

Subject: KOLASKA Ivan Vasylovych ,

his lecture on present situation in the Ukraine at the Round Table Club at 20 W 40 St, N.Y.C. on 23 Jun 1966.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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1. Subject was introduced to a selected audience of about 30 people by Holubnychy Vsevolod, Chairman of the Club, as an individual belonging to the political group generally known as "progressives", born in Canada of Ukrainian parents, teacher by profession, and who last August returned from Kiev, Ukr SSR, where he had spent two years studying Ukrainistics on scholarship of Kolossova's Committee. Subject studied at various schools, attending courses at the University, Pedagogical Institute and others. He had two wishes which ^{he} asked the Charman to tell the audience, i.e. that what he will say should not be used in press, and ^{this} Ukrainian be excused if it won't be ^{as} good as it should be. (N.B. The latter was absolutely superfluous since Subject's Ukrainian was perfect.)

2. His lecture Subject started by ~~the~~ underlining the fact that whereas, of course, many things had changed nowadays in the Ukraine in comparison with 1930's, the regime, ^{as such} remained the same and continued to rely upon terror and hunger. Certainly, there is no longer Black Maryy cruising in the streets and ^{no} door-knocks at night, but arrests continue, people are being interrogated, ~~persecuted~~, put under pressure also. Hunger is used also in a more subtle way, namely, by depriving people of their jobs and thus putting them in to situation where they often have to starve. But the saddest aspect of present Soviet policy in the Ukraine is Russification, a planned one from above, implemented forcefully and ruthlessly, by Russians and their ^{local} helpers. Subject stressed the fact that there had been a tremendous influx of Russian element after WW II particularly to big cities which ~~as~~ result became completely Russified.

Party and administrative apparatus are full of Russians. Ukrainians are usually put in representational positions whereas real executive power is retained by Russians. Ministers, particularly, such as Foreign Minister or Minister of Culture are Ukrainians but their deputies and

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staffs are mostly Russian. The same situation is in the party. Here actually prevalence of Russian element is even higher.

In addition many of those who seem to be Ukrainians are either Jews or degenerates not worthy of being called Ukrainians. Subject gave two examples: MYKHAILENKO, sports editor of Vechirniy Kiev is a Jew and nephew of KAGANOVICH.

GONTAR - son-in-law of KHRUSHCHEV is completely Russified, interested only in women and vodka. To one of his friends he had told at one time that in case there should be another revolution such as he himself (Gontar) would ^{be} changed first. He is the Director of Kiev Opera and Ballet Theater. His chief regisseur SELAYEV and ^{Artistic} Director TIMOKHIN are Russian.

Besides, there is a permanent tendency to take everything better out of Ukraine and transfer to Russia. There is, for instance, a good Ukrainian singer by the name HNATIUK. He is now under pressure to get moved to Moscow and KOZAK, secretary of party organization of the Opera and Ballet Theater, is the one who leads the campaign to expell him from Kiev.

3. Not only big cities but small ones as well are Russified. You will hardly hear Ukrainian spoken in the streets. The same happens in offices and other places. Incidentally, in such ministries and offices as those of Ministry of Culture or Education one hears Ukrainian but in others - hardly if ever.

When Vira VOVK was telling that she heard in Kiev and other cities Ukrainian and Russian ~~this~~ was a lie because one hears mostly only Russian. Even people speaking Ukrainian at home prefer to whisper in the streets or speak Russian.

Russians in Ukraine behave as conquerors and bearers of higher culture. They do not ~~want to~~ ^{want to} learn Ukrainian but what's more they demand Ukrainians speak to them Russian. Subject mentioned a few examples: ~~when~~ he was told by an official in Kiev that he should talk to him in Russian because "the times of Skrypnik had passed by a long time ago" or when talking to a conductor in the streetcar he heard two of his neighbors remark what a strange language he was talking.

When at the opening of the American Exposition of Communication in Kiev the representative of Ukrainian government welcomed American guests in Russian ~~and~~, the ^{American} Director ~~asked~~ him by translating his own speech into Ukrainian. At a Kiev school where Subject finally got to after ~~much~~ efforts, he discovered that although the lecture was read in Ukrainian, evidently for his visit, manuals of English were in Russian.

Russians tried ~~also~~ to impose their language at the Lvov University by using foreign students for that purpose. They put a few foreign students into every class and since they learn first 6 months only Russian, asked those lecturers who read their lessons ~~only~~ in Ukrainian to switch over into Russian for the sake and convenience of the "guests". Most lecturers refused pointing out that it was "guests'" obligation to learn Ukrainian when they wanted to study at Ukrainian universities. As a result special separate classes were established for foreigners where lectures were read in Russian.

A similar trouble occurred at Medical Institute of Kiev. Again the foreigners were used. There Ukrainians were less lucky because in final result there came an order from the Ministry of Middle and Higher Education in Moscow to read lectures in Russian.

On the whole, lectures are being read in Ukrainian mostly only of humanities. As a rule all the other subjects in Russian.

4. Even such city as Poltava has been russified. To rub in the salt into Ukrainians' wound they employ only Russian personnel at the local museum and one single Ukrainian guide in case some tourist from Canada or the US would ask for one.

