

SECRET

24 February 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Contact with AECASSOWARY/2 and 29/ in Washington,
16 February 1965

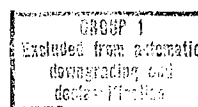
The contact was scheduled for Washington because [] CSR/CA expressed a desire to be present at my next meeting with Subjects to talk about recent contacts with the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs (L. PALAMARCHUK) and other contacts.

1. [] was planning to join us later in the morning so I suggested we postpone talking about the contacts until his arrival. A/29 was asked to identify several sources of contact reports recently mailed to me. He seemed reluctant to identify Vira WOWK as the source of the report on Yuriy ZBANATSKY, Soviet writer, but I could not determine the reason. WOWK, a young Ukrainian emigre poet who lives in Brazil, is presently taking a course in Comparative Literature at Columbia University. She will be returning to Brazil to teach at the Catholic University where she has been teaching German. She is a member of the Pen Club in Brazil, and it was at a reception of the Pen Club in New York where she had contact with ZBANATSKY. WOWK was not impressed by ZBANATSKY. She described him as a simple literary apparatchik with no deep feeling for literature or art. A separate report, dated 2 February, on her contact with him is in her [] file. A/29 hopes to utilize WOWK in contact operations in South America. She is good for contacts with literary types. Among other works, WOWK has authored a Ukrainian-language anthology of Portuguese and Brazilian poets recently published by Prolog.

2. The KICHKO book finally has gone to the printers. A/29 said he "hoped" it would be off the press and ready for distribution by the first of March.

3. It was recommended to A/2 that whatever long trips they had in mind should be undertaken in the near future so that the expenses would not have to be charged to the FY-66 contact operations allotment. Money for such travel is available in the FY-65 budget. A/2 said he has written to Australia informing his people to expect him there in late March or April. A/29 is planning to travel to South America to coincide with the visit of Pavel VIRSKY's ballet which it is rumored will

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appear there this spring. Details will be discussed when more information is available. A/29 is scheduled for naturalization in March which will eliminate many problems insofar as foreign travel is concerned.

4. A/6 travelled to Paris in November where he had contact with several members of VIRSKY's Soviet Ukrainian ballet. Details are in a report dated 10 February. An employee of the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture, Anatoli Ivanovich SHCHYRBA, who was with the group in Paris and who had contact with A/6 obviously was well acquainted with Prolog publications. After having been given copies of two books by KOSHELIVETS and copies of VYVID PRAV UKRAINY (Derivations of the Rights of the Ukraine) and Metropolitan ANDREI (a biography on Metropolitan SHYPTYTSKY by Rev. Ivan HRYNIOKH, SHCHYRBA requested A/6 to mail to him copies of a book about DOVZHENKO published in Canada, and LEHKOSYNYA DAL'. He also recommended that copies of books published in the West which contain the works of Soviet Ukrainian writers be mailed to the authors in the Ukraine. It is becoming quite normal to hear about AECASSOWARY publications from Soviet Ukrainians visiting in the West, which leads one to feel that not only is the literature which is mailed and hand distributed to visitors getting to the Soviet Union but also that it is being scrutinized officially. A typical comment is -- we like what you are doing but, and here is the Party line, don't restrict yourselves to criticism. Present the truth. The Progressives have the right picture. Get on the bandwagon.

5. A new subject brought up by A/2 was a recent contact with representatives of an alleged underground group in Kiev. This discussion was repeated for the benefit of [] when he joined the meeting. Dmytro GERYCH of Winnipeg visited his family in KNISELO, near LVOV, from July to September 1964. While there he was told by an old (since 1920) acquaintance of his, Mykola HORYN, that his son (Bohdan) would like to talk to him and that he would visit him in the near future. One evening shortly thereafter GERYCH was visited (in his daughter's home where he was staying in KNISELO) by three men only one of whom introduced himself (as Bohdan HORYN). The contact took place in a darkened room so that he could not see their faces. The men identified themselves as representatives of an underground group from Kiev (He said their accents were Eastern) and asked him to convey a message to the Ukrainian emigration in the

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West. There were ten separate recommendations and requests dictated which GERYCH noted in writing. A small flashlight was held under the table while he made his notes. GERYCH passed along two more suggestions which he had not written down with the other ten. (See GERYCH file for details).

