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SUBJECT REDWOOD AERODYNAMIC Burning of Library of Ukrainian Academy of Sciences																																																																			
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REFERENCES : A. OELW-21767 B. OELA-42366																																																																			
<p>1. We understand LCBEFORE's obligation to observe a policy decision. However, it is disappointing that the information contained in the document forwarded with Reference A was considered by them to be insufficient to merit publication. In the event LCPIPIT decides it can give the information some press coverage, some additional information which will answer questions posed in Reference B is given below. LCPIPIT's surfacing asset need not necessarily be identified as one of KUBARK's since information appearing in the document has been sent to UNESCO by AECASSOWARY/2 who also plans to surface the original document in an AECASSOWARY February publication. Mention about the fire having taken place has also been made in at least two emigre newspapers, the information having come to them from recent Soviet Ukrainian tourists and from an AECASSOWARY/1 press release.</p> <p>2. AECASSOWARY/2 and his colleagues have searched the Soviet press very carefully to learn what they could about circumstances of the fire. Following is all they found. The blaze broke out in the early hours of 24 May 1964. Only four days later, on 28 May, was there any mention of it in the Soviet press, in a small item on the last page of RADYANS'KA KUL'TURA which stated that a fire broke out on May 24, 1964, in the National Library of the Academy of Sciences UkSSR. "Thanks to the tireless action of the Kiev fire department the fire was localized and extinguished. According to authorities of the Academy of Sciences, the entire manuscript department and card index were intact, and the basic book departments suffered little damage and can be</p>																																																																			
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restored from duplicate reserves. An official commission was appointed to investigate the cause of the fire and to take measures to rebuild the Library."

On 29 May 1964, VECHERNAYA MOSKVA, in its dispatch from Kiev, wrote that approximately 10 percent of the Library's possessions were destroyed by the fire. Among these were documents and other archival materials pertaining to the period 1918-1930. The same correspondence from Kiev mentioned "a mentally disturbed female employee of the Library" as the arsonist.

LITERATURNAYA GAZETA on 4 July 1964 printed a report from its Kiev correspondent which said that according to the chief of the Foreign Department of the Library, K. D. Bakulin, the fire had done no damage to his department and that the exchange of publications with foreign countries would continue as usual.

3. The foregoing is about all that has appeared in the Soviet press about the fire to date. Although it is known from the document received and from a Western tourist who was in Kiev at the time that the trial took place in late August, three months after the fire, in a small people's court on Volodarska Street in Kiev, there has been no mention in the Soviet press about the trial, at least not in any of the publications permitted to get to the West. It is known from the sources already mentioned that the defendant was a man named POGRUZHASKYY and not a female as reported by VECHERNAYA MOSKVA in May 1964. It is not known whether POGRUZHASKYY is serving the ten years' sentence imposed. Recent Soviet Ukrainian tourists ("cultural leaders") in the West claimed ignorance about the trial or the name of the defendant, although they did confirm the incident of the fire, and they did say the individual responsible was a male, an irresponsible WWII mental casualty.

4. We fail to understand what LCBEFORE means by "un-Russian" activity. However, other documents have recently been made available, which we are not at liberty to surface at the present time, which reveal at least one other incident appearing to be aimed at the destruction of national culture.



