

SECRET

14 December 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Comments on the Communist Party Made by a Member
of the Party

SOURCE : AECASSOWARY/29 from a contact in England

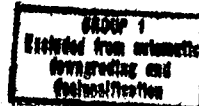
1. A Soviet citizen in his early 30's (Subject), a lieutenant in the Soviet army reserves, lecturer in gymnastics and mechanical drawing at a Ukrainian technical institute, and Party member, visited with his mother in England for about 2½ months in the early fall of this year. Subject's mother has been living in the West since 1963, following the death of her husband who lived in England where he owned 2 houses. The Soviet Government apparently permitted the wife to emigrate to the West in order to take possession of her husband's property.

2. Subject's mother, apparently a convinced Communist (on the surface at least) embarrassed her son by her praise of life in the Soviet Union. When in his presence she remarked to people with whom they were conversing that while she was living in the Ukraine, she had enough bread to keep not only herself well fed but two hogs as well. Subject commented that even though others at times resorted to eating dogs, she could feed bread to her two hogs because of the parcels her husband kept sending from England.

3. Subject told the source that the Party is in a state of flux. No one knows what the party line is. There are constant contradictions, and the hierarchy refuses to commit itself to anything definite. One example he mentioned concerned the Soviet-Chinese conflict. He said Party members were told at a meeting that the conflict was serious and potentially dangerous. At the same time, they were warned not to panic or to create the impression that the conflict was dangerous. He said it was difficult being a Party member now. One feared taking sides as one could not be sure which faction would come

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
VAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

SECRET



7

SECRET

out on top. Instructions from the top are not as clear cut as in the past. According to the Subject, there are two main factions in the Party on all levels. One seeks a Stalinist-type discipline, while the other feels the Party should share some of its power with other organs. When asked which position he took, the Subject said he belonged to the third faction which seeks a balance between the two.

[SB/CA]

SB/CAL]:ep (16 Dec 66)

Distribution:

Orig. & 1 - Addressee
1 - Chrono

SECRET