

SECRET

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SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Meeting with Yuri L. Kochubey
Date: 29 Oct. 1955
Source: *Accession 56*

Davin learned that on the above date Petr Ironko presented Sec.-Gen. U Tant with a Chevchenko medal at the U.N. (see appendix A), he called the UkSSR Mission from the UN press room. The conversation went like this:

Woman's voice: "Ukrainian Mission"

R: (in Ukrainian): "Give me Yuri Mykolayovych Kochubey, please."

WV: "He's not in". (Also in Ukrainian)

R: "Well, do you know whether he's at the UN?"

WV: "Who's calling?"

R gave his name.

WV: "Just a minute."

A pause of about 30 seconds, followed by a man's voice, which said "hello".

R: "Yuri Mykolayovych?"

WV: "Yes".

R identified himself and said he just learned that U Tant was presented with a Ch. medal. Said he'd like to get the text of Ironko's speech, and asked whether Kochubey has it.

R: "Yes, I do."

R: "When can I get it?"

R: "Where are you now?"

R: "At the U.N. Are you going to be here today?"

R: "No, I won't."

R: "Does anyone else at the UN have the text?"

R: "No ... no, they don't have it, only I have it. But why do you need it."

R: "I told you, I'm a correspondent. I'd like to write about it."

R: "Yes. But are there no press releases about it at the UN?"

R: "There are, and I have them, but I'd like to get the text of the whole speech. This is a very important event."

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K: "Yes, yes, very important."

K: "If you're going to be at the office for a while, I could pick it up on my way to town."

K: You would come here? K: "Yes". R: "Sure!"

K: "Well, you're on 67th St. So I could be there in 15-20 minutes."

K: "That would be about 4:45?" R: "Yes". K: "Very well, I'll be waiting for you downstairs." and ~~is~~^{is} hung up.

About 4:42 K arrived at 135 East 76th St. Typical new-type apartment building on the east side, between Lexington and Third. Two New York policemen are ~~at~~ on the sidewalk in front. In the main door, it ~~was~~ is locked, but in a few seconds the buzzer sounds, unlocking it. K enters (see Appendix B), turns right, and approaches man at the reception desk.

K: "I'm here to see Yuri Lykolayovych Kochubey" (in Ukrainian).

Receptionist: "Soviet mission". (in English).

K: "I know. I'd like to see Yuri Lykolayovych Kochubey."

Receptionist: (in Russian) "He's not in."

K: (in Ukrainian) "Listen, I just talked to him, and he's expecting me."

Recep.: "Oh, yes, yes, I know him. Yuri Nikalayevich, Yuri Nikalayevich. (He looks for the name on a list with phone numbers, finds the name, and dials the phone with the white trim."

Recep.: (in Russian) Yuri Nikalayevich? Zhara This is Nikalay, at the duty desk. There's a citizen here, who says you are expecting him."

The receptionist is a man of about 32, dark hair, mediocre dress, his manner of speech is that of a practical joker, or a soccer-player-turned-embassy-clerk. He ~~is~~^{is} would be down in a moment, and asks K to take a seat..

Meanwhile various employees arrive at the building. Each time the receptionist pushes the buzzer at his desk to open the main door. Some employees leave for the day. Among them is one older woman, dressed like a cleaning woman. All greet each other in Russian.

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After about 5 minutes nochubey comes down in the elevator. He holds the tape on in his hand. (see appendix C). He is ill at ease, but smiling. Asks the physician whether the door to the left of the main entrance is open, and then asks R to go in there with him.

R explains that the text was just typed, and he's not even sure whether there are no errors. Reads this carefully, and makes a couple of corrections with his Parker "61" pen. Then hands the speech to R.

R mentions their mutual acquaintance Korotych.

R: "Who?"

R: "Korotych. He wrote me that he met you recently in Kiev."

R: "Yes, I was in Kiev last summer."

R: "Well, he wrote me, and asked me to ~~write you~~ greet you. So, I greet you now, from Korotych."

R: "Oh, thank you very much."

R: "He was in Canada this year, and I saw him there. And I just read part of his observations about the trip in 'Ranok'".

R: "He wrote about it in 'Ranok'?"

R: "Yes, two chapters of his book on Canada appeared in 'Ranok'".

R: "They really let him have it in a newspaper."

R: "Which newspaper?"

R: "Homin?"

