

Re: Mrs ZMIJ, 23 Laurel Pl., Newark, NJ

Her visit to the Ukraine in summer 1965

Date: 11-24-65

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE: MEMPHIS EXEMPTION 3028  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

1. The primary reason for Mrs ZMIJ's trip was to visit her parents who live in LVIV. Mrs Zmij went with the tourist group conducted by KOWBASNIUK AGENCY. In addition to Lviv, Mrs Zmij visited TERNOPIL, KIEV, and KANIV.
2. Mrs Zmij's parent are over 80 years of age and they live at the same address in Lviv where they used to before the WW II. On the street where they live, there are at present only two families left of the original residents who lived there before the WW II. The others were either exiled or resettled elsewhere in ~~IN~~ the Union by force. The same situation is throughout the entire city of Lviv. The new residents in Lviv are some Ukrainians from the eastern part of Ukraine, but mostly they are Russians and a large number of Asiatic people.
3. In Lviv, just as in Kiev, one hears everywhere only Russian. It is on the street, in the stores, and everywhere Mrs Zmij visited. In Ternopil it is a little different for basically the people speak Ukrainian, although one can hear some Russian too. Lviv is very dirty city and very neglected, and the people are dressed very poorly. On the other hand, Kiev is very ~~xxxx~~ clean and the people there dressed simply but with some taste. Ternopil in cleanliness falls in between Lviv and Kiev.
4. The life in Lviv is very poor. The same can be said about the entire Ukraine. Although the people claim that at present economically it is much better than during Stalin's or Khrushchev's time, Mrs <sup>Zmij</sup> states that the people there do not live but rather exist. The wages are small and the prices are high, and in addition there is very little in the stores because before the product gets to the people the store attendants share most of it among themselves or their acquaintances and relatives. there

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are long waiting lines at each store, but most of the time the people are waiting there in vain. Of course, it is possible to buy everything on the black-market, but the problem is that hardly anyone can afford it. This situation forced the people to steal and the people, without the exception, are stealing everything and anywhere they can. Drinking is another way to escape the reality and the people are doing it quite a lot.

5. In the country the people are not much better off. The work in the kolhosps is very hard and the rewards very small. The people steal from the kolhosps if they can and whatever they get from their small household plots they bring it to the city and sell it in order to get some money. The additional household plots which were promised were not allotted yet and no one knows when it will take place.
6. There still is distrust among the people and everyone is very careful as to what he does or says. It is first of all because there is such a great mixture of different people and secondly no one knows who and when is watching them. When Mrs Zmij visited her parents in their home they not only locked all the door but also covered all windows just to make sure. They also would not let any ~~anyone~~ curious people into the house and only once they invited some of their old acquaintances.
7. The acquaintances do not say much except that they went through a hell and still are. Most of the time they just cry when meeting with an American ~~xxx~~ visitor. No one talks about the politics. Perhaps the young people would, but Mrs Zmij did not meet any of them because besides the old parents she does not have any other relatives. However, Mrs Zmij felt that the people are ~~xxx~~ relying on the America to solve the political situation, and that the only solution to the problem is a war.
8. The people are greatly misinformed, through their newspapers and TV, as to the actual situation in the USA -- the assassination of the late president Kennedy, the ~~NEE~~ Negro situation,

unemployment, student protest marches, and other events. The same refers to the American policy in Viet Nam and in Latin America. The people were so greatly misinformed by the Communist propaganda that ~~it~~ at times it was with a great difficulty to convince them to the contrary. The general public does not know much about the life of the Ukrainian emigres either and the people are asking many questions about it.

9. The group with which Mrs Zmij was traveling had usually two guides and she did not noticed ~~any~~ anyone to follow their group. ~~TM~~ The members of the group had a freedom to go anywhere in the city alone, however, ~~they~~ it was not appreciated by their guides if they have done it too often. While walking the city alone, no one ever noticed anyone following them, however, in the hotel every tourist was watched very carefully. Mrs Zmij also has a reason to believe that their rooms ~~were~~ in the hotel were bagged with microphones. The tourists in their rooms were usually whispering or even writing notes. At one time Mrs Zmij stated to her roommate (Mrs KHARUK) that she has hardly spent any money. While leaving the Soviet Union the custom officials asked Mrs Kharuk about the money she brought along to the USSR. When she answered that she did not bring any money they referred to the statement made in the hotel, and when she denied such a statement they said "it must be the other lady", but by that time Mrs Zmij has already gone through the customs. Everyone in the hotel and taxi drivers all ask for their services American dollars, and although they are told that the tourists had to exchange all their dollars for the coupons they are insisted that the tourists produce hidden dollars. When Mrs KHARUK went from Lviv to visit her relatives in RUDKY by taxi, the taxi driver insisted that she would pay him with the American dollars and refused to accept anything else. As the final result Mrs Kharuk had to pay him in dollars and it was \$35 as he demanded.

10. Mrs KHARUK wanted to visit her relatives in Rudky but could not get the permission to go there and was told that her relatives

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will come to see her in Lviv. She insisted that she also wants to see the city, but it had little effect. One day, completely by accident, she recognized on the street a man who a few years ago was working at the mission to the United Nations, and used to come frequently to the bookstore "SURMA" in New York City where she was ~~was~~ working at that time. She approached him and he recognized her. When she explained to him her problem about the permission to visit Rudky, he told her that he will try to help her. He did, and Mrs Kharuk received the permission to go there for one day.

11. There was no special banquets for the tourists given by the Association for Cultural Contacts with the Ukrainian Abroad, ~~EXCEPT~~ however, there was a simple meeting in Kiev. There were a few welcome speeches to the tourists expressing their gratification that the Ukrainians from the USA are interested to visit their native Ukraine. There was a special speech directed to one young couple (Mr & Mrs HORBACHEVSKY) who went to the Ukraine on their honeymoon. In addition there were a few interviews with some of the tourists.
12. In Kiev and in Lviv it was very difficult to find Ukrainian books in the bookstores, but Russian books it was possible to buy by the thousands. In Ternopil it was possible to find at least some Ukrainian books.

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13. On one occasion in Lviv, while shopping, Mrs Zmij was followed out of the store by a ~~xx~~ young man. He was very thin and looked as he was of a poor health. After confirming that Mrs Zmij is from the USA, that man advised her not to look around and to pretend as if he is not behind her. He asked her then to pass a word in the USA that in the Ukraine there is a very great number of very good and nationally conscious young poets and writers and that at present they are subjected to repressions. He did not elaborate but ~~xxxx~~ immediately disappeared.
  
14. According to Mrs Zmij's parents, at present there is a great number of young Ukrainians in Lviv and in western Ukraine in general who after finishing their university studies or other higher institutions have a difficulty to get jobs in western Ukraine. On the other hand, they ~~xxx~~ never have a trouble to find a suitable jobs in some remoted Asiatic part of the Union, and they are always advised by the authorities to go there.
  
15. The numerous packages sent by the Ukrainians abroad to their relatives and acquaintances in the Ukraine gave them a great moral as well as economical support. The people in the Ukraine are in a very poor material state and they are very grateful for everything they can get. Most of the tourists return from the Ukraine almost emotyhanded, leaving most of their belongings there.
  
16. Mrs Zmij's parents stated that there were ~~xxxx~~ <sup>in the past</sup> great deportations of the Ukrainians from Lviv. Since they live not far from the main railroad station, they heard almost every night lamenting and screaming of the deported people. During Stalin's time it was for the political reasons and during Khrushchev's time it was as a labor force to work in the remoted Asiatic parts of the Union.