

SECRET

17 September 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, SR/HP
THROUGH : DO/HP
SUBJECT : Items of Positive and CI Intelligence
for Evaluation and Possible Dissemination
SOURCE : [] recent American
travelers to the USSR.
DOI : August 1963

1. The following items of information were acquired from [] during their debriefing in New York City on 11 September 1963 :

a. "In comparison with conditions experienced on previous visits to the USSR, border and customs controls were the tightest we have ever experienced. All members of our party were carefully inspected and particular attention was paid to our luggage and money. One member of the party was found to have a number of dollars hidden in a dress pocket and she was forcibly removed from the train and detained at the Polish border for several hours. During this period she was forced to undress and a female official examined all of the American's garments and her body. Special attention was paid to the American's hair, which the Soviet official examined with minute care. Some 15 or 20 kerchiefs were confiscated from another member of the party. Upon exiting the Soviet Union from Moscow, baggage and currency controls were tight and the films of two members of our party were confiscated, amounting to some 30 rolls of movie film."

b. "During our stay in the USSR I found surveillance to be the most intense that I have yet experienced. Wherever I went there was either a Soviet 'friend' or Inturist official with me or a conspicuous 'tail' behind me who observed my every movement and purchase. I was

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

photographed time and time again under a variety of unusual circumstances. My fellow-travelers complained of similar treatment and were followed by both foot and motorized surveillants."

c. "One member of our group, Myron KURAPASH, was arrested by the militia when he joined three cousins on a bus ride to the suburbs of L'vov to visit a 'factory where his grandmother had worked' (sic). He was apprehended by the militia and taken to the police station where the police chief heard the accusation and then requested the arrested American to dictate his side of the story. Unfortunately, the statement was written in the official language of the USSR (Russian) and the American could not read what had been written. Nevertheless, he was forced to sign the statement before he could gain his release."

d. "One member of our group was taking moving pictures of a farmers' market in L'vov when she was apprehended by the militia and taken to the police station. After reporting to the station she was again placed in a police car and taken to several photographic shops in an attempt to have her film removed from the camera and developed. Finally, when no shop had the capability of developing the film, it was confiscated and the American released. It is not believed that she signed a statement. The next day Inturist apologized for the incident and said that there had been a mistake since the pictures had not been taken in a restricted area and since the films, when finally developed, had contained nothing incriminating. Apologies were extended."

e. "It appears that on each trip I make to the USSR, the group is forced to visit a hospital or a pharmaceutical research firm. During each visit we are forced to don white gowns and to leave all our cameras, pocket-books and personal belongings in a dressing room. A great show is made that the room is locked from the outside during our stay at the plant, but I have the strange feeling that there are other keys to the door lock and that our personal effects are closely examined during our one or two hour absence. My camera would not function properly following our visit to a medicine factory in L'vov this year."

f. "For the first time, I noted in L'vov that the Soviets are resorting to the use of 'Honor Rolls' in the factories on which the names of the outstanding

workers are printed. I also noted much more Soviet and Communist propaganda inside the factories than I noted in the cities proper."

g. "A Ukrainian painter whom I met in the USSR told me that, late in 1962, a Negro fellow had been lynched in L'vov for dating a white girl. The word 'murin' was used to identify the Negro and I assumed that it referred to an African student at a university in L'vov. I forgot to ask how the Negro had been lynched or who had done the lynching."

h. "A Ukrainian painter whom I met in the USSR told me that the route which Premier KHRUSHCHEV used from the L'vov airport to his quarters in L'vov during his last visit was completely closed to pedestrian traffic and was heavily guarded night and day for six weeks before the Premier's visit. Vehicular traffic could move normally."

i. "When visiting a church in Odessa, an old woman came up to me. She asked if I was an American and able to understand Russian. She then stated that the Soviets had closed all the churches in Moldavia and that all the icons in the church in which we stood had been recently brought from Moldavia. I visited as many churches as I could and found fewer of them open than I had previously. I believe that there is a very definite pressure on the people not to attend church. Our Isturist guides totally ignored pointing out churches to us during our tours, since now there are no churches as part of the itinerary. However, when we did find one Catholic church open in Odessa we all ran to it, even the guides. However, once inside, the guides began to openly ridicule the priest, his blessings and the congregation. A mother who had brought her five-year-old child to church was the object of special denunciation."

