

SECRET

SUBJECT : Vitaliy KOROTYCH

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

in New York May 3 - 28, 1967

SOURCE : 1.

Chronology of events: K arrived in New York on May 3 from Minneapolis. He called M the next day and that day, May 4, M and R met him not far from the UkSSR mission and went by cab to the apartment.

K looked very tired and limped. He explained that he used his leg injury as reason to cut his western trip short (he had been scheduled to go to San Francisco). But in the cab he explained, that he wants to get back home sooner, and still wants to spend a few days in New York. One reason for wanting to get home was simple homesickness, but there were other reasons, that had to do with his responsibilities. One of them ~~was~~ concerned the attack in Molod' Ukrainy. Before K left for the West (Wisconsin) he was very proud of the article in Ranok criticizing the film produced by T. Levchuk. When he was in Minneapolis his wife wrote him that a strong rebuttal of this article appeared in the press. (It was in Molod' Ukrainy). When K came to New York he was clearly anxious about this and explained that he would have taken care of it had he been in Kiev. He said the author of the article in Ranok -- Yulik Shelest (no relation to the First Secretary), can't fight back, especially against something that has the imprimatur of Komsomol CC (the rebuttal in Molod' was unsigned, meaning that it was authorized by the CC). K explained that he has to go back in order to straighten things out.

Also, he spoke more positively, than before, about leaving Ranok and taking Honchar's place at the Union of Writers for a year. It seemed that during his stay in the western states he made up his mind about it.

At the apartment he said that he met in Minneapolis a man, with whom he played football in Kiev as a youngster. he did not mention the man's name, but said that they were

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neighbors, and that their fathers worked together. This man is an architect. K's father has a photo showing both men in a group, and a similar photo is in Minneapolis. He said this meeting was quite traumatic, and that the two of them spent the whole night drinking -- this was the reason why K seemed so tired when he returned. The Minneapolis man telephoned K the evening before his departure for New York and came to see him.

K was very proud of his trip to Minneapolis, Madison, ~~and~~ Milwaukee and Chicago because he met a number of Americans, created a good impression, was interviewed by the newspapers and on TV, organized an evening in honor of Shevchenko, and received several written invitations to return.

In New York, he explained, he wanted to plan his stay carefully, so that he would not waste much time on useless visits to people's homes, but would rather take in some interesting sights, such as museums and galleries. He said he did want to see Hirniak, Shevelov, if possible Pritsak, the New York Group (poets), asked to be put in touch with Fizer, who had promised earlier to hold an evening for K, and asked if the Round Table Club would be interested in him. His schedule called for staying in New York till May 12, go to Washington for a week, return on the 20th for another week, and leave for Kiev via Paris and Vienna.

R made several phone calls and the three agreed to meet the next evening at Lexington and 42 St to go to Greenwich Village and visit Hirniak.

Cooling off: During the meeting R told K that he recently switched jobs, and K was somewhat taken aback. When R was making phone calls K told M that it was too bad about R's new job, because now they won't be able to visit Kiev, and K was counting on it so much. Then he said, "But maybe you'll still be able to do it some day."

He left before 11 p.m., saying that he has to be on good terms with the Mission people.

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The next day, May 5, K did not appear at the appointed place. He insisted later that he was there, but could not stay too long, because there was a reception at the Mission (It was Soviet Press Day). R is certain, that he was not there at the appointed hour.

Sat. May 6 : K phoned in the morning, and asked to be met at noon, at Lexington and 57th St. R waited for him for an hour, and he finally appeared at one, saying, that they were to meet at 1 p.m. The two went to R's apartment. After a while there came Shevelov and later Pritsak. K was very pleasant and talked at length with both professors - mainly about literature. Shevelov left earlier, arranging to meet K at a later date. Pritsak stayed longer, and M and R left them together to talk because of a previous engagement.

Sunday, May 7: R was to meet K at Fifth Ave and 79th St. in the afternoon, to go to the museums, but K called earlier, saying that he would stay home, because of a cold, and because it was raining very hard.

R did not see K, until May 22 at Columbia U. Meanwhile, K was supposed to go to West Point to a Slavic Studies Conference, as Fizer's guest, but, according to Fizer, the State Dept, refused to grant permission for the trip.

Saturday, May 20: R received an unexpected phone call from Dr. Danyliuk of Minneapolis. (R had never met Danyliuk, but knew of him as one of the Ukr. Nat Ass'n officers.) Danyliuk explained that he was trying to get Fizer's phone number, but this seemed to be only a pretext, because he then turned the conversation to K, saying that he met him ~~xx~~ in Minneapolis, and that he would like to see him again. He said that he was in New York for a UNA annual meeting and asked about the Round Table evening, scheduled for May 25. R said that it should be interesting, because it is planned less ~~as~~ a literary evening, but more ~~as~~ a talk and a discussion. Danyliuk said ~~she~~ would definitely come to it.

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Sunday, May 21: K called in the morning, and sounded as if though he were in tears. He started saying things against the Round Table Club people, that they are not interested in his poetry, only in a political discussion. "If they want politics let them call Shelest," he said, and then that he won't show up. R tried to calm him down, saying that K had agreed with the Round Table people on the format of the evening, so he should not back up now. Then K said that he saw Danyliuk the day before, so it would appear, that Danyliuk frightened him about the Round Table evening.

Later R went to see Holubnychy to tell him about the possibility of K not showing up at the Round Table Club.

Monday, May 22: R saw K at Columbia. He seemed in better spirits. They talked very shortly, and agreed to meet the next day.

