

CONTACT REPORT

SUBJECT: Contacts with Soviet Citizens at the Fifth International Congress of Slavists in Sofia, Bulgaria, 17-23 September 1963.

SOURCE : AECASSOWARY/29 from a German citizen of Ukrainian birth, Senior Lecturer of Slavistics, Slavonic Faculty, Frankfurt University, Germany.

1. The Slavists Congress took place on the premises of the University of Sofia from 17 to 23 September 1963. There were approximately 1150 participants from all areas of the world, the majority from the Soviet Union and the satellites. Of the approximately 500 papers read and discussed, 20 of them were by members of the Committee of Soviet Ukrainian Slavists.

2. Most of the Western participants stayed at the Moscow and the Balkan Hotels in Sofia. The satellite representatives stayed in the cheaper student dormitories (as did sub-source and his wife). The Soviet delegates were housed in the Hotel Slavia, on the outskirts of town, where they were kept pretty much isolated from the rest of the Congress participants. Even the bus excursions arranged by Balkanturist at the close of the Congress appeared to be organized in such fashion as to isolate Soviet and satellite delegates from Westerners. There was a welcome party and a farewell party for the delegates to the Congress and these afforded ample opportunities for contacts with Soviet delegates.

3. At the exhibit of Slavistic publications arranged in the University Library, Ukrainian emigre publications were exhibited on the Dutch stand, and a volume of Ya Rudnytsky's Etymological Dictionary on the Canadian stand. Except for the one volume of Annals (No. 169) of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U. S. exhibited on the American stand, all other emigre literature on the American stand was Russian (Russian emigre journals and magazines and popular translations of Russian classics.) The Soviet Ukrainian delegates expressed great interest in the Ukrainian emigre publications and it was noticed that several of the Ukrainian emigre books disappeared from the stands. Subsource of this report and his wife were able to hand to Soviet Ukrainians practically all the literature they had with them, including AECASSOWARY/1 political publications (See list of literature attached).

4. The Soviet Ukrainian Delegation consisting of about 25 individuals was for the first time participating as a separate full-fledged member of the International Committee. Its chairman was Maksym RYL'SKY. Despite their isolation,

the source and his wife succeeded in contacting a good number of the Ukrainians, meeting with them mostly in dark corridors or in the park in the evenings. Ukrainian Slavists from satellite countries who enjoyed much more freedom were of great help in serving as a bridge between the source and his wife and Soviet Ukrainians. The source learned that immediately following the welcome party at the beginning of the Conference, Academician Ivan Kostiantynovych BILODID ordered all members of the Soviet Ukrainian Delegation to avoid contacts with emigre delegates and to boycott the reading of source's paper at the Conference. Being aware of this, the source freely attacked papers read by BILODID, H. VERVES and N. KRUTIKOV, criticizing conclusions reached by them regarding Polish-Ukrainian and Russo-Ukrainian relations. As a result, he earned the tacit appreciation and general approval of those Soviet Ukrainian delegates who did not see eye to eye with those who "personified a combination of scholar and political commissar." In spite of source's frankness, he and his wife were invited to attend the Lesya Ukrainka anniversary celebration organized by the Association of Soviet-Bulgarian Friendship.

5. Subjects Discussed by Source with Soviet Ukrainian Delegates

a. According to Nos. 8, 11, 17 and 23, (identities attached) there presently is a strong revival of Ukrainian patriotism among the young Ukrainian intelligentsia, particularly among students, young writers and artists in Kiev which manifests itself mainly in very active cultural activities. No. 8 expressed apprehension that the overly active manifestation of the youths' patriotic feelings might complicate matters for them in the future. In contrast, No. 11 was of the opinion that there was no need to engender similar attitudes among all Ukrainian intelligentsia. No. 11 felt that the stronger the manifestation of Ukrainian patriotism and of pressures of Ukrainians on Moscow, the better the chance for Ukrainians to strengthen their position in the Soviet Union and obtain new concessions from the Kremlin. She felt Ukrainians were not doing enough in this regard. No. 11 complained that BILODID and others like him did little for the advancement of the Ukrainian scholarly element. Instead of Ukrainian students being sent to Leningrad, Moscow, Warsaw and other cities to compete with other centers of Slavistics, they were being kept home. No. 11 said that the plans to amalgamate languages in the Soviet Union had failed in the Ukraine. This, however, did not mean that the Kremlin abandoned Russification measures, and she felt certain Moscow would soon come out with

