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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2D  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

18 September 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with AECASSOWARY/2, 17 and 29 in Washington, D. C. (Hotel Dupont Plaza) on 14 September 1964.

1. AECASSOWARY/2, 17 and 29 were invited to Washington to meet with [redacted] and [redacted] and the undersigned to discuss present and future AECASSOWARY/1 strategy against present and reported future moves planned by the Soviets against the Ukrainian emigration. According to information received from Platon STASIUK who recently visited the UkSSR, two groups of Soviet Ukrainians planning to visit the United States and Canada in September and October have requested that meetings be arranged for them with groups of prominent Ukrainian emigres. STASIUK reportedly told Dr. Maria KLACHKO that the first group, due here about 25 September, will be composed of about 20 individuals, including the writers Irena VILDE and Yuri K. SMOLYCH. It will be headed by KOLOSSOVA, chairman of the Soviet Ukrainian Committee for Cultural Exchanges with Ukrainian Compatriots Abroad, and Mykhaylo O. LEVISHCHENKO, chief of the section of the same committee concerned with Ukrainian emigres in the United States. The second group is expected about 15 November and will include more literary people. The sister-in-law of Irena VILDE's late husband lives in Trenton, New Jersey, VILDE reportedly plans to visit her.

2. The AECASSOWARIES were asked in view of the U. S. policy of coexistence with which we are faced and probably will be faced during the next four years, if President Johnson is elected, why could A/1 not take the lead to organize a public meeting with the Soviet Ukrainians scheduled to visit here. Granted they have their reputation in the Ukrainian emigre community to consider. However, they could advertise via a full page ad in Svoboda or another Ukrainian emigre publication (and thus preclude accusations that they collaborate with Soviets in secret) that such a gathering was being planned for the purpose of exchanging dialogue with Soviet Ukrainians about the situation in the homeland. All Ukrainian emigres interested could be invited to participate in the meeting.

3. The AECASSOWARIES were not favorably inclined to such a move on their part. The reasons given were:

a. They have their image in the Ukrainian emigre community to consider -- and this has already suffered somewhat

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as a result of activities such as the round-table discussions with Russian emigres and Jews in the New York area, and other activities.

b. Nothing would be achieved by such an exchange. Whatever took place at such a meeting would be twisted and presented to the people in the homeland in such a way as to serve only the purpose of the Soviet authorities. Besides, the group from Kiev would be composed of KGB types and Ukrainian writers empowered merely to voice the Party line.

c. In view of U. S. policy toward the Ukraine, Soviet authorities could use the meeting as an example that Ukrainian emigres expect salvation of Ukrainians through collaboration with the Soviets.

In general, the benefits of such a meeting to the Ukrainian emigration and particularly to A/1 were very questionable in their opinion.

4. The AECASSOWARIES felt the plan suggested was too premature for Ukrainians on the inside who presently are taking forward steps in an extremely cautious manner. They know their opportunities are not as great as those in the satellite countries. There is their policy on the amalgamation of the nations to be considered. Then too, the attitude of the West (comments made by U. S. policy makers have been played up in the Soviet press) has not been encouraging. Soviet authorities would present any public meeting between Ukrainian emigres and Soviet Ukrainians as an effort on the part of the emigres to cooperate and coexist with them.

5. In the words of A/17: We are trying to contribute to the disintegration of the Soviet Communist system. We make efforts to contact Soviet citizens privately because in such meetings we may learn some truth about the situation, about internal problems, and we try to impart our ideas to them. The time is not ripe. We have stated our position in the recent statement (on the occasion of their 20th anniversary) and this has been quite favorably received (by the emigration) in the West. This would not have been true two or three years ago. We are gaining in our position, and perhaps the situation in the emigration will change even more (toward our way of thinking). In their efforts to gain sympathizers in the Ukrainian emigration, Soviet gains to date have been minimal. The exceptions are Yuriy KOSSACH, the progressives and recently Platon STASIUK, although these merit very little acknowledgement in the Ukrainian SSR.

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6. A/2 said it might be possible to arrange a meeting between Soviet Ukrainian writers who are expected to be in the group and Ukrainian emigre writers, but even this would have to be done indirectly, via A/1 contacts not openly associated with the organization.

7. [ ] said he was satisfied with the arguments presented by the AECASSOWARIES against their taking the initiative to arrange such a meeting and that there was no intention on our part to force them to change their position. The following was reported to the undersigned after the departure of [ ] and [ ]

Platon STASIUK planned his trip to the Soviet Union with great secrecy, according to KLACHKO. He left Vienna for Kiev via AEROFLOT on 19 August and arrived there the same day. He was met at the airport by Mykhailo LEVISHCHENKO who helped him through customs and delivered him to the Hotel Dnipro where he lived during his entire stay in Kiev. There was an official reception for him on 24 August hosted by Yuri SMOLYCH and his wife. Myroslav SICHYNSKIY (who was in Kiev visiting from the United States) was present at the reception as were fnu MALYTSKIY, fnu MARTINETS and the daughter of fnu KOVALCHUK of Canada. It was originally planned for the Ukrainian Minister of Culture to receive STASIUK, but the latter asked that this not be done as he didn't want his visit to be given too much publicity. SMOLYCH reportedly asked STASIUK to convey to KLACHKO that he followed with great interest her articles and her speeches published in the emigre press about her visit to the Soviet Union and that he has high regard for her sticking so steadfastly to her own point of view while at the same time showing such great understanding of the situation in the Ukraine. LEVISHCHENKO told STASIUK that everything will be open to KLACHKO when she comes back to the Soviet Union, all her expenses will be taken care of in the Ukraine and she will be given the opportunity to talk with anyone she desires and travel wherever she wishes. STASIUK asked whether she would have an opportunity to talk to KHRUSHCHEV (as she reportedly was told she would during her first visit). The reply was, "We will be able to arrange this through our people in Moscow." LEVISHCHENKO said KLACHKO would be permitted to stay in the Soviet Union as long as she desires, even permanently!

