

Ukrainian Student Groups

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In the post Stalin period, particularly in late fifties and early sixties, there was a remarkable revival of student activities with a distinct political tinge. At schools and universities, mainly in KIEV and LVIV, there existed various secret and semi-secret groups at whose meetings used to be read and discussed not only "forbidden poetry", modern art and modern literature, but also historical and political, internal and international topics. Sometimes also an illegal leaflet or booklet was printed and distributed clandestinely and "among friends". Some of those involved were discovered and punished usually by expulsion from the University or school, often with complete deprivation of studying opportunities.

One of those "involved" was also son of Ukrainian writer VILDE Irena of Lviv. As it was confirmed by the latter herself, only after many appeals and other "efforts" she succeeded in re-admitting her son to Lviv University.

The above informations were brought by various sources but mainly by two elderly ladies, residents of Lviv, who emigrated to Scandinavia in Dec 1960 and Dec 1962, respectively. And also by another resident of Lviv who was on his way to Australia in May 1964 in this country; The latter was also personally contacted by two students prior to her departure and given some messages to be conveyed to "Abroad".

Those Sources as well as others confirmed also that students at Lviv University organized protests and demonstrations against Russian as the language of instruction at Lviv universities. On the whole, activities of student groups are not limited to their "internal sessions" usually arranged under cover of social gatherings and parties but there is a strong tendency to spread their influence "on the outside". For that purpose they often use some official pretexts and organizations or establish specific ones. Thus, Lviv groups used quite successfully ^{the} officially organized Shevchenko and other celebrations to turn them into patriotic Ukrainian demonstrations in 1962, 1963 and 1964. Again, the Kiev groups concentrated their activities mainly ^{around} the Club of Creative Youth "The ^{Ukr} Temporary" (Suchasnyk) which was evidently established as a rival organization to local Komsomol. Though the leadership of The Contemporary consisted mainly of young critics, poets, writers, and artists, the bulk of membership constituted the studentry. The leadership and their following used this organization quite effectively for increasing their influences not only among the youth but also among "citizenry" in general. They were the sponsors of Lesia Ukrainka celebration of July 31, 1964 in Kiev which turned into a turbulent

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anti-regime demonstration in a Kiev park and nearby streets. Again, its main participants were students. This information, beside other sources, was also confirmed by Ivan DZIUBA in his "Explanatory Notes" on those events, addressed to the Union of Ukrainian Writers in Kiev.

Students were also the main factor in other similar demonstrations, as for instance, during Shevchenko demonstration in Kiev on May 24, 1964. Incidentally, the confirmation of those events was stated in the Document on ~~Re~~ Pogruzhalskyi's Trial..

According to above mentioned and other sources of ours, students were quite helpful in other cities in organizing Literary Ukrainian Evenings for young people and "citizenry", at which young poets and writers ^{from Kiev and Lviv} could read their works.

According to one of our Sources from France who visited Moscow and Leningrad as an Exchange student in Nov and Dec 1964, there is "a togetherness" of Ukrainian students in both places and they maintain quite a strong contact with their colleagues in Kiev and Lviv. The same was confirmed by our sources from Ukraine.

There were also reports on participation of students in some illegal terroristic organization called "Club of Ukrainian Terrorists" (KUT), and illegal political organization called UNAS (Ukrainian National Union).

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