

Soviet Group at Cornell University, August 1964

The Soviet group consists of 27 persons, 8 men and 19 women. There are among them 6 or 7 Ukrainians, ~~SECRET~~ and the rest - Latvians. They are divided into groups of 4-5, each group headed by its own "Leader" whose main function is to help others with English. Some of them are accommodated together with American students. All are housed at the Dormitory at Sage Hall. Their meals they usually have in the Ivy Room of the Willard Straight Hall. On weekends most of them are invited to American families. On the campus and in the streets they are usually seen in twos and threes, seldom alone.

The current course ends on 21 Aug 1964. Next day they go by bus to New York and hope to reach the city same evening. After one or two days they will proceed to Washington, D.C. for two days, and then return to New York again, for four days. They will stay in New York presumably at the International House of Columbia University where they had been accommodated on their first arrival to this city.

Two of our students were engaged in contact-operations from 6 to 10 Aug 1964.

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

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Stodnicka file

12 August 64

Subject: STADNICHENKO, Andrei of JAVOROV-LVIV, Lenin wulytsia 5, Apt 17, Ukr SSR
dob 1922 Kremenchukshoho r. na, Poltavshche Oblast
Source: Roman *Rupczyskiy*
Date: 11 Aug 1964

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1. Subject is Ukrainian, "professor" of English at Lvov University, member of the CPSU, married, his wife is Russian and works as a nurse in Lvov; have two daughters; aged 18 and 16. The elder daughter has finished high school and will apply to a technical institute. Subject seems to be conscious Ukrainian, somewhat sentimental, quite open minded, sociable. Atheist but claims to be tolerant of religion. He likes photography, fishing, singing. (Mentioned that he likes "Marishka", "Tična Maty Moya" and others). His main interest - languages, particularly English. Speaks fair English, excellent Ukrainian and Russian. Plans to buy a camera for his elder daughter. Wanted to get a transistor radio for the younger one which was presented to him by Source on 10 Aug 1964.

Subject was born in Poltava, Ukraine in 1922. "For quite a few years" he lived in Lvov.

Physical description: 5'7, 155-160 lb, brown hair combed to the side, one silver tooth in front, brown eyes, straight nose, wears dark sunglasses made in Yalta, quite tastefully dressed (light beige shoes, beige suit).

2. Source met Subject at 11.00 hrs on 7 Aug 1964 in the lobby of Sage Hall. Subject was standing in a group of students when Source introducing himself said that his parents were from Lvov and he would like to meet eventually someone from there. Subject in his turn introduced himself, seemed to be quite happy to see a Ukrainian and to talk to him. Then he excused himself and went to his room (# 257) wherefrom he returned with a lapel pin commemorating the 300 anniversary of Lviv University and a postcard with the Lviv City Hall on. He gave them to Source.

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In the meantime Source was approached by a female Soviet student who started to question him where he was from, where his parents were from etc. After Subject's return she stayed with them for while and then left. Evidently Source could speak with Subject *tete-a-tete*.

Topics discussed *tete-a-tete* (excerpts):

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a/ Stalinism. According to Subject Stalin had made many mistakes but he also done much good. His merits were in his winning the war with Germans. Stalinism as such is a past *era* and will never return.

b/ Ukrainian emigration. Subject was very much interested in Ukrainian activities abroad. He was quite surprised to hear about Ukrainian schools in the States, ^{Ukrainian} ~~thux~~ active social and political life etc. This made quite a positive impact on the Subject and he did not try to conceal his approval and even delight in.

c/ Soviet wheat purchases. Subject explained them as resulting from a bad harvest in the USSR and somewhat "unsatisfactory" situation with food-supplies in general. Source told him the joke about "the USSR trying to catch up with the US", he laughed very heartily but looked around to see if anyone was watching.

d/ Russification. Subject denied that Russification was a policy of the Soviet Government and was inclined to make responsible for it Ukrainians as well. As an example he gave Donbass where people speak Russian though no one is forbidden to use Ukrainian. Then he explained that actually the main reason for that was that Donbass was a heavily industrialized area. According to him in Kiev many languages are spoken not only Russian or Ukrainian.