5. There are many ways in which Russification is being implemented. One of them is bringing of Russian management and specialists to newly built or established enterprises, factories, and other economic objects.

Another one: transformation of kolhospy into radhospy. In latter cases the management is being appointed directly from above and as a rule Russians are put in administrative and specialists' positions.

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Incidentally, this does not mean that remaining kolhosps are being spared of Russification. Not at all. Again, as a rule, for instance, librarians, chairmen of cultural clubs also are Russian. Subject discovered that when visiting one of exemplary kolhosps near ZAPORIJE . All walls of the library were covered with Pushkins and other Russian writers and poets but not with Shevchenko or Franko.

Furthermore there is^a deliberate policy to deprive Ukrainians of their cultural heritage and national identity. Monuments of Ukrainian culture are being destroyed . Such churches as the one in Chernihiv where Bohdan Khmelnytskyi was praying at one time, had been ruined. On the battle-field of Berestechko a poultry-farm had been established. A kiosk stands on the spot where Shevchenko's body was put when brought back from Petersburg. A bust sculpture of Michurin had been erected where Prince Igor was praying. Also, asf.

Churches continued to be destroyed. Subject knew of a case when a church in Kiev had "disappeared" during one night. Soldiers did it on order from authorities.

Recently a new method of destruction was introduced. About six months before Subject's departure for Canada, churches were usually put on fire and local authorities watched that nothing could be saved.

The sad status of manuals on^{Ukrainian} history, literature, also is generally known and there is no need for Subject to elaborate. Everybody knows how they treat Khmelnytsky, Hrushevsky, and others. They even turned around Hrushevskyi's monument not to let him face in proper direction.

In summary, the situation is quite bad. There are Russians and their helpers, bureaucrats devoid of any communism as an idea; and the^{oppressed} people. Incidentally, some people abroad talk about national communists. There are no communists at all but only party apparatus interested in power and using all means to retain it.

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6. But what about the people? How do they react and act? There is no doubt that people fight against the regime, in many ways and by different means. Some people show their opposition in quite a peculiar way. For instance, there was a case when KORNIYCHUK together with VASILEVSKA went to a World Peace Conference and soon afterwards some uniformed people arrived by trucks ~~wixk~~ at his premisses with documents showing that he was going to be moved to another building in the meantime. Indeed, he was moved all right but untill now no one could find out who were those movers and where they moved Korniychuk's property.

Subject knew also about a hold-up in Kharkov Bank. Even safety buttons did not work, so well was evrything prepared. On the whole, stealing, organizing on the side is quite a widespread method of resistance against the regime. There are also killings of people in positions. Thus, when Subject was at Kangazas resort in a sanatorium, one day the fiancee of the Sanatorium Directress was found stabbed in the back. This happened in the secon half of March 1965.

Subject stressed that in the whole only a small group of people fully collaborated with the regime. He mentioned a few names:

SKABA who is being nicknamed SKABANOVICH after a la KAGANOVICH,
DMYTERKO Lubomyr,
SHANOTA Mykola,
BILODID Ivan,
NOVYCHENKO .

He also gave their positions at the present, and on another occasion named a VELYCHENKO.

On the opposite side there are brave, prudent, and courageous Ukrainian people who stand against the occupant.

Subject thought it was best to talk in examples. Thus there were protests against small numbers of Ukrainian publication, there were articles in defence of Ukrainian culture and language, etc. On this occasion he mentioned SHURYLO and his article in Zmina of 1959. There are treatises, articles, poems, and novels in which people speak out their mind.

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Subject mentioned a poem of 1958 which started with: "When a bloody Perquened died..." No one had any doubts as to what and who was meant in this poem. No wonder the author was summoned to the Union of Writers and warned...

To give another example of resistance: public demonstrations in Kiev on the anniversary of bringing of Shevchenko's body from Petrograd, that took place on 22 May last year and in 1964.

Subject mentioned a similar demonstration during Lesia Ukrainka celebration at which Ivan DZIUBA held a speech.

December 1963 or January 1964 there was organized by Ivan SVITLYCHNY an Evening devoted to SYMONENKO. Next week SVITLYCHNY was dismissed from his job.

Similarly, in 1962 or 1963 TANIUK, a young talented regisseur performed at Mykola Kulish anniversary. For mentioning some passages on russification from one of Kulish's works, SKABA expelled TANIUK out of Kiev.

Early 1965 there was another Evening devoted to SYMONENKO and Ivan DZIUBA spoke again.

At the funeral of BOSIURA a known Ukrainian writer put aside his censored speech and pronounced another one full of accusation against people like SKABA and his alike. Subject did not mention the writer by name (N.B. he was talking about MALYSHKO Andrei) but only read a part of his speech. When making his speech the writer looked straight into SKABA'S eyes and everybody must have noticed that.

At the Conference on Culture of Ukrainian Language that took place in Kiev in March 1963 an engineer working at the Academy of Sciences, Ukr SSR, by the name LOBKO Vasyl held a speech in defence of Ukrainian culture and language which was published afterwards in Ukrainian paper in Warsaw where he had sent it. But it was not published in Kiev papers and because of this speech LOBKO was dismissed from his job.

