

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY Meeting with Drach and Pavlychko
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

21 Sept. 1966

Source: R

The first meeting occurred at the UN General Assembly. Pavlychko and Drach entered just before the afternoon meeting started and sat at in the last row of the delegations' guests' seats (behind the delegations' desks). R recognized only Drach from photographs. After the meeting was adjourned he introduced himself to Drach, who in turn introduced Pavlychko. They seemed to be pleased, though somewhat surprised to see R.

Ivan Drach: He is about 6 feet tall, medium weight, with blond hair. His hairline has receded to the top of his head, but the hair is thick, combed back. He has a very young face, mainly because of a very sparse growth of hair on his face.

Davtro Pavlychko: He is hard to recognize from his photos a few years ago, because his hair has thinned. It is black, and he wears it combed back. He is about 5'8" and stocky. Of the two, he does most of the talking. He has some knowledge of English and hopes to improve it in New York.

Both writers came to New York as members of the Soviet Ukrainian delegation to the General Assembly. Pavlychko is an alternate delegate, while Drach is an adviser.

After they met, the three went to the delegates' lounge for a drink. Pavlychko insisted that he pay for the drinks, and also asked R's advice on the tip for the bartender.

Topics discussed:

They wanted to know whom R thought they should meet from among the Ukrainian emigres in New York. R said that it was up to them, and that in New York there are all kinds of people with as many points of view. Drach wondered if it would be possible for them to appear publicly at a poetry reading. But Pavlychko broke in with the following: "Ivan, what do you want to read poetry for? They all have your poems here and read them. And you might accidentally say something wrong, and then what. After all you are

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a diplomat now, so you have to be careful in everything you say. Drach said it would still be nice to read the poetry in person, and R agreed with him.

Drach asked about the Round Table Club as a possible forum for his appearance. He was under the impression that the club was one of writers and artists. R explained the purpose of the Club and the type of membership it comprises.

Rostyslav Bratun: R asked about the status of Bratun as editor of Zhovten. Pavlychko right away began to explain that Bratun is not at present the magazine's chief editor, that there is no chief editor at Zhovten at present, but the "things should clear up this fall, perhaps even at the Writers Union Convention." Then Drach added smiling: "Bratun is now hanging on a string. (he ~~was~~ held up his left hand as if holding a string, and with his right fingers made a scissor cutting motion). Now they'll either cut the string, or put him back on the ground gingerly." Pavlychko just laughed, but did not add anything. He did not seem very comfortable about this statement, however.

Vitaliy Korotych: Pavlychko said Korotych is very important now: a member of CC Komsomol and editor of Ranok. "He's pan redaktor now. That's what everyone calls him -- pan redaktor. He may even become head of the Writers Union." R showed disbelief at the last sentence, and Pavlychko quickly added, "Well he's not the head now, but he may be some day." R: "Wait a minute; first comes Pavlychko and then Korotych in order of precedence." Pavlychko liked that, smiled and ^{to Drach} said: "Well, he's certainly well informed." And Drach added: "But Drach does not fit in any order of precedence, does he?" R replied: "Not in this one."

Pavlychko said Korotych would go abroad this winter, to England and the USA for three months. Drach broke in, rather loudly, at the same time hitting the table with his fist: "And I told you not to go anywhere." R: "Why was that?" "Because first he has to

put the magazine on firm ground. You became an editor, then work at it, instead of travelling all over the world right away. There's much to be done there yet. And at the beginning of next year it is going to appear twice a month. I told him you can't put out a good magazine while travelling around the world. We even quarreled over this."

R said he thought Ukraina was now a better magazine than Ranok, which has slipped badly lately. Pavlychko: "It slipped since Horotych took over, right?" R: "No, it started slipping when it lost Oliyayk, and there was no editor for a while. You can't put out a magazine without an editor."

Bohdan Krawciw: Several times in the conversation Krawciw was mentioned. Drach wanted to know, for example, how old Krawciw is. When R started to calculate, Pavlychko broke in: "He's 35". When Pavlychko said: "Krawciw attacked Drach in Suchasnist, and Drach hit him back," Drach corrected him: "He did not attack me. He praised me." Drach also wanted to know who Krawciw is, and what he does. R told him Krawciw is "an old Nationalist", just as they have their "old Bolsheviks" and that he works at Svoboda as editor.

Suchasnist: R introduced himself as correspondent for Novy Svit and Suchasnist. Pavlychko: "O yes, Suchasnist. Ivan, you know that magazine? Did you read it?" Drach tried not to answer, but Pavlychko added: "Well didn't you read the Suchasnist article where Krawciw wrote about you?" Drach then said that he did read that article, but did not want to say that he has read any other issues. Later, as they were leaving, and Pavlychko was a few feet ahead, Drach whispered to R: "What's the circulation of Suchasnist?" R said he wasn't sure, but guessed it was about 6,000. Immediately Pavlychko moved closer and interrupted with something else.

Films: R mentioned that "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors" played at the NY Film Festival, but unfortunately the impression was left that it was a Russian film, because no mention was made of its Ukrainian production. "USSR and Russia are synonymous here."

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In defence, Pavlychko said: "But surely the people who write here are intelligent. They ought to know the difference between Ukraine and Russia, and that Kiev is in Ukraine." Drach cut him off by saying: "Why should they know it. Do you know the difference between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Congo (Brazzaville)?"

On the ~~myth~~ subject of films, R asked Drach what happened to his "Well for the Thirsty" because there were critical articles about it in the Soviet press. Drach just grimaced and, waved his hand, and bitterly said "Ah". Pavlychko added with a laugh: "They plugged Drach's well with rocks." R asked: "But will it be released, or not?" Drach: "Ah, I don't know. Maybe it will." Pavlychko: "Drach was so busy replying Krawciw, that he did not have the time to look after his "Well"."

(Generally speaking, Drach was bitter about his film, and probably would have said more, but Pavlychko, as on other occasions, changed the subject with an attempt at humor).

Mykola Lebed: The two asked about Ukrainian emigre political parties and then Drach asked: "Where does Lebed fit in?" And Pavlychko: "Is he not a Banderist?" R explained about UNVR and the split, and then Drach said: "So that's why Dentsow was so critical of Lebed." Then R said that some Soviet writings about Ukrainian emigre parties seem ridiculous. That in the articles in the Fall of 1965 in Lit. Ukraine Lebed was put in the same group as Stetzko etc. Pavlychko explained: "Well what can you expect. Some of our writers will read a couple of snatches from your books or newspapers, and then sit down to write an article. They just aren't familiar enough with things."

Yuriy Smolych: In talking about some recent Soviet prose, R mentioned Smolych. Pavlychko said something derogatory against Smolych, which R did not catch. Pavlychko just laughed and said: "I just said something undiplomatic, and here I'm trying to be a diplomat." Drach: "You know Smolych as head of that society for ... relations." R: "Yes". Pavlychko: "Why, he knows Smolych as a great Ukrainian writer." This was said with an obvious attempt at seriousness.

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Books: The two said they had to get some books here, in particular the Ukrainian Bibles ("They may not be available yet in Ukraine, and we'd like to have them," said Drach) and the two volumes of prose by Evhen Malanyuk. Pavlychko said they could probably buy them at Surmach's book store. R told them where it is located and drew a map of that area of Manhattan. Then R said: "Is Cherniavsky still at the Mission?" Pavlychko said he was. "Then he'll take you there."

No plans were made for the future meeting, but all agreed that they'll see each other at the UN.