A/2 knew Mykola HORYN in the Ukraine. Mykola was a member of the Ukrainian underground. His wife is a distant relative of A/2's sister (sic). Bohdan HORYN has authored articles in the Soviet Ukrainian publication ZHOVTEN'. SYMONENKO, in his diary which appears in the January issue of SUCHASNIST, mentioned that he considered himself lucky to have met B.H. (believed to be Bohdan HORYN). In a letter to A/2's sister in 1959, Bohdan's mother mentioned that she had three sons, one of which was Bohdan. She also mentioned that A/2's father had been in KHODORIV to pick up a parcel mailed by A/2's sister. (GERYCH visited A/2's father three times during his visit in the Ukraine. A/2's father said he had been beaten by the Soviets but he refused to betray A/2.) One of Bohdan's maternal aunts was a prisoner in Siberia. Bohdan's name was mentioned to Roxanne SMYSHKEVYCH as being a "good Ukrainian." She visited the museum in which he reportedly is employed, but although she spoke to several individuals there, she does not know whether Bohdan was one of them.

As for GERYCH, he is about 62 years of age. He was in the Ukrainian Army in 1923-24. His wife, who suffers with Parkinson's disease, is still living in KNISELO with her two daughters. GERYCH left his family in the Ukraine about 1928 or 1930 and emigrated to Canada. He has a common law wife in Canada. His daughters are aware of this. GERYCH is a licensed Notary Public. He is a member of the Canadian army and is active in Ukrainian nationalist organizations. In 1963 he was operated on for cancer on one side of his head.

The contact with GERYCH lasted about an hour. Bohdan and his colleagues were well informed about emigre activities, according to GERYCH. They mentioned A/2's name and said they were acquainted with his activities. GERYCH was told by Bohdan that there were vicious rumors being spread to the effect that A/2 was visiting in Moscow as a legal tourist. (Similar rumors were heard in the New York area when the group of Soviet Ukrainian tourists were in the United States and Canada.) Bohdan and his colleagues requested technical aid to help them disseminate propaganda literature among Soviet Ukrainians. They were quite critical of certain emigre politics and of Voice of America broadcasts. They commented that the VOA must be infiltrated by Russian imperialists and Communist agents. (See GERYCH file for details of their requests and recommendations.)

6. When Roxanne SMYSHKEVYCH returned from her tour of duty in the Soviet Union she was debriefed in Vienna by A/26 who went there to meet her before she took off on a vacation trip abroad. It appears that several parcels which she mailed from the Soviet Union containing books and documents have not yet been received. One of the parcels in which she said certain documents were mailed along with a necklace or some beads was received minus the documents. The U. S. Naval Attache in Moscow showed some interest in Roxanne and A/2 thought perhaps he may have learned about the parcels she mailed and intercepted them. A/2 also reported the following and asked whether "PERRY" may have had something to do with interception of mail from Moscow:

PERRY (believed to be a surname), Vice Director of the Technical Books Exhibit, was a Polish citizen employed in a clerical capacity in the American Embassy in Poland prior to 1950. He was approached by the UB who asked him to spy on the Americans. He refused and managed to escape to Munich in 1950. He now is employed by USIA. PERRY was in the Soviet Union with the Technical Books Exhibit in 1963. He and Roxanne have been friends since then.'

One day at the exhibit in Kiev (this trip) a Russian-speaking woman approached Roxanne and asked her whether she found the document she had left in one of the books. Roxanne knew nothing about the document and later learned that PERRY had picked it up and kept it without telling her about it.

When Roxanne received the last parcel from A/2 in Moscow she tried to get one of the exhibit employees to accompany her to Lvov to deliver the drugs which were in the parcel. No one was willing to go. She finally asked PERRY who travelled with her to Lvov where they visited with her relatives. She was told by friends in Lvov to leave the Soviet Union as soon as possible as she and PERRY were being closely watched by KGB officers from Kiev because PERRY is an American agent.

The director of the U. S. books exhibit told Roxanne he had some Ukrainian poetry which had been found between some of the books but that the poetry was considered not very good and was anti-regime. She asked him not to destroy it but to send it to the Washington office. A/2 hoped it would find its way into our hands.

