

Re: \*KOSTIUCHENKO, Victor Andreevich

Source: Be.../57

Date: 30 July 1965 in Caracas

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

Source and source's friend B. were introduced to subject by VINSKY, <sup>travel</sup> in latter's room in the hotel El Comae. Subject joined source and B. for a drink after VINSKY retired.

KOSTIUCHENKO, Victor Andreevich; nationality Ukrainian, born in Kiev, 1929. Is married. 6'0", 170 lbs. black hair, combed back, wears sunglasses, dark complexion well built. Subject is usually quiet, and soft spoken, but on occasion will attack Ukrainian nationalism, usually in the presence of others. Subject is friendly, and has a good sense of humor. At present subject said that he is employed by the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture, and has been with the ministry for 2 years.

In the restaurant source gave subject a copy of SUCHASNIET #1/65. Subject thanked source, and said that he had read it in Argentina, where he received a copy of it from HALAYCZUK, praising HALAYCZUK at the same time by saying that he is a very intelligent man. Source asked subject's appraisal of Symonenko's poetry and diary. Subject said that he was a personal friend of Symonenko's, went to school with him, and was his very good buddy. Subject said that the ensemble had brought with it to South America copies of his book, but that they were all gone. Subject praised Symonenko as a writer, adding that he is currently very popular in Ukraine.

Source asked about other young poets in Ukraine, and if the publishing of Symonenko will harm them in any way. Subject rejected this, saying that young poets will still continue to publish, and that there will be no repressions. Repressions he said, went out with Stalin. Source did not agree, pointing out the fact that HOROKA, the artist was expelled from the association of artists of Ukraine for her stained glass window in the Kiev University, which was destroyed. Subject did not argue this, but said that he was a personal friend of HOROKA, and that at present she was working in Kiev. The stained glass window was destroyed by incompetent people, with the inscription being the sore point of the whole matter, added subject. The inscription was ~~too~~ too nationalistic. When asked if <sup>he</sup> had seen the window, subject said that he ~~did~~ not.

B. asked subject about the fire in the Kiev public library, and how are the lost volumes going to be replaced. Subject answered that there were efforts being made now to replace some volumes, but that the older manuscripts will be difficult to duplicate. Subject said that he had heard from Ukrainian emigrants that the fire was a deliberate arson on the part of the government, but he could not believe this. Source replied that the facts show differently, asking subject the following:

Why was the matter ~~raised~~<sup>hushed</sup> up by the Ukrainian press? Why was there no mention of the trial of POHNYZALSKI in any of the main newspapers? After the fire, the newspaper Radzanska Kultura printed a short notice saying that a commission has been appointed to obtain facts about the fire and report to the people, where is the report of that commission? Eyewitnesses saw magazines lying in the library, why was there no mention of that at the trial? Subject did not comment, but said that ~~subject~~<sup>SOURCE</sup> was very well informed.

Source then asked subject about the status of the Ukraine as a nation. Where is it represented on the international arena? Subject proudly replied that Ukraine is one of the founders of the U.N. Source asked "So what", and does subject think that being a member of the U.N. is sufficient for a nation of 44 million people. Source went on by comparing Ghana, a nation which is basically very primitive in relation to the Ukraine, which has a population of maybe 10 million people, yet Ghana is a member of the U.N., and has diplomatic relations with at least 60 other nations. Why, asked source, cannot Ukraine have such relations with even fraternal communist countries? It is written in the constitution of the Ukrainian SSR that this is permissible. Subject said that source is right, but at the present time, such relations are not feasible. Source then attacked PALANAKOZUK, the Ukrainian minister of foreign affairs saying that how can a minister of foreign affairs of any country say that his country does not need diplomatic relations with other countries. Subject did not counter, and B. joined the attack, pointing to the fact that Ukraine does not even have a cultural mission. Subject agreed that such representation would be helpful for Ukraine, in such matters as the Kiev ensemble, and helping to arrange their tours. But subject said that he never stopped to consider these matters, adding that he will talk with his friends about them when he returns to Kiev.

Subject said that he had to leave, and join the ensemble at Aula magna for the evenings performance. Source and B. invited him to join them, for they were taking a taxi to the performance. Subject agreed and they left.