

Subject: Shchudlo ,Mykhailo (Michael) of Newark,N.J., and Winnipeg,Canada
Member of the Order of Redemptorist Fathers,
His trip to Soviet Union,early December 1964

Source : Dr Kl

Date : 5 Jan 1965

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SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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1. Subject visited Dr Kl at her home in New York City on 3 Jan 1965 together with Rev Wolodymyr KRAYEVSKYI of 661 High Street, Newark, N.J. Tel (201) MI 2-3410. Both made trips to Soviet Union in the past and from what they told Source could be inferred that they went on direct order of their superiors, Their mission was to learn about the situation in the Soviet Union, and particularly about the church matters. Subject had also such "requirements" as ,for instance, to ascertain how deep and strong was the national consciousness of Ukrainian people and their attitude to Russians in general.

2. Subject visited Soviet Union on his way from Australia early Dec 1964. He went by plane to Moscow, and from Moscow to Kiev. From Kiev to Lvov he took a train, and from Lvov to the West went again by plane. Altogether he spent 11 days in the Soviet Union, out of those 4 1/2 in Lvov.

3. In Kiev Subject met two Ukrainian young writers one of whom accompanied him later on his trip from Kiev to Lvov. Subject did not remember or perhaps did not want to tell their names. The one that was on the train stemmed from Lvov and both were employed with "Vilna Ukraina" of Lviv. The writer on the train told Subject the following:

The Nationalist Ukrainian Underground was liquidated only in 1950. Its leaders made many mistakes. The most harmful one was their policy directed against putting local people into Soviet administrative and party-organs. As a result of that policy Russian and other anti-Ukrainian element had occupied all responsible administrative and party positions and at the present it was not easy to "Ukrainize" them. But his generation is trying to improve things by all means and he is quite optimistic about the final outcome ,in favor of Ukrainians.

The writer visited Subject also at his hotel (Inturist) in Lvov but unfortunately Subject had forgotten about the appointment and they met only for xx a very short time.

The writer confirmed the news about the arson in the National Library in Kiev but commented it only with a remark " that there were many variants and versions as to how it had happened".

According to the Writer changes that took place after Stalin's death were genuine and deep but unfortunately people still did not get rid of previous terror-complex. Deportations and arbitrary arrests passed definitely by but people were still afraid of them. The KGB does not apply terror but persuasion. Political deviations and anti-regime activities are not rooted out by terror but by persuasion. Usually KGB calls one or the other to their office and try to convince him that he was wrong. It's quite effective ,too.

4. From Redemptorists in Lviv and other people he met there Subject knew the following:

a/ KOSYGIN is in the center of population's attention and not BREZHNEV. The former is being regarded as a good man , good administrator and specialist, little interested in party-political affairs and more in economic problems. Therefore they expect from him further improvement of economic life and ^{higher} living standard.

BREZHNEV is less known and "smells too much after party".

b/ In 1963/1964 at Lviv Politechnical Institute was organized unofficially or rather clandestinely a Committee for Defence of Ukrainian Language. Its membership consisted of professors, lecturers and students. Sep/Oct 1964 the KGB got interested "actively" in the Committee and took action against it. Several students and professors were arrested, some were transferred to other universities, and some expelled altogether. The Committee organized overt and clandestine "actions" against the use of Russian as lecturing language and against Russification in general.

c/ In 1964 there increased in West Ukraine the trend among former Catholic priests who had converted to Orthodoxy, to resign from their posts and "quietly " return to Catholicism. In Source's opinion (and also of his friends in Ukraine) this was caused by such events as ~~breaking~~ recent developments in relations between Moscow and the Vatican, release of Cardinal Slipyi, rumors about an eventual renewal of Catholic Church in West Ukraine. Also an increased hatred against orthodox priests who recently used to preach in churches not to bring young people and

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children to church and not to come to confessions. In brief, following instructions of authorities, priests were more or less involved in anti-religious activities and the population took it very badly.

d/ Subject wanted to read mass in Polish Cathedral in Lviv and asked his Polish colleague for permission. The latter refused however explaining that this might lead to a closure of the Cathedral. At Easter 1964 there were so many Ukrainians in the Cathedral who came with Easter-bread to be blessed, that the authorities decided to revenge with a closure of the Cathedral. For 3 months it was closed and only after many petitions and delegations to Moscow it was re-opened again.

e/ One cannot live in the Soviet Union without stealing. Everybody does it but only about 5% gets caught. In 1963 a Director of a huge factory in Lviv shot himself after the KGB had discovered some of his manipulations.

f/ There is no doubt among population that the arson in the National Library in Kiev in May 1964 was organized by Soviet authorities and was directed against Ukrainians. According to eye-witnesses during the fire the more water was poured on books the stronger they burnt and exploded. Among destroyed books and materials were also some very important archives of Lviv Metropolia.

g/ In Lviv Subject was told about a Conference on Culture of Ukrainian Language which took place in 1963 in Kiev. It was generally considered as an important manifestation of Ukrainian patriotism. It started in Russian but after one or two speakers someone raised the question whether it was not shameful that a conference on Ukrainian language was being conducted in Russian. Afterwards the conference turned into a very patriotic affair and adopted resolutions aimed at full Ukrainization. SHELEST and PODGORNYY should have received the resolutions and in general were not against them. Because of that PODGORNYY "was taken away from Kiev to Moscow where he could not do much to implement those resolutions".

5. Subject visited also his father in a village near Lviv. The village is a new one with about 33% of recently built houses mainly for parcels received from the West. The life seemed to be too bad there but according to what he had heard about other villages the life in the countryside was really miserable.

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6. Subject was quite impressed by the strength of religious feelings in Ukraine, and particularly in West Ukraine. As an example he mentioned a young educated girl he met in Lviv who refused to eat meat on Friday in a restaurant explaining afterwards to him that as a Catholic she observed the fast.

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