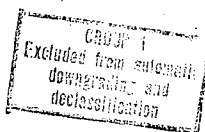
The specific reason for STASIUK's return to the Soviet Union this year was to return the soil which he had brought to the United States on his return from his first visit to the UKSSR. STASIUK brought some soil from Shevchenko's grave in Kaniv which he hoped would be placed under the Shevchenko monument in Washington, D. C. For various political reasons, the Washington Shevchenko Committee would not accept the soil - for example, STASIUK had a snapshot taken of himself

accepting the soil from a woman caretaker or someone to prove that he didn't just scoop it up in his back yard, but the committee felt this would indicate official acceptance from the Soviet Union and didn't want the Washington monument tied in with Soviet Ukrainians -- STASIUK's feelings were hurt. As a result, he wrote and published a pamphlet, at his own expense, on the subject of "Why I Brought the Soil" etc., which he distributed in the emigration. The Soviets naturally picked this up for use by the Committee for Cultural Exchanges with Compatriots Abroad. This time, LEVISHCHENKO and several other unnamed persons were present when STASIUK returned the ground in Kaniv, reportedly handing it to the same woman from whom he accepted it in the first place. Photographs were taken but, at STASIUK's request, there was no special ceremony. STASIUK signed a statement in which he exonerated the Ukrainian emigre community and placed the blame for this shameful act entirely on the Washington Shevchenko Committee. KLACHKO reportedly saw the text of the statement and feels it was written by LEVISHCHENKO. KLACHKO said STASIUK told her he had 86 copies made of the snapshot of himself returning the soil in Kaniv and he plans to mail them to Ukrainian emigres, probably along with the new brochure he is planning to publish on the subject, "Why I Returned the soil to Kaniv."

LEVISHCHENKO told STASIUK that he would be coming to the United States in September with a group of 15-20 "khudozhnyky" from Kiev, that they would visit Canada first and then the United States, stopping in New York and Washington, D. C. He said he was not certain whether or not Yuri SMOLYCH would be in the group but he thought he would be.

via STASIUK, LEVISHCHENKO sent a message to KLACHKO requesting her help in organizing a meeting for his group with the Ukrainian emigre press and with individuals active in the Ukrainian emigre cultural field and "even" in politics. STASIUK encouraged KLACHKO to lend her support to scheduling such a meeting, but said he personally was not well enough acquainted with the community and did not wish to become involved. According to STASIUK, LEVISHCHENKO should be in New York in advance of the group and could then tell her the names of the individuals expected with the group of 20.

STASIUK was told in Kiev that the monument of Shevchenko in Washington is similar to the one by E. M. Honchar in Kiev. Reportedly the Washington monument was copied from a picture postcard the Washington committee received from KLACHKO via Julian Revay in New York. Revay denies being given any such postal card.



While in Kiev, STASIUK who ran a butcher shop in New York for many years, asked to see a slaughter house. LEVISHCHENKO accompanied him to one in Kiev but they were denied entry. The reason given STASIUK by LEVISHCHENKO was that the slaughter house probably was in disorder.

STASIUK said he saw a lot of construction going on in Kiev and Darnitsia, in the suburbs, and that there had been much new construction since his last visit in late 1963. There was a new dock built on the river. STASIUK was told in Kiev (he didn't say by whom) that Mrs. Vera Kovbashnyuk Shumeyko is a very shrewd and cold individual. She tries to indoctrinate the groups of tourists she takes in to the Soviet Union. One of the groups she took in from the United States reportedly placed a wreath on Shevchenko's grave in Kaniv. This gesture was not appreciated by Soviet Ukrainians since the soil carried from Kaniv by STASIUK had been refused.

STASIUK left Kiev on 25 August via Amsterdam. LEVISHCHENKO again escorted him through customs. KLACHKO was visited by STASIUK on 28 August. On 31 August she received a telephone call from Reverend KRAYEVSKY asking her whether it was true that she was planning another trip to the Ukraine because he would like to travel with her if she goes.

9. The Reverend Vasyl' TYNDALO of Turino, Italy, has left for a trip to the Soviet Union. He is a Salisian father with a PhD in Agronomy. His PhD thesis was on the cultivation of wine grapes in the Soviet Union. A/29 expects his contact in Rome to talk to Father TYNDALO on his return to Italy.

10. Edmund LOPATOWSKI (648 - 10th Street, Brooklyn 15, New York. Telephone: SO 8-8408) recently visited A/2. He wanted the latter's help in organizing a group of anti-Communist Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Poles and Czechs for round table conferences and other meetings. A/2 did not commit himself. LOPATOWSKI was born in Poland about 1920. He lived in Poland during the German occupation, later emigrated to France, then to Brazil, and in 1956 to the United States. He sponsored the emigration of his fiancee from Poland. They have been married for two years and have one child. LOPATOWSKI speaks Russian and understands Ukrainian but does not speak it.

*no RI traces  
25 Sep 64*

*no deny  
in RI  
see traces  
attached*

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification