order to show him "how people live under capitalism". SUBJECT visited also PARAMONOV in his home. Although there is an extensive library in PARAMONOV's home SUBJECT did not express any interest in any of the books and did not ask for any reading material. During their ride ~~to~~ to the vicinity of Canberra, while PARAMONOV was interested in insects SUBJECT took pictures of farms, trees and of PARAMONOV himself. PARAMONOV also said that SUBJECT was previously in Argentina where he did also research work. In PARAMONOV's opinion SUBJECT represents a new kind of a Soviet man. He behaves freely, makes contact with Australians, went swimming with them and had drinks with them. It looks that he is not afraid. He is quite different from those scientists PARAMONOV knew in Kiev before the war. "He represents a new and better type", he knows his specialty very well and is in high esteem in the eyes of Australians.

SOURCE'S COMMENTS

" I am very pleased with my meeting and conversations with SUBJECT, he is a very pleasant guy ~~XX~~ ( unimportant whether shrewed or sincerely pleasant). He will not be able to buy me either with his brain or by any devious means. We have our plans. He is a difficult type because he is intelligent and well



It is difficult to approach him with propaganda/  
 educated in his profession. Contact has been established and it would be  
 worth while to continue. I will write him a letter again and will again  
 touch on topics which we discussed at our meeting. In my opinion it is improper  
 at the present time to send him any literature to avoid the blame of  
 being propagandists. Most important is ~~that~~ that he does not lose his confidence  
 in us, if <sup>he</sup> has any.

SUBJECT has a possibility of comparison, standard of living, freedom  
 of movement, working conditions ( he lives in <sup>comfortable/</sup> an apartment with kitchen,  
 living room and bedroom/  
 bathroom ~~about~~, nicely furnished, including, radio, record player et cet.)  
 He tolerates the Soviet system because they helped him to become something,  
 and in addition his family, mother, sister and wife are there. He was surprised  
 that Australians are so advanced in the direction of "civilization" and  
 remain backward culturally. ( he made this comment to PARAMONOV). He also  
 wondered why Australians are not interested in politics. He is not much  
 interested in reading. Commenting on theater he said that the Kiev opera is  
 probably better than the Bolshoy in Moscow.

To continue contact with SUBJECT the following should be considered:  
 Canberra is 250 miles from Sidney, it consumes money and time. Saturdays and  
 Sundays he does not work, so he kills the time somewhere. Contact with him  
 is easy. It is possible to continue conversations with him. Not a bad idea  
 is to take him out of town for a picnic, say with someone whom he knows well  
 like PARAMONOV. At the present stage I think it would be proper for him to  
 read something anyway, ~~something like~~ polemical literature from both sides,  
 like SMOLYCH's "With the people or against it" and the reply by V.HRYSHKO.