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Dec 28, 1966

TRIPS TO THE SOVIET UNION

1. The following information was obtained in Munich from a female American student and her German male colleague who visited the Soviet Union in Sept 1966 by car. Both are studying at Munich University and are in their early twenties. The American girl is of mixed Slovak-Russian descent and quite well orientated in Soviet affairs. Her Russian is quite poor. Before their departure they talked to our Source and were given some hints as to on what to concentrate their attention.

a/ Their itinerary was : Leningrad, Moscow, Kharkov, Yalta, Kiev, Lvov, Mukachiv, Uzhgorod. They entered the Soviet Union from Finland and returned via CSSR. On entering the USSR the customs inspection was very superficial but upon leaving in Uzhgorod - very thorough. There they were detained for 2 hours , their luggage was thoroughly searched and even some parts of their car disassembled. All copies of Vechirny Kiev were confiscated, for exception of one which was among cloth. The search in Uzhgorod gave the impression that Soviet customs officers were looking for something in particular, most probably "papers and documents ". On the Hungarian side of the border they were detained also for about 2 hours but inspection was not strict.

b/ The sojourn in Leningrad and Moscow brought nothing of particular interest. Usual storied and impressions. A Soviet officer of Ukrainian nationality and his Polish wife they had met in Leningrad in a restaurant were the only people they enjoyed talking to. But again they were told nothing of real interest. In Moscow they were told that there were many Ukrainians at the University because it was often easier to be accepted there than in Kiev or Kharkov.

c/ In Kiev they were told by students that at Kiev University at the beginning of school year all professors had to have a vote in class to decide which language was to be used for instruction: Ukrainian or Russian. "Theoretically" every lecturer and student has to have perfect command of both languages. According to Kiev students they met, more and more courses were being recently taught in Ukrainian and there was a directive passed whereby every student and professor has

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to speak and write Ukrainian. It was stressed that recently some sort of special campaign was conducted in Kiev to "push through Ukrainian language into every corner".

d/ In Kiev the population seemed to be well informed about the Siniavsky-Daniel affair but unaware of the arrests of Ukrainian writers. Or perhaps, the people asked, did not want to talk about it. On the other hand, the library arson was generally known and most said they had no doubt it was an act of arson. At least three people told the tourists that it was KGB's work. All three complained about destruction of Shevchenko manuscripts.

e/ The cafe "Tea and Coffee" was closed and they were told that it had a bad reputation because most of customers were not students but "stilagi"

f/ According to the tourists the black market is quite active in Yalta and the population there is "braver" than in other places. The people entered gladly into conversation but politically were not interesting. They were mainly interested in living conditions in the West and in "daily routine" of average man in general.

2. From a Ukrainian couple, in their late forties, British citizens, grammar school educated, of Doncaster, England the following information was obtained :

a/ The couple made their trip to Bukovina, Ukr SSR in Sept 1966 by car. They went via Hungary and Rumania. This was their second trip to their native Chernivtsi, the first one they made in 1964 during Khrushchev's demotion, also by car. At that time they had to go via Hungary (Budapest), Lvov, Zhytomir and then to Chernivtsi. Now they were allowed to enter Ukraine from Rumania directly and thus saved about 600 km.

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Upon entering Ukraine their car was thoroughly searched. He had forgotten to declare Belgian Franks he had on him and therefore had much trouble after they had been found. He was treated very harshly, accused of smuggling money, weapons, anti-Soviet literature and God knows what of else. His car ^{was} searched again and even certain parts disassembled. Thus they practically dismantled the seats. When nothing was found they were released.

b/ In CHERNIVTSI he was approached by a BORBAK, Mykola, who claimed to be a Ukrainian poet from Bukovina, aged approx. 50, residing in Chernivtsi. Borbak visited Source uninvited and after introducing himself as a poet and CP member suggested they talk "freely and honestly". BORBAK considers himself as some sort of "liason xxx" or contact between Bukovina's Ukrainian population and the government. He stressed his Ukrainian patriotism while at the same time emphasizing all the time his loyalty to the party.

BORBAK wanted to know from Source who were his friends and acquaintances in the USA and Canada, what they were doing, their political views and how they settled down.

BORBAK complained about Jews in Bukovina who "served" as Russifying element and stated flatly that he and others would like to see them go away. "Unfortunately", more and more Jews are pouring into Chernivtsi from other Soviet cities.

During the second meeting BORBAK brought the book "Bukovina" published abroad and asked Source about various cultural and political leaders in exile listed in the book.

In his conversation with Borbak, Source mentioned that Russian was the only language used at police station. A few days later he received a visitor from militia asking him to come to their station. There he was surprised to be received by a young man at the desk who spoke "perfect and only Ukrainian". When Source was about to leave he went again to the militia station to inform them that he was leaving the Soviet Union. Thereupon he was told in Ukrainian that this was not necessary and he could leave any time without notifying them.

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c/ According to the Source, the situation in Chernivtsi was now "quite normal" as compared with his stay in fall 1964. At the time of Khrushchev's removal there was much excitement and anxiety in the air and Source left Chernivtsi immediately. This time all seemed to be calm. In addition, the situation has generally improved, more food and other consumer goods ^{are} in stores, and ^{there are} shorter queues.

Source discovered a great admiration for everything Western. In a talk with a Russian, owner of a "Moskvich", Source heard a lot about Western efficiency, tastefulness, durability of goods as contrary to Soviet mismanagement, tastelessness, and poor quality of products. In Source's view the admiration for everything Western, in comparison with 1964, was not diminishing but rather increasing.

The Russian complained also about the Soviet "army of managers" who even had already managed to develop their own esprit de corps. He gave the Source an example of it: when the manager of a bakery made a mistake he wouldn't be punished or given an additional training because he was "a manager". Therefore he would be only moved to a different domain, for example, to an automobile factory where he was to continue ^{as} ~~xxxxxx~~ "a manager". Since no manager can do anything to harm another manager this leads to gross negligence and incompetence.