new plans for the acceleration of its Russification drive. Restrictions imposed by authorities seem to exacerbate youths' resentments, which to date have been restricted to discussions, debates, readings of forbidden or unpublished poetry, etc. The source was told that even some of the patriotic verses written by PAVLYCHKO in his collection, The Truth Calls, (withdrawn in 1958 immediately after publication) were being circulated in manuscript form. (Note: In view of PAVLYCHKO's other works, this collection of poetry actually could be face-saving for him, insofar as Soviet Ukrainian youth is concerned.)

b. No. 8 recommended that in order to avoid concentration of the Soviet regime's attention on young Soviet Ukrainian writers whose position is very vulnerable anyway, Ukrainian emigre publications should include works of the older Soviet Ukrainian writers along with the younger writers. No. 8 said Ukrainian emigres should use every opportunity to acquaint Soviet Ukrainians with Ukrainian emigre literature. Soviet Ukrainians at the Congress were particularly interested in the emigre Ukrainian Encyclopedia, Chyzhevsky's, History of Ukrainian Literature, Lavrynenko's Rozstrilyans Vidrodzhennya (Revival of the Liquidated works by Iutsiv and others, including political publications. No. 23 took copies of ABCASSONARY/1 publications, including Boyko's Misrepresentation of Shevchenko. No. 23 later asked for another copy of the latter booklet, saying that he had given the first copy to No. 16. (under the pretext that No. 16 was attacked in the publication). No. 4 asked for copies of the Ukrainian Encyclopedia and Chyzhevsky's, History of the Ukraine. No. 8 asked for Rozstrilyans Vidrodzhennya. They recommended that Ukrainian scholars in Poland and other satellite countries (No. 28 or 26 for example) be used as a channel for transmitting Ukrainian emigre literature to Soviet Ukrainians. No. 26 asked for translations of Kafka for which there was a demand in Kiev. He said he would reprint the translations in his newspaper which is sent to Ukrainians in the USSR. No. 4 suggested that purely scientific works, minus any political undertones, would be more acceptable and thus made accessible to Soviet scholars.

c. Soviet Ukrainians at the Congress told source and his wife that it was necessary for the Ukrainian emigration to strengthen its protests in the Western press against Russification in the Ukraine. No. 23 told about the following incidents which could be used as illustrations:

(1) Forced Russification of Kharkov and the Donbass area. There are no Ukrainian desyatylatka in Kharkov and authorities will not even permit

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Ukrainian dityasla (kintergartens).

(2) Conflict between Ukrainian youth and the Party bureaucracy in Kiev in July 1963 when authorities forbade a public celebration of the 50th-anniversary of Lesya Ukrainka. Authorities jammed the speeches by transmitting loud music over the public address system. Following the incident, all those participating in the celebration who were employees of the Kiev Opera and Theater were fired and continue to remain unemployed. Seven days later, under the impact of general indignation and public protests, a similar celebration was arranged by the Old Party faithful writers and artists who were also the only participants.

d. Pressures on Ukrainian Intelligentsia in Poland

According to No. 28, in recent months a number of Ukrainians, members of the intelligentsia in Poland, were either arrested or interrogated by the UB, the main reason being contacts with Ukrainian emigres, receipt of literature from the West, etc. Among those already imprisoned for longer periods of time are Myroslav TRUCHAN of Szczecin, Yaroslav WAJKO of Gdansk, and Jan STRUMINSKI. The Reverend RIFECKI was also interrogated because he had received some religious pictures from Canada. (Note: Information about the arrest and interrogation of Ukrainians in Poland has also been received from another source recently and is being reported separately.)

e. "Reorganization" of Linguistic Periodicals in the Ukraine

According to No. 11, an announcement is due in the near future regarding the unification of all scientific linguistic publications of pedagogical institutes and universities into four main republic journals. This No. 11 considered a blow to Ukrainian linguistics. It fits into Keldyshev's concept of the "reorganization" of republic academies. No. 11 said he feared the Department of Linguistics of the Institute of Social Sciences in Lvov, would probably be liquidated and eventually the Institute itself.

