

SECRET

23 February 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: SR/RR

SUBJECT : Information of Possible Interest for
Dissemination from Project AERODYNAMIC

SOURCE : A Roman Catholic Priest of the Byzantine
Rite (U. S. citizen) via a U. S. citizen
of Ukrainian birth. The Priest visited
in the Soviet Union in December 1964.

1. In early 1964 a clandestine Committee for the Preservation of the Ukrainian Language was organized at the Lvov Politechnic Institute for the purpose of organizing protests against the use of Russian as the language of instruction in Ukrainian educational institutions. Both students and professors of the Institute were involved. The KGB became actively interested in the Committee in about October 1964, and as a result, several of the students and professors were arrested, some were transferred to other universities and others expelled.

2. The concensus among local Ukrainians in Kiev was that the fire in the library of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in May 1964 was planned by Soviet authorities and directed against Ukrainian national culture. According to eye-witnesses, the books exploded and burned even more rapidly as water finally was poured on the fire, the implication being that chemicals had been inserted between the books. The police stood by without taking any action against the older women who had gathered to watch the fire and shouted, "Dogs, you have done what even the Nazi refrained from doing, you have burned our books. You Dogs."

3. A Conference on the Culture of the Ukrainian Language took place in Kiev in 1963 which was generally considered an important manifestation of Ukrainian national patriotism. Resolutions aimed at complete Ukrainianization were adopted providing for the use of Ukrainian as the official language of instruction in Ukrainian institutions and as the official language in administrative offices in the Ukraine. It was rumored that copies of the resolutions were sent to both SHELEST and PODGORNYY who "were not against them." PODGORNYY reportedly was removed as a result from Kiev to Moscow where he would be less apt to take any action toward implementing the resolutions. (c/o note: Although Soviet tourists confirmed that the Conference did take place, the only mention made about the conference in the press was in a Ukrainian-language newspaper published in Poland.)

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4. Please contact [] on extension 7168 if you have any questions regarding the above information. For purposes of dissemination, the source may be described as a United States citizen, Phd involved in research on the Soviet Union at a Western university, probably reliable source, from a Western citizen, a Catholic priest, an untested source.

[Chief, SR/CA]

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