Tuesday, May 23: R met K at Lexington and 42 St, and took him to PanAm Building to the NY offices of Reader's Digest, This had been arranged by Pat Tarnawsky (Kylyna).

Mrs. Tarnawsky had also arranged K's visit to Newsweek and Doubleday, which had to be cancelled because it was impossible to reach K in time in Washington.

At the Reader's Digest K met one of the senior editors, who spent about an hour with K. Mrs. Tarnawsky and R were present. The idea of the meeting was to propagandise Ukrainian literature and to show that there are other writers in the USSR besides Aliluyeva, Voznesensky and Yevtusheko.

After the meeting K said that he promised to visit Lawrynenko for an hour. That evening there was a reception at the mission for the departing UN General Assembly delegates, so K had to be there at 6 p.m. Around 4 p.m. R took K to the door of Lawrynenko's apartment building. They agreed to meet the next day.

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Wednesday, May 24: R met K at Grand Central to take him to Pleasantville, NY and the Reader's Digest, where a luncheon was set for him. On the train they had the first opportunity to talk, after a rather long time.

K said that he would take the Union of Writers job, provided he is assured that he'll be able to do something concrete at it. If it just involves finding apartments for writers and straightening out similar problems, he'll stay at Ranok. R asked him, which job he thinks will do more for his career, and K replied that either could be equal in importance.

He said that he had an outboard motor boat last year, but sold it, because he said he had no time to enjoy it. He also had a chance to buy a car last year, but didn't, and now his friends think it was <sup>not to buy it</sup> stupid. K explained that a car is a lot of bother, one has to pass a stiff exam, or hire a chauffeur, that a car parked outside is liable to be scratched by vandals. He also said that he now has the use of a car from a pool, whenever he needs it. He can use a Ranok car or a Union of Writers car.

On the topic of cars, he said that a year ago a film was produced in Russia, which is very unusual, and K himself is surprised that it was passed by censors. The film is about an insurance adjuster, who steals cars from various grafters, sells them in the Baltic republics, and sends the money to charitable institutions. A sort of Soviet Robin Hood. The surprising thing is that the "car thief" is caught, but the detective (his friend) who catches him, lets him go. The name of the film is something like "Be Careful of Cars" -- the words appear on signs at intersections.

K did not say much about Washington. He did say, however, that he did not stay at the Embassy, but instead stayed at a Quaker family home, that takes in foreign visitors. The address was given to K by his liaison man at the Institute of International Education -- Mr. Morris. At that home, K said, it was very interesting, because there was also a Nigerian, a Hungarian, and a couple of other persons. K was a "hawk" among the "doves" because when

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the family and others were critical of the war in Vietnam. K asked them how they felt when the bombs were falling on Pearl Harbor. To this the lady of the house replied: "We don't have all the answers." Kobotych seemed to enjoy the fact that he, a Soviet visitor, could stump American doves on Vietnam policy.

He was optimistic about the Writers Congress in Moscow, but was sorry that he could not attend and deliver a speech as scheduled.

He also discussed the "heirs of Stalin" attitude that still prevails. It is very complicated, he said. In many cases, he said, there are no definite decrees forbidding some forms of Ukrainization but many people act in a certain way, because they feel that "tak nada". He referred here to publishing, mainly.

K said that his possible successor at Ranok is young Kryzhanivsky son of Stepan, the literary critic. This Kryzhanivsky is a journalist, "but still very young, and not able to stand up to idiots." If K stays in Ranok he hopes to use Dzyuba as a regular arts critic.

On the US-USSR relations he repeated this comment several times: "Somewhere in Vietnam a bomb falls in the wrong place, and in Ukraine a good book fails to come out as the result." This made him ~~sad~~, because otherwise, things are looking very well.

R took K to Pleasantville, and returned to NY. That evening he was to have been at Tarnawskys' for a dinner with the NY Group. The luncheon at Reader's Digest went very well, according to reports. K managed to charm the right people, and they all thought highly of him.

Thursday, May 25: Round Table Club. K said he would call R in the morning, so they could spend a few hours together.

Friday, May 26: K called M about noon. Said he only had an hour and wanted to meet R in town. M could not reach R, and they did not meet. That evening was his evening at the Communists' Hall.

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Saturday, May 27: R called K at Fizers, where he was after the dinner at Rutgers. K said he would write from Kiev. He did not want R to take him to the airport the next day, "because I'll go in the Mission car." Fizer had not invited R to Rutgers, although he had told R that such dinner was planned -- that was ~~when~~ when R was in Washington.

Conclusion: R thinks several people have ~~xxxxxx~~ said negative things to K about R. It is also possible, that the Mission people told him to stay away from R. As the result, K seemed to be facing a dilemma. On the one hand, he wanted to see R for old times sake, on the other -- he was somewhat ill at ease. The whole thing took a silly turn of events, and R did not mention anything about this to Korotych. Future correspondence, if any, would probably clarify the state of affairs.

R introduced Korotych to an Associated Press correspondent, who left for Moscow the same day K left New York. K was glad to meet him, and asked him to contact him in Kiev. The AP man hopes to use K when he gets to Kiev.

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Ad KOROTYCH:

According to TARNAVSKYS , while on his visit to the NY offices of Reader's Digest ( May 23, 1967 ) KOROTYCH made an agreement with the publishers of the Digest that they will print excerpts from his book on Canada. TARNAVSKYS are working now on the translation for which the Reader's Digest is willing to pay \$ 250.--.