R: "Oh, I know, but they follow that line. There were other papers too. For instance, did you see what 'Canadian Farmer' wrote about him?"

R: "No, no, (emphatically), I have never read that newspaper."

About this time, R was becoming more at ease. He also mentioned that other papers keep writing dirty things about the Ukrainian case, etc.

R: "Well, when we're on that subject, can you tell me who will replace Yuka Khochyeh Salasarchuk?"

R: "No, I don't know. No one knows, but the things they write! As if when there is no minister, there can be no ministry."

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R: "I know all that. Well, it would be nice to have a minister by now. Perhaps you are a candidate? By the way, I must congratulate you -- you have advanced from second secretary to first."

R: "Yes, thank you. But really, I can tell you this -- it is not for publication -- but no one knows for sure who the new minister will be. You know, there are changes being made. We are all waiting to see who it will be."

R said he realizes that there may be times when a country has no foreign minister for a time, and cited Canadian example under Diefenbaker, when he first took office.

R: "Yes. And they write such nonsense. Not every country is represented at the General Assembly by its foreign minister, only a few. Why only the other day I noticed one country, which is headed at the UN by its health minister. And they write that Ukraine could only send Bronko. Why, Bronko is deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers. He was even higher than Malenarchuk."

R: "By the way, how is Luka Khomych? Is he in Morocco yet, or still in Kiev?"

R: "He should be in Morocco. He was supposed to leave in September."

R: "And how is Bronko in your boss? I understand he is a professor?"

R: "You, I believe he is a historian. And as for what he taught -- it was Marxism I suppose. He was not teaching when I was at the university, but the other boys told me that they had him."

R: "I thought someone told me that he was is an archeologist."

R: "No, no, he's a historian." Then it turned once again to what "Svobodny" writes. He said they don't know what the customs are, but still write, and some dyad'ko reads about it and believes it."

R: "Okay, but you know I have heard, right here in New York, that the removal of Malenarchuk might mean the

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end of the Ukrainian foreign ministry."

K: "Of course not. The ministry will be there."

R: "Still it would be nice to have a minister, and soon, so people don't suspect things."

A: "Yes."

R: "Say, is there anyone from RATAU here in New York for the UN session?"

K: "No, this year there is no one. Yes there was someone before, but this year there is no one from RATAU."

R: "Because I have a complaint to make to you. There has been very little in the press about the doings of the Ukrainian delegates. All I saw, was Ironko's speech to the Assembly in 'Radyanska Ukraina! There should be more, and if you had someone..."

K: "You're quite right. In fact Ironko said recently that we should have brought somebody, some journalist. We just don't have the time to do it ourselves. How can I do it, if I have so many other things to do. And if I don't do it right away, then you know very well, it's old stuff, and no good for the newspapers. But there were more items."

R: "Where?"