As subject added later on in answering questions LOBKO remained jobless for one year or so.

7. There are also other weapons people are fighting with against the regime. He meant above all humor and satire.

These took sometimes quite odd forms. Thus there was in Kiev an old gentleman who pretended to be mentally ill. He used to say publicly and particularly in the streetcars that he was Bohdan Khmelnytsky. When people ^{were} remarking that he was crazy he used to reply that indeed he was crazy, also at the time of Pereyaslav (Treaty of "Union" between Ukraine and Russia).

There are many jokes circulating among population and Subject told a few, most of them about Khrushchev and the party in general. There also was one about Nasser. Some of them were rather unprintable.

Satire is mostly in the form of verses. Much has been written and circulated in manuscripts on TYCHYNA, SKABA, BILODID and others. SOSTURA, for instance, whose many poems remained unprinted and will probably get lost, called NOVYCHENKO in one of his satiric poems that in poetry he was a policeman. BILODID was ridiculed in one of zakhalavna poems for his theory of Ukrainians having two languages - Ukrainian and Russian. The poem read that BILODID had two tongues, one for speaking and the other one for licking...

SHAMOTA was also ridiculed. He is a particularly nasty type. Even Russians could not stand him when he was working in Moscow and concocted a poem on human worries and troubles which ended with "a na dushe shamota"...

8. In spite of all the negative aspects of present reality in the Ukraine, Subject was quite optimistic as to final outcome of this struggle between Ukrainians and Russians. Ukrainians are not cowards and toadies and they will gain what they are striving for.

9. It was all emigres', or rather all Ukrainians' abroad, duty to help the Ukrainian people in their struggle. There were many ways and means how this could be done.

To start with there is correspondence with people in the Ukraine which should be used for sending them Chevchenko-monument postcards and similar stuff, line pictures of Ukrainian churches, Ukrainian institutions

in the US and Can
Subject suggested that an Album of pictures of Ukrainian institutions should be published for that specific purpose. In his opinion, emigres do not realise how important those small things are for encouraging and keeping up the people's spirit in the Ukraine. As an example, he mentioned what happened when he had received a postcard with Shevchenko monument from America. Everybody he showed it to wanted to have^{it}, one photographer asked ~~him~~ at once to let him reprint it in hundreds of copies, and indeed the postcard seemed to be more worthy to him than a thousand ~~others~~.

Another very important factor was literature. The emigration should publish those works that could not be printed in the Ukraine and try to get them to Ukraine by all possible means. Particularly works on Ukrainian literature of 1930 's are to be printed and smuggled into Ukraine. People in the Ukraine know in general what was being published abroad. One literary man in Kiev asked Subject whether he could get him Rozstrilane Vidrozdennia by Dyvnych. Another one knew about ~~wkrs~~ works of Kulish having been published abroad together with memoirs of his wife.

Ukrainian publications abroad are quite stimulating for people in the Ukraine and even for authorities. There is no doubt that Ukrainian Encyclopedia of KUBLYOVICH "provoked" the publication of Ukrainian Soviet Encyclopedia.

Still another method were contacts with Soviet Ukrainians here, abroad. They should be asked to come here. There are many good people among those visiting foreign countries. On this occasion Subject enumerated BAIBORADA, SOVA, BASH, and DOBROVOLSKYI from KOLOKOVA'S group.

But most important of all was presenting the Ukrainian affairs on international forums. This was what the regime felt most acutely. On this occasion Subject expressed his appreciation to KOSIUK Mykhori, Chairman of Slovo, for what he had done in his campaign against imprisonment of SITELICHNY and DZIUBA.

10. In answering various questions from the audience Subject added the following:

a/ Radio broadcasts in the Ukraine are almost half Russian and half Ukrainian.

b/ HANIUK - a young talented Ukrainian regisseur- was expelled from Kiev and substituted with MOLOSTOV, a Russian.

c/ Ukrainian records are mostly made for abroad.

d/ Most films in the Ukraine are Russian, only a few are Ukrainian, among them subject mentioned son, Tini Sabutykh Prekiy, Nainsenka.

e/ VIRSKYI'S ENSEMBLE is an especially selected group for performances abroad. All people are tightly screened and checked as to their reliability. Russians and Jews are prevalent. There are only a few Ukrainians. One member of Ensemble should have complained that Ukrainians in Canada dared ask him whether he spoke Ukrainian...

f/ Whereas Russian students in the Ukraine refuse to learn Ukrainian, Georgians do it gladly.

g/ The strongest resistance and hatred against Russians exists in Kirgizia.

h/ Russians are dizzy with their chauvinism and this has been engendered by their victory in WW II. They feel like their predecessors after Napoleonic Wars. Many Russian colonels remained in Kiev after WW II and settled down there for good. They are, among others, the main representatives of Russian chauvinism in the Ukraine.

i/ SOLOUKHEIN, a Russian who wrote an article in literaturnaya gazeta against Russification was summoned and upbraided for it.