When parting Source promised to help Subject to look for a camera and transistor radio, and they arranged to meet next evening.

SECRET

3. Subject did not come on Saturday evening and Source went to his room in the dormitory. There he met Subject's roommate - KUCSHILKO, Sergei who told ^{him} that Subject was invited to an American family and he could see ^{him} probably first on Monday.

SECRET

4. 10 Aug 1964, at 11.00 hrs Source met Subject in the lobby of Sage Hall and then they went to Subject's room. They were alone. Source ~~gave~~ told ^{that he bought} him a transistor radio for his daughter and Subject was very thankful and asked how he could reciprocate. They exchanged addresses, Subject gave Source "Mala Kryvchka" by Shevchenko and promised to send books and newspapers. He will send whatever Source wished. They agreed that Subject will send not only Zhovten, Prapor or Vitchyzna but also such as Lvivska Pravda, Ivanofrankivska Pravda and others. Source replied that he can send him ~~szsazdz~~ some English textbooks, in his turn.

As Subject was in a hurry to get to his class they decided to part now and meet again at 15.00 hrs in Subject's room.

5. They met 15.00 hrs as prearranged and in addition to the transistor radio Source gave him also "Suchasna Literatura w UkrSSR" by Koshelivets, and a small cosmetic set (lipstick and perfume) for his daughter. Then Source gave him also a cut out from "US News and World Report" about the Shevchenko Monument unveiling in Washington. Subject was extremely grateful and ~~amoz~~ ^{proce-} moved, he clasped Source's hand firmly and promised to show this ^{cutting} to his friends in Lviv. They talked about Shevchenko unveiling in Washington, D.C., cameras and fishing. At 16.00 hrs Source invited him to dinner. Along the way Subject told Source about his daughters and his family life.

In the restaurant Subject told Source that he was for the first time in an American restaurant.

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They talked about Mazepa and Khmelnytskyi. Subject did not attack Mazepa and said that he was not going to call him a traitor. He did not however agree with his policy because ~~he~~^{he} went to war with Russia to take Ukraine from under Russian rule and put her under Turkish rule. SECRET

When Source asked him whether he approved of what Khmelnytsky did by putting Ukraine from under Polish under Russian rule, Subject did not comment and kept silent.

c/ Church. According to Subject there are still many believers in the Ukraine. He did not hear of Metropolitan Slipyi but he knew about Metropolitan Sheptytskyi who lived in Lvov. That's about all he knew about him.

d/ Hungarian Revolution of 1956. Subject was keenly interested in ~~the Hungarian Revolution~~ the Hungarian Revolution because as he put it "all we knew was the news published in the press that the Hungarian government had asked the Soviet Union to send its troops to Budapest". Source explained him all the real developments and events.

e/ KGB. Subject explained that the KGB engage in many different activities but he cannot say concretely in what. Subject does not want to have anything to do with KGB, neither do any of his friends or other people that he knows. He thought Sholepin was still the chief of the KGB.

f/ American Political System. Subject wanted Source to explain to him how the American system functioned, what were the party conventions, how ~~the~~ president was elected, what were the differences between the two parties also. He listened very attentively and was quite surprised that the winning party did not "liquidate" the opposition. ~~the~~ Such "phenomenon" as McCarra's being actually a Republican seemed at least strange to him. Source explained that elected presidents surround themselves with people of their own party but they also have to listen to the voice of opposition. Subject asked if Ukrainians were active in American party politics, if there were Ukrainian democrats and republicans. He also wanted to know about the platform

of Senator Goldwater and how did the people react to his ideas. In his view, he said, the present system of co-existence is by far the best possible solution to the world problems.