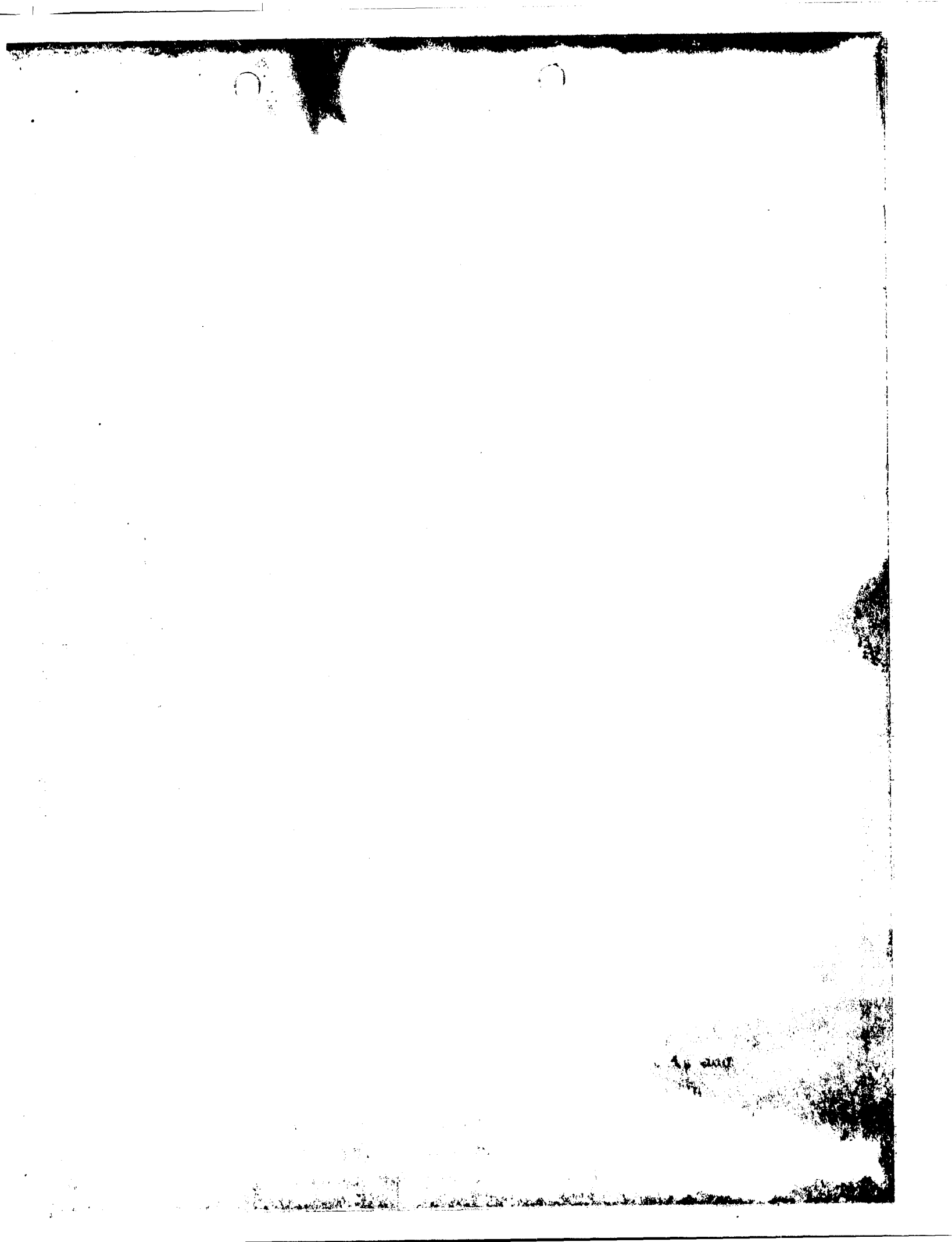
A: "In 'Pravda Ukrainy' and in 'Radyanska Ukraina' on the 16th of October and on the 21st about the speech Ironko made in first Committee on the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and about the reception he gave for representatives of the socialist countries."

R: "I'll have to look them up. But you must agree, that's not enough."

A: "Yes, I agree. We should have brought somebody along."

About this point in the conversation K once again turned to the emigre press. He said, "And you know, at one time they dragged me through the coals. What they did not write about me!"

K replied that he remembers it very well, laughed about it and said "You should not worry about that. You know what an American Senator once told a reporter -- 'You can write anything you want about me, but make sure you spell my name right.' It's good for publicity; it makes you famous. You should be happy about the whole



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When the time was a little after five, and more staff workers were leaving, K said perhaps he should leave, because K probably has work to do, but A said "No, it's just the women who are leaving for the day, we can talk yet." A few minutes later K again asked R not to hurry. Finally about 5:20 PM R got up to leave.

In the lobby R said he would be interested in hearing ahead of time of any news item such as the one with the medal, and asked K to let him know about it. K agreed and said:

"You should come in and visit us some time. We show films occasionally and..."

"Well, the only film I'm really interested in seeing is 'Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors', because I've heard so much about it," said R.

"Yes, I would very much like to see it too. I did not get a chance to see it in Kiev, but they promised us they would send it here. We should have it soon. It was made as a wide screen picture, and they had to make special copies for small audience showings. Yes, I'm anxious to see it."

K led R to the main door, and said: "When you write something about this (the medal presentation) send us a clipping."

R: "But don't you get the New Pathway here?"

K: "No".

R: "Well, you should. But okay, I'll send the clipping."

And they parted.

Appendix A

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Press Release SG/1673
29 October 1965

SECRETARY-GENERAL RECEIVES SHEVCHENKO MEDAL

At a brief ceremony in the Secretary-General's conference room on the 38th floor, today, Petr T. Tronko, Deputy Prime Minister of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, presented U Thant with a bronze medal commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Ukrainian poet and artist, Taras Shevchenko, together with a volume of his selected works in English and an illustrated book in Ukrainian.