The wife of Ivan DRACH told Roxanne she gave some tape recordings to a Virginia BENNET of Kingston, New Jersey, who

visited in Kiev in the past year. According to DRACH's wife, Virginia BENNET visits the Soviet Union annually. She reportedly uses an artificial leg as a concealment device. BENNET was to have delivered the material from DRACH to a man in Paris who reportedly is an acquaintance of A/30 who has made no mention of the material.

7. Information received from Roxanne and other travellers during the past two years would seem to indicate that there are three categories of underground movements in the UkSSR; i.e., (a) former political prisoners, (b) literary types, and (c) military personnel. The⁷the present time A/2 is mainly concerned with the writers and feels an effort should be made to lend them some support, at least in the form of financial aid and literature. The writers asked for help in obtaining a hand printing press and tape recorders. These, according to them, could be purchased in Armenia. The writers asked for help in securing rubles which are not sold in the West. Roxanne was told that Odessa and the Crimea were the best areas for effecting contacts because of the great influx of tourists there. The writers said now is the time for sending political material to the UkSSR. They requested bibliographies and as many books as possible. They feel they have about 2 years in which to indoctrinate the youth in Ukrainian nationalist politics before the political atmosphere tightens up again. People are not as afraid as they were a couple of years ago and the youth is becoming more interested in Ukrainian politics.

8. Roxanne will have to be debriefed in greater detail when she returns from her vacation abroad for more details. Following are some of the things she mentioned to A/26 when he talked with her in Vienna immediately upon her return from the Soviet Union.

a. She noticed considerable change in the Ukraine since her first visit in 1963. Ukrainians, particularly the youth, are more nationalist minded.

b. The Donbass which is the most Russified area in the Ukraine has produced the most nationalist minded literary types.

c. She was told about a clandestine meeting of 370 young Ukrainians in December 1964 to discuss Ukraine's status in the USSR.

d. She was told in Lvov that three underground leaders of the OUN are still living and are in Dnepropetrovsk: Mykhaylo STEPANYAK, Vasyl' KUK and DUZHEY. KUK reportedly is working for

the KGB as a special consultant on nationalist activities. Roxanne probably has more details which she will be asked about on her return to the United States.

e. Preparations for KHRUSHCHEV's removal were being made as early as March of last year. MALINOVSKY reportedly was called by the clique now in power and asked to take a stand against KHRUSHCHEV. He agreed only after he was told that SEMICHASNY was collaborating with them. The same tactics reportedly were used against SEMICHASNY. Roxanne heard that KHRUSHCHEV requested permission to live in the Ukraine but the request was turned down by SHELEST.

f. PODGORNYY reportedly was in frequent contact with Maksym RYL'SKY before the latter died and sought his advice in all matters.

g. BREZHNEV did not attend Marshal MERIONOV's funeral. It is said that his death was not an accident.

9. Roxanne called on Mikhavlo LEVISHCHENKO in Kiev to discuss with him the possibility of obtaining a Soviet Ukrainian movie film for showing in the West. She was warned by acquaintances in Lvov that he is a KGB official but it was agreed by her friends there that it might be a good idea for her to pay her respects to him to substantiate her general interest in Soviet Ukrainians.

10. A/2 reported that the husband of Zina GENYK-BEREZOVSKA, vul. Prachnerova 12, Kosire, Prague, Tel: 52-31073, is reportedly maintaining contact with Ukrainians in the UkSSR. In checking the name out with [redacted] the following additional information is available. Constantine GENYK-BEREZOVSKY was one of the best friends of Orest ZIELINSKY of Prague who is known to both [redacted] and to A/2. Constantine had two brothers who were murdered by the Bolsheviks. Two or 3 other brothers emigrated to the West and were in correspondence with him during the time [redacted] was in Prague. One of them committed suicide about 6 years ago. Constantine was imprisoned by the Germans in Buchenwald for several years where he suffered beatings and a broken nose. There were many Czechs in the prison with Constantine, many of them Communists, whom Constantine grew to dislike intensely. He considered all Czechs extremely materialistic and he enjoyed proving this point to [redacted]. He always carried a pocket full of small change which he offered in small tips to any Czech who performed any kind of service in restaurants and public buildings in return for which they would bow prof[erentially] to him. Constantine

lived in Prague on a pension paid by the Czech Government when he was released from prison and studied medicine. He is now an M.D. A/2 will pursue this lead for further information.

[SR/CA]

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
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declassification