The Ukrainian Committee of Slavists and Other Ukrainian Slavists

1. RYL'S'KY, Maksym Tadayovich. Chairman of the Ukrainian Committee of Slavists, member of the International Committee of Slavists. He was not very active and gave the impression of being a tired old man, drowsed during sessions and only apathetically listened to what was going on around him. According to him, Victor PETROV is alive and working in Kiev. (PETROV disappeared from West Germany in late 1940's. There were rumors he was kidnapped by the Soviets.

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2. BYLOBID, Ivan Kostiantynovych. Born ca. 1906. Vice President of the Academy of Sciences, UkSSR. Assistant to the head of the Ukrainian Committee of Slavists. A typical careerist. He is an individual who knows how to combine his scholarly profession with political commissarship.

3. TSIIVIKO, Kost. Director of the Institute of Linguistics, Academy of Sciences, UkSSR, Kiev. Avoided contacts. He was cautious and almost frightened. He mentioned that he knew the source from the latter's letters to BULAKHOVSKY in Kiev.

4. DZEMZELIVSKY, Yosyp. Professor at University of Uzhgorod. A typical scholar. Very lively and interesting in professional discussions but reluctant to become involved in political discussions. No. 4 asked for the Ukrainian Encyclopedia, Chyzhevsky's, History of Ukrainian Literature, works by Iutsiv and, above all, the Etymological Dictionary. He said that he hoped to participate next year in a summer course of Slavists in Prague, CSR, and that on this occasion he could "pick up" the Etymological Dictionary from No. 26 or someone else. He read several articles written by the source, given to him by the latter, and in a short conversation later recommended that such purely scholarly material be written without any political undertones so that it could be made accessible to Soviet Ukrainians. No. 4 warned the source on several occasions that he was being watched and said he preferred not to be seen with source. Source gave him a fountain pen.

5. MELNYCHUK, Olexandr. Scientific Associate of the Institute of Linguistics, Academy of Sciences, UkSSR, Kiev. "Atypical primitive political commissar. Arrogant, aggressive, stupid.

6. MOSKALENKO, Arsen. Professor at Odessa University. A scholar. Avoided contacts with source and his wife and other Ukrainian emigres. Appeared to be at the Congress in some administrative capacity.

7. YIZHKEVYCH, Hanna or Halyna. Professor. Scientific Association of the Institute of Linguistics, Kiev. Reluctant to enter into conversations and and not seen around very much.

8. FRANKO, Zenovia (Zina, Zenka). Scientific Associate of the Institute of Linguistics, Academy of Sciences, UkSSR. Granddaughter of Ivan Franko. Born ca. 191928. Ukrainian patriot, although very cautious. She asked for a copy of Lavrynenko's Rozstrilyane Vidrodzhennya. According to No. 8, the book was once given to RYL'S'KY by a Pole in Warsaw. She was given copies of all the literature source had with him. She told source all about the present situation

in the Ukraine. The source gave her a fountain pen, a pair of stockings and some underwear. She mentioned to source on several occasions that she was being watched and she failed to appear for the last meeting she had scheduled with the source.

9. HURIACHOK, Andryy. Scientific Associate of the Institute of Linguistics, Academy of Sciences, UkrSSR, Kiev.

10. KOLOMIYETS, Vera. Scientific Associate of the Institute of Linguistics, Academy of Sciences, UkrSSR, Kiev. Reluctant to enter into conversations with Ukrainian emigres.

11. HUBETSKA, Lukia. Born ca. 1913. Energetic, open-minded, Ukrainian patriot and scholar. Met source on several occasions in the park in the evening. They talked about the present situation in the Ukraine, and about Ukrainian literature. According to No. 11, the concept of the amalgamation of languages in the Ukraine failed but Moscow was preparing to launch a new device. She felt that on the whole, Ukrainian intelligentsia was not "showing its teeth" sufficiently and thus weakened the process of Ukrainization. She felt sure that stronger pressures of Ukrainians on Moscow would bring new concessions from the Kremlin. It was No. 11 who told source about the regime's plans to unify all scientific linguistic publications of all pedagogical institutes and universities into four main republic journals. She said that, on the whole, Lvov was being reduced to a cultural and scientific province and that it lost much of its previous scientific and literary standard. She named individuals like HILODID who did nothing to elevate the status of Ukrainian Slavistics. In her opinion, publication of works of young Soviet Ukrainian writers abroad was necessary. She felt this would help all Ukrainians and, even if one or another writer is summoned by the Party bosses, it doesn't matter. No. 11 said that the Institute of Social Sciences in Lvov was receiving publications of the UVAN from New York (Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences). No. 11 was given a pair of nylons and another pair for a friend.

12. ZHOVTOBRIUKH, Mykhailo. Professor of Ukrainian language (Kiev University sic). A typical slow and clumsy Ukrainian "diad'ko".

13. IVCHENKO, Makar. Professor of Rovno Pedagogical Institute. Though rather reserved and scared, he was still quite interested in emigre publications and Ukrainian life abroad. He said he would like to obtain works by Shevelov. Source promised to send him the Shevelov books via No. 23 in Kiev. Except for the one meeting with the source, No. 13 avoided meeting with the emigres at the Congress, and in the presence of other Soviet citizens, pretended not to know source.

14. MEDEVEDY, Fedir. Docent of Ukrainian language at Kharkov University. A careerist, shrewd, No. 14 sticks to the official line. He considered weak in his specialty of history of the Ukrainian language.

15. HUDZYI, Mykola Kalankovych. Director, Department of Ancient Ukrainian literature, Institute of Literature, Academy of Sciences, Uk SSR, Kiev. Sympathetic, tactful, a typical old scholar interested only in his field.

16. KYRYLUK, Evhen. Director, Institute of Literature, Academy of Sciences, UkSSR. An expert in his field, No. 16 is ambitious and tends toward careerism.

17. BEY, Olexandr. Born ca. 1928. Scientific associate of the Institute of Folkloric Art, Kiev. Originally from Chernigov. He spent a few years in Lvov from 1945. No. 17 is a young, average scholar, interested in literature and folklore, and in journalism in which he also is somewhat active. He talked with the source about the literary scene in Kiev today. Admitting that the Russian language was predominant in Kiev, he said it was due particularly to the presence of many military men, Jews and foreign and Soviet tourists.

18. VERVES, Fnu. Scientific associate of the Institute of Literature, Kiev. Specialist in Polish-Ukrainian relations. Source met No. 18 and No. 24 in Warsaw in 1956.

19. KRUTIKOVA, Nina. Scientific associate of the Institute of Literature, Academy of Sciences, UkSSR, Kiev. A Russian, No. 19 was very arrogant and stuck to the official line.

20. VEDINA, Vera. Scientific Associate, Institute of Literature, Academy of Sciences, UkSSR, Kiev.

21. LINUR, Pavlo. Docent of Russian language, Uzhgorod University. The source said No. 21 is completely Russified. He spoke of Moscow as "our

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"our capital". He became very angry when the source pointed out to him that his local compatriots Orlai and Baludiansky also made careers in Petrograd and Moscow instead of working for their own people. No. 27 who was present during the discussion the source had with No. 21, commented that "there is no need to go to Moscow or Leningrad now because we have our own capital, the Soviet Kiev." No. 17 and other members of the Soviet Ukrainian delegation told the source that No. 21 was a Russophile. No. 21 is a specialist in folkloric ballads.

22. SUKHOBRUS, H. Scientific Associate, Institute of Folkloric Art.

23. SHEVCHUK, Wasyi. Scientific Associate, Institute of Literature, Academy of Sciences, UkSSR. Specialist in Czech-Ukrainian relations. A genuine Ukrainian Patriot, according to source. Energetic, intelligent, well poised and ambitious. Born ca. 1920. No. 23 met with source clandestinely, mostly in the evenings. He told source he was being watched but he took every opportunity to talk with source, sometimes pretending he was looking in another direction. He discussed with source the literary situation in Kiev, Russification measures in the Ukraine, etc. He told the source that he had read his biography in the Annals of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences and knew who the source was. He said that it was "forbidden for us to talk with you", No. 23 wanted as many emigre publications as he could get and shared the source's supply with No. 8. He was given a copy of all the ABCASSOWARY/1 political publications and a copy of Boyko's Misrepresentation of Shevchenko.

24. SHEVCHENKO, Fedot. Born ca. 1918. Scientific Associate, Institute of History, Academy of Sciences, UkSSR. Source met No. 24 in Warsaw in 1956 but the latter tried to avoid the source. No. 24's colleagues told the source that the former was severely criticized by the regime two years ago and continues to remain in disfavor.