In making the presentation, Mr. Tronko said he was doing so as a member of Shevchenko's Jubilee Committee which decided that the medal should be presented to the Secretary-General. He spoke of Shevchenko's role as a humanist and internationalist, and of his Government's desire to strengthen the United Nations. He wished the Secretary-General good health and success in his difficult task.

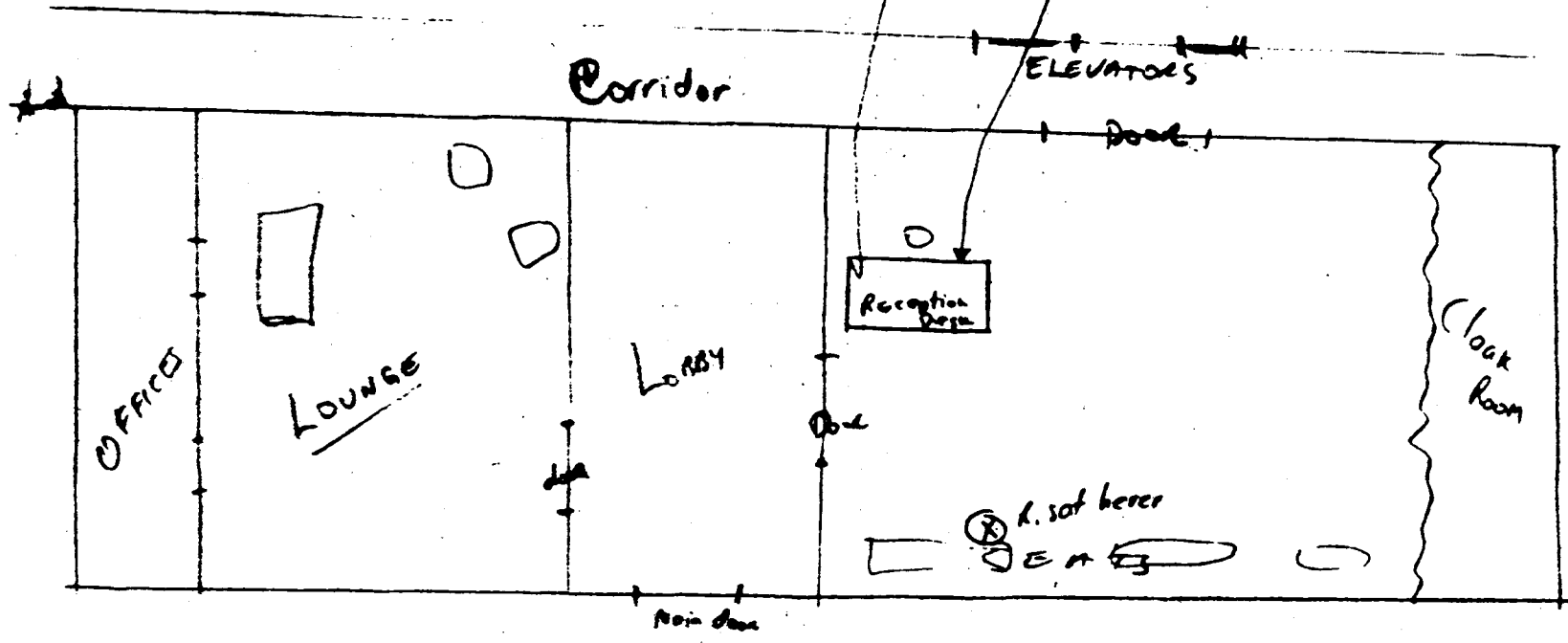
Responding, U Thant expressed his gratitude for the great honour bestowed upon him and wished the people and Government of the Ukraine peace, health and prosperity.

(Taras Shevchenko is a Ukrainian poet and artist who was an advocate of peace and close co-operation among nations. His major work of verse is published in a book called "Kobzar" in the Ukrainian language. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization published his works in the French language under their series of "Masterpieces of World Literature".

The 150th anniversary of the birth of Shevchenko was celebrated in 1964 throughout the Soviet Union and the world. The Shevchenko Jubilee Committee was established in Kiev to commemorate his anniversary and the special memorial medal was struck and presented to a number of distinguished figures in public and cultural fields in the Ukraine and other countries.)

3 phones on reception desk
(2 with white trim - intrer-office)

Buzzer to unlock
main door
on desk



67th St

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