

SUBJECT: A Trip to Yalta, Crimea in August 1963

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SOURCE: N. - husband and wife, aged 55-60, Ukrainians, Swedish citizens, new immigrants from Eastern Ukraine in Sweden, have relatives (brothers and sisters) in Kharkov and Dnepropetrovsk.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

1. Source's trip was arranged through the Nymann & Schultz Travel Agency in Stockholm. They left Arlanda Airport by plane in a group of 17 Swedish tourists on 17 Aug 1963 at 10.20 hrs for YALTA and first landed in RIGA. After a several hours waiting at the Riga Airport they flew to YALTA. At Riga Airport as well as in Yalta they heard only Russian. They returned to Sweden via RIGA and arrived in STOCKHOLM on 30 Aug 1963 ( they took off from Yalta-Airport at 10.00 hrs on 30 Aug and arrived at Arlanda Airport at 16.00 hrs same day). All the time they stayed in Yalta though they were told that they could also go for one week to SIMFEROPOL. Unfortunately, their group had tickets only for YALTA and did not want to pay additional SKr 100.- per person for Simferopol visit ( the whole trip from Sweden to ~~Crimea~~ Yalta cost SKr 1045.- per person, incl. air tickets, 3 meals a day, and hotel plus sightseeing tours ).

In YALTA they were told not to go farther than 20 km outside the city.

The customs control was rather superficial , customs officers looked only into one suitcase and let them go. While in YALTA Source was told by his relatives that American travellers were searched very thoroughly and had been even looked into hairs.

2. At the Yalta Airport Source and his wife were met by Alexander SWIDERSKYI, son of Arseni Swiderskyi ( of Surahammar, near Vasteras, Sweden; see report on his trip to the Ukraine in 1962) who was notified by his parents in

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advance about Source's arrival.

From the Airport the ~~yr~~ group was brought to Yalta-city and accommodated in the hotel "Arianda". Source~~y~~ was given room # 242. There, in the hotel, Source and his wife met also their relatives and celebrated a family-reunion. All relatives came with their own food and samogon. Although Source's brothers and sisters were much younger ~~than Source~~ they looked older than Source and his wife. Their aged appearance was even more accentuated by shabby cloth. As Source later on discovered, shabby, drab cloth was the main feature of Soviet city-street. Source and his wife left practically all their cloths and shoes for relatives. All were surprised that in addition to such good and elegant cloth people in Sweden could additionally afford an expensive trip abroad.

In Yalta the whole group made many sightseeing tours in the city and to the beach. The Swedes were quite impressed by what they were shown by clever guides, but most of all by the sea. They took full advantage of nice weather and warm water.

Nice climate and water could not, however, wash off some other less pleasant impressions: in one place the tourists saw women constructing asphalt-road. Swedes were simply shocked.

#### 4. Soviet Chinese Conflict

People knew about the conflict and discussed<sup>it</sup> openly and widely. In the beginning it was quite a surprise if not shock to them. At the present there was still no final opinion formed on the topic. There were no definite views, and sides taken, though majority was anti-Chinese. In short, the sympathies were still divided and in flux, and they will depend not so much on the conflict-development itself as on what Khrushchev will do to allay general dissatisfaction of the masses. So far, there were quite a few who couldn't care less "about Khrushchev's troubles with Mao". All agreed on one,

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thing, i.e. that the conflict was real and that it might even lead to a war.

5. Khrushchev

Khrushchew was not only losing his popularity but actually had already become unpopular. The people criticized openly him and his policy as "empty promises" and "idle talk". Source himself was amazed by a scene he had ~~seen~~ seen in a Yalta street. A group of men were looking at the poster with Khrushchev and suddenly began to call Nikita Sergeevich s.o.b. who promised one thing and did another. They were neither arrested nor otherwise apprehended. When Source remarked how was it possible that they talked about Khrushchev in such abusive terms, his (Source's) relatives regarded what happened ~~in the street~~ as quite normal nowadays, since Stalin ~~had died~~ had died".

6. General dissatisfaction

According to the Source he felt himself and was told by his relatives and their friends that there was a general dissatisfaction among the population, accompanied by a great anxiety as to the future. The people were afraid that life conditions were turning toward worse, there were more and more shortages of food and cloth, and in particular of the former. Thus, meat was practically unobtainable in store. All complained that things were going to become worse in general because Khrushchev "was not doing what he promised". As one of Source's relatives explained people were fully aware that Khrushchev put too much into sputniks and luniks and for help abroad to all kind of "the colored", and much too little left for his own people. There were also voices that "something must happen" because the populace was not going to endure it much longer. Some talked even about war and it was Source's general impression that they were not afraid of it. Rather, to the contrary, they thought it might relieve them of present misery.

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7. Stealing as the only relief

So far the only effective means to help oneself was stealing in truest sense on the word. No one can help meet ends without stealing in one way or another. This applies to all : from Khrushchev and his family down to ~~the~~ kolhospnyk" in a God forgotten village". The difference is only in degree and sophistication: the higher the position the larger and more sophisticated abuse of " socialist property".

8. Warning against robbery

~~Subject~~ Source was also warned that at the present there were many cases of robbery in the Soviet Union.

One day in the hotel ARIOANDA when the maid entered Source's room she noticed that a window was open. She asked the Source whether he kept it open at night and after his affirmative answer warned him not to do so. She explained that there had been robberies all around but Source should not tell about it anyone . Only recently, an American was killed and robbed in the same room Source was staying. A bandit crept in through the window and in the morning they found dead American robbed of all his possessions, incl. watch and money. The authorities kept it secret but she knew that it had happened.

9. "Old crimes"

Source was told that "recently" in Dnepropetrovsk there took place a trial of a driver who during the war should have killed many people. Only now "they" (authorities) uncovered his past and he was sentenced to death. His nationality was Ukrainian.

10. " We accept only dollars"

In one store in Yalta Source wanted to buy an electric razor for his brother. He was asked to pay in dollars instead of Rubels . Source refused to.

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11. Alexander SWIDERSKYI

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According to Source, O.S. seemed to be a very smart boy. Always gay and full of energy, with good connections all around him, and good friends even in higher administrative positions. Most of his friends were his former colleagues and acquaintances from the army, from the period of war. O.S. showed Source his photograph from the time of "Patriotic War" on which his breast was fully decorated with all kind of medals. Source's inference: O.S. must have been a very brave soldier and had lots of luck.

O.S. told Source that once during the war when he was driving together with a General, they were ambushed and the General was killed. O.S. continued to shoot and killed many around him. He escaped, and in the beginning he was suspected of being participant to the ambush and even to the killing of General. "They" interrogated him but finally cleared him and released. Moreover, they even decorated him afterwards.

As an example of O.S.'s "influence and connections" Source told the following story: One evening Source and O.S. were having a few drinks in a bar and O.S. began to sing "somewhat louder than usual". There came a militia-man and asked O.S. to be quiet. O.S. shouted at the militia man and told him to go to his superior and report "that O.S. was just now singing". The militia man went away and never came again.

O.S. told Source that he wanted to help his parents as much as he could and was living only for them. He hoped to see them soon provided they will give him <sup>a</sup> visa. He tried before to get to Sweden to visit his parents but was refused.

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