j. "At one point during our trip, our Isturist guide told us that it was not forbidden to take moving pictures from a train while the train was in motion. She said that the prohibition applied only to trains at rest in cities and in 'yard' areas. The conductor on the train could not believe his eyes or ears. However, it later turned out that this was obviously a trick for the entire 20 rolls of film taken during the trip by this man were confiscated in Moscow."

k. "At the city of Kolomyya I noted a large complex of brick buildings on the south side of the railroad

tracks leading from L'vov to Chernovtsy. There were many men in uniform and it appeared to be a camp. So far as I know, Koloayya has until recently been a closed area and 'off limits' to tourists and especially to displaced persons. There were several displaced persons in our group. It was my understanding that this area of the Carpathians had been restricted because of certain military activity which was taking place in the forests from which even the local population had been banned. I also noted an airport on the outskirts of Koloayya which had a large number of single engine jet fighters on it. I had never previously heard of a military airfield being in Koloayya."

m. "We were driving by bus from Chernovtsy to a popular lake resort outside the city when we requested permission to stop and take pictures of a brilliant field of sunflowers, the first we had seen. It so happened that the bus stopped a short distance from a 'hutsul' (mountaineer) cottage. In conversation with the occupant, we learned that on the previous day some State officials had driven up and down the road ordering the people to clean their property and yards because an American group would be passing in the morning."

n. "There appeared to be an intensive drive in Chernovtsy to arouse the people out of a political lethargy. There were many slogans visible and many people walking about with red bands on their arms. We were told that this indicated they were members of the local vigilance committee which assisted the militia in keeping order and arresting criminal elements."

o. "During an overnight train ride between Chernovtsy and Kiev, I had a slight altercation with the chief conductor who later sent for me to come to his compartment with our Inturist guide. His compartment was the same size as the other compartments which sleep four people but it was filled with all sorts of electronic equipment, tape recorders, wires and switches. There was scarcely room for the three of us to be in the compartment together. Even while we were talking, the recorder kept running. However, I am not sure whether it was recording my conversation or that of someone else on the train. I would estimate that the compartment was 75 per cent filled with such equipment. The conductor had completely lost control of himself and was raging against the uncouth Americans with their uncultured songs. He accused us of being hooligans, boasted that he had the power and authority to arrest us and threatened to

do just that unless the group quieted at once. After that, I checked my compartment on the train very carefully and the only suspicious thing I could find was something like a small short pipe protruding from the ceiling with a small net over it. I cannot describe it more in detail, unfortunately."

p. "During our visit to Kiev our entire group was ordered to spend one entire day with the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreigners Abroad. Our remarks were recorded and numerous photographs were taken. The morning was spent in serious discussion and the afternoon consisted of entertainment. We were requested to subscribe to Soviet newspapers and other periodicals of the propaganda variety. The leader of the morning discussion session was Juri Konalovich SMOLICH, an author, who briefed us on the activities of the Committee in great detail and emphasized the attention which is being paid to the Ukrainian colony in France. In addition to press and radio propaganda, he said the Committee also sends children's books, recordings and other cultural material, as well as assisting in the location of friends and relatives living in the USSR and in the West. The secretary of the society, (Fnu) LEVINCHENKO, also spoke to us and attacked the emigre newspapers in the West which publish lies about the USSR. He also spoke about the packages sent from the West and indicated that they had not helped the people or the USSR. They also complained at the limitations placed on Soviet travel within the United States. There was also an appearance made by Ekaterina A. KOLSOVA, the Chairman of the Ukrainian Society of Friendship and Cultural Relations with Soviets Abroad; telephone number 3-01-67, and address, 5a Kirov Street, Kiev 21, Ukraine.

Yuri KORNEEVICH SMOLICH
d. c. b. 1900, Ukraine,
Chairman of the
Kiev C.P. since 1951

Could be
KORNEICHUK
Aleksandr Y. ?