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g/ United Nations. Subject wanted to know how the Secretary General was elected and Source explained ^{it} to him ~~that~~ as well as some other procedures of this organization. Subject seemed to be ~~mainly~~ really unaware of many of those things. He also asked what effect on the United Nations has the fact that this organization is in New York i.e. whether and to what extent it could be influenced by US Government.

h/ Soviet Delegates to the United Nations. Subject asked how the Soviet delegates to the UN live in the States, how they dress, eat etc. Source explained that just like all the other "capitalists" as far as material accomodation and facilities were concerned. ~~Inasmuch~~ as it seemed to Source they were also quite free in their movements and could not complain about their lot using Cadillacs, ^{enjoying} fine food and other "privileges". Subject only commented that the Soviet Union produces its own nice cars like "Chaika". He also wanted to know who was the Ukrainian representative to the United Nations. When told ^{about} he replied that he never heard of Luka Kyzia.

i/ Khrushchev's visit to the UN. Subject did not know about the shoe-incident and asked Source why did he do it. Source answered that Khrushchev himself was to be asked "why". Then Subject remarked that Khrushchev was really uncultured. They also talked about Pidgorny but Subject said nothing substantial.

j/ Powers Incident. Subject asked Source what the American people thought of the Power incident. Then he said that in the Soviet Union they were afraid that because of it a war might break out. Subject did not know that Powers was exchanged for Abel but added that he was not as naive as to not to know that the USSR practiced espionage in the US.

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1/ Defectors. Source mentioned that while Khrushchov was in America one of the sailors jumped off the ship and defected. Subject never heard about the incident and asked why people did this. Source remarked that he shouldn't ask such stupid and vague questions because he himself would know better. Subject did not comment and asked how defectors were living here. After Source told him that they live quite nicely if they work and try to make a living, Subject said that he had a wife and children and that life for them would be very miserable if he left them alone. In his opinion a defector is a coward because if he really sees something wrong with the system under which he lives he should stay there and try to help to improve it. He added that he can do more good there than here.

1/ Censorship. When talking about history Source pretending to be somewhat naive, asked Subject if he could send him eventually a copy of Khrushchov's History of Ukraine. Subject replied that he would if he could unless (as far as he knew) this book was not being published though there were still copies which might be gotten hold of. But even so, it would be probably impossible to send this book because the censorship was very strict in the Soviet Union. According to Subject all packages are carefully examined before leaving the USSR and on entering. Source asked if this kind of censorship applied also to Pasternak. Subject did not answer. Then Source told him that whatever he will send to him in the Ukraine will be "legal" as he did not want him to put into trouble. In his turn Subject said that when sending something to the States he will go to the post office and tell them, "Look here, I'm sending this package to my friend in America. Can I send these things? If they say no then I will not send them".

Subject did not comment when Source remarked that "what kind of system was he living under that did not its citizens allow to receive uncensored packages from other countries and called itself democratic"/

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m/ Students riot in Lviv. According to subject a few years ago there was a students riot in Lviv. There was supposed to be an evening of questions and answers about chemistry followed by dances. But the students did not come to the first part of the meeting but only to dancing. The person in charge of the evening decided to reprimand the students and called off the dance. The students were aroused by his action and protested. This led to rioting.

n/ Russification. Subject mentioned that although there was no "formal" russification it existed in practice. Thus not only Russians and Jews but also many others speak in Odessa, for instance, Russian.

o/ Shevchenko Monument in Washington, D.C. Subject was very impressed by the whole ceremony and particularly by the numerous youth there present. He commented that this must have been a very great holiday for Ukrainians in America.

p/ "Protection" of students. Source asked Subject why among them there are persons who try to keep them away from emigrants. Subject replied that there were all sorts of people in the world and that he was not responsible for action of other people. He ~~then~~ added: You know how it is, ~~aren't~~ don't you?

r/ Subject enjoyed Source's jokes particularly the one about Khrushchev's bald head likened to the harvest of 1963. He laughed and said: "Most likely".

s/ At their parting Subject asked Source to visit him in Lviv. He said that he really wanted to see him there. Then he would see what was really going on in the Ukraine. He would ^{see} both - good and bad points. When shaking hands he added: "It was very pleasing to talk to a sincere Ukrainian in America, I will tell all my friends of this meeting, and will always remember it".

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