25. LATA, Vasil. Born 1918. Lives in Presov, CZE. A dialectologist, practically completely ignorant of the nationalities problem in the USSR and of politics in general.

26. MOLNAR, Mykhailo. Born ca 1933. From Bratislava University, CZE. A specialist in Ukrainian literature, he studied in Kiev. Very energetic, and ambitious. Several of his works have already been published on Czech-Ukrainian literary relations. No. 26 became a Ukrainian while still a student. In 1945, he helped to organize Ukrainian cultural life in Prague and continues to be active in Ukrainian cultural life in Presov. His parents were illiterate

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Carpatho-Ukrainian peasants. In the presence of other Soviets, No. 26 asked Oles HONCHAR of Kiev to send Ukrainian books and magazines from Kiev to Presov to "strengthen Ukrainian potential in Presov". He later told source that someone was spreading the rumor among Ukrainians in the Presov area that if they demonstrate their Ukrainian nationalism too strongly Khrushchev might incorporate them into the UkSSR. In the past, No. 26 ~~was~~ <sup>was responsible for having</sup> ~~sent~~ Ukrainian emigre publications (Ghyzhevsky's, History of the Ukraine, and Volumes I and II of the Ukrainian Encyclopedia) <sup>delivered</sup> ~~was~~ ~~sent~~ to Kiev via Warsaw. No. 26 said he was sceptical about the wisdom of publishing the poems of young Soviet Ukrainian writers in the emigration. He felt it might be harmful to them. He asked the source for translations of Kafka, claiming there was a great demand for his works in Kiev. He said he would reprint the translations in the Presov newspaper, Dukla, which is read in the UkSSR. No. 26 said he has translated some of Kafka's works from Czech and published them in Dukla. Source felt that No. 26 was somewhat naive in politics. He transmitted some of the literature source had with him to the Soviets.

27. PAWLUK, Mykola. Born ca. 1933. Comes from Maramor region in Hungary. Presently lives in Budapest. No. 27 studied in Kharkov for 8 years. A promising young scholar, rather naive in politics.

28. LESIN, Mykhailo. Lublin University. Lived in the same dormitory where source stayed and through him, source passed much of his literature to the Soviets. Source talked with him during walks they took together and in source's room. No. 28 informed the source about present pressures on Ukrainian intelligentsia in Poland. He said he was also interrogated in connection with the defection of his friend. No. 28 felt the situation in Poland might get worse and that even now many Ukrainians were concerned that they might lose their jobs. He said he was not very concerned because his father-in-law had a nice piece of land on which he could settle. The source gave No. 28 a pair of nylons for his wife and promised to send some infant clothing for which the latter asked.

The Literature Passed Over to Soviet Ukrainians

1. Suchasnist # 6,1963 - 2 copies
2. Suchasnist # 7,1963 - 2 copies
3. Suchasnist # 8,1963 - 2 copies
4. Panorama of the Latest Ukrainian Literature in the Ukr SSR - 2 copies
5. Pravda Kobzaria by Barka - 2 copies
6. Ukrainian Education in Colonial Letters by Soloviy - 2 copies
7. Document of Ukrainian Communism - 2 copies
8. Naukovi Zapysky UVU # 6 - 3 copies
9. Shashevich Arkian by Stepan Shakh - 2 copies
10. Zhyttia Shevchenka by Zaytsev - 1 copy
11. Poems (in English) of Shevchenko - 3 copies
12. Zapysky NtSh, Vol. #166 - 3 copies
13. Zapysky NtSh Vol #169 - 3 copies
14. Proceedings of History and Philosophy, Section of NtSh #1 - 1 copy
15. Proceedings of History and Philosophy, Section of NtSh #2 - 1 copy
16. Annals of UVAN in the USA for 1960 - 1 copy
17. Own essays and papers by Source on Ukrainian Maritime Terminology, Argo of Lirnyke, Argo of soldiers, literary language of Bachvantsi, Lexicon of cardplayers, etc. - 6 copies
18. Fata Morgana by Kotsiubynsky in German translation by Hala Horbatch - 10 copies
19. Blauer November (in German - 4 copies
20. Das Zahe Leben by Karkhut, translated into German by H. Horbatch  
4 - copies