"The afternoon session was headed by the Deputy Minister of National Education and Culture in the Ukraine, (Fnu) KORINCHUK, who apologized that the Minister could not attend. The singer, Nikola KINDEATOVICH, and the sculptor, (Fnu) SUKANOVA, also attended and displayed their talents. The host in mineral water, chocolates and cigarettes were provided. The Soviets obviously went out of their way to give us the red carpet treatment, but we were not too impressed since we lost one of our days of travel."

q. "The hydrofoil boat on the Dnieper River is a type which is called 'Raketa' and our particular craft was the 'Gagarin'. It reached speeds of about 45 miles per hour as we traveled to Kaniv, the burial place of

SHEVCHENKO. One of the members of our group gathered a small amount of earth from this shrine which he hoped to bring to the United States, and eventually to Washington, D. C., where a memorial to SHEVCHENKO will be constructed in 1964. However, the vial with the earth was confiscated at the customs office in Moscow. Several Soviets on the 'Gagarin' were quite interested in certain members of our group and did their best to get the Americans intoxicated at the bar."

r. "One member of our group was taken by ZIM to a 'command performance' with the manager of the Ukrainian Inturist Board, V. KRIVORUCHENKO, at his office located at 26 Lenin Street, Kiev. However, en route to the meeting, a secretary with a big handbag attempted to debrief the American on many matters. When the American noted that she was being driven in circles through Kiev, she complained at the treatment and immediately was taken to Lenin Street. The American believes that the large handbag probably contained some type of recording device. KRIVORUCHENKO indicated that he wished to give the American an Inturist contract 'to handle our groups'. KRIVORUCHENKO seemed unbelieving when told that, if the Soviets would lower restrictions and allow the 'EPs' to visit their places of birth, with or without escort, five thousand Ukrainians per year would make the pilgrimage 'home' for a visit. KRIVORUCHENKO indicated that Inturist was in the tourism business and was not created to reunite relatives. While admitting that the revenue intake was tempting, he added that Inturist facilities could not handle such an influx of tourists. No final agreements were reached on either side."

s. "Our stay in Odessa was in the Hotel Ukraine, the former Hotel London. There must have been a delegation of French speaking people in Odessa at the time because in the lobby of the hotel were a number of propaganda signs in the French language which called for peace and friendship among people. It was impossible to see the harbor from the hotel since a row of trees blocked the view. We were told to take no photographs in Odessa, and here again my camera 'suddenly and in unexplained fashion' developed operating difficulty. I did note that the harbor area was very busy and that there were battle-ships, PT-type craft and submarines, as well as commercial shipping. I also saw some ships in dry dock. Our group spent some time at the beach of Orlanda, in Odessa, and here again members of our group were 'snapped' from all sides. I knew little about naval ships but noted one ship

which looked like a fishing trawler and which had five masts with some sort of a tower or maybe radar at the top of each mast. Again, in Odessa, we were contacted by a young blond-haired man who stated he was from Kiev and who wished to make a tape recorded interview for the Society for Cultural Relations. He had his equipment concealed in a special pouch which he carried with him. He was so persistent that we complained to our guide, since we did not believe what he said, and felt he was not from Kiev but a native of Odessa."

t. "In Odessa our group was taken to visit a champagne factory and, although they had been warned, some of our people had too much to drink, lost control of themselves and talked too much. Some even made speeches which were recorded and in which they claimed to be speaking on behalf of all American-Ukrainian women. Some of the remarks, which were made under the circumstances by the Americans, were flattering to the Soviets."

u. "Although our group had been slated to spend three days in Khar'kov, we actually arrived five minutes before midnight on the first day and departed at 0800 hours on the third day. Instead of 72 hours, we had only 32 hours there and 22 hours of this was darkness. Our bitter complaints did us no good. It was learned that the French government was building a large sugar factory in Khar'kov in order to process the sugar beets grown there. It is also planned that Khar'kov will have a subway within 10 years. We felt ourselves under very tight surveillance by day and by night in Khar'kov. Here, as in other cities, we received our quota of post-midnight telephone calls. Our efforts to visit a 'kolkhoz' in the area were completely thwarted, even though we had sent an advance request for such a visit by teletype. The Inturist chief refused to admit that he had ever received the message."

v. "Louise KNOWLES, one of the members of our party, visited the Moscow representatives of the American Broadcasting Company, Sam JEFFRIES, and of Newsweek, Pat McGRADY, in order to have them use their influence to obtain exit visas for some Ukrainians. At the Moscow Airport, all of Miss KNOWLES' films were confiscated 'according to regulation' by the customs people. We wonder whether or not this was done because she had telephoned the American newsmen from the Hotel Ukraine and had later met with them."

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2. If there are any questions concerning this paper, or if there are any additional questions which should be asked in an attempt to clarify any of the points mentioned, please contact [redacted], DO/SR, Rm 504, 1717 "H" St., extension 3092. This is a preliminary report and will be followed by additional information of operational and security interest resulting from the trip.

[redacted]
Chief, DO/SR

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