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Re : The Ukrainian Days at the Expo 1967 , the third week of July

Source : # 11 and 29

Date : 27 June 1967

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 302B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. On 29 May 1967 , at a private "farewell" party in a restaurant in Montreal, Quabec , given for ROMANOV Oleksandr Timofiyevich, Vice-Minister of Commerce, Ukr SSR, in company of HONCHARENKO Mykola Vasilovich, Prof. and Deputy Director of the Faculty of Philosophy of Kiev University; VESOLOVSKY Bohdan of CBC Montreal, Ukrainian Desk, and BACHYNSKY, Omelan of CBC Montreal, Ukrainian Desk, ROMANOV stated the following: a/ He is leaving for Kiev on 31 May with a strong decision to induce people in Kiev to arrange for proper representation of the Ukraine at the Expo. He has to admit that the Ukrainian Republic is not adequately represented at the Expo and he will do his best to get additional funds and personnel to improve the present shortcomings. He hopes he will succeed. Thus he plans to extend the Ukrainian Day scheduled for 16 August into a full week of "Ukrainian Days" , get additional ensembles, more Ukrainian exhibits, and establish a separate kiosk (stand) of Ukrainian SSR. He already has got most of his suggestions approved but is not satisfied with what has been promised. Therefore he will present his demands, very emphatically and force the proper people in Kiev to listen to him.

HONCHARENKO seconded ROMANOV all the time and among other things added that even Roman RAKHMANNYY might change his mind about the Expo "when he sees all we are going to bring and arrange for Ukrainian Days."

As it turned out in the course of the conversation, the management of the Soviet Pavillion, and particularly its Public Relations Department, in which also HONCHARENKO is working, are following up very carefully everything written about the Expo not only in English and French press but in Ukrainian and other languages as well.

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On 29 May 1967 # 11 sent ~~to~~ ROMANOV some of his commentaries on the Expo published in Ukrainian papers but as it turned out at the farewell party, both, ROMANOV and HONCHARENKO, ^{already} seemed to be quite well familiar with what # 11 and others had ~~already~~ written on the matter.

2. BONDAR, ^{from} (para 8 in the report of 16 June) who is also employed in the Public Relations Department, and has been sent to the Expo from the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C. (his first name and patronimic will be submitted additionally), confirmed on several occasions ~~early~~ and mid-June that " ROMANOV went to Kiev to arrange for better presentation of Ukrainian Republic during the Ukrainian Days".

On 26 May 1967, however, in a conversation with # 11, BONDAR defended the present arrangement and in excitement said that he had nothing against a fusion of Russian and Ukrainian into one language if this was necessary for communism, and that a separate pavillion of Ukrainian SSR would mean " we have yielded to nationalists' pressure". He also stressed as ~~a~~ great concession to Ukrainians the fact that on Soviet top echelons there were many Ukrainians and mentioned in particular PODGORNYY, GRECHKO, and MOSKALENKO.

3. Also on 26 May 1967 BONDAR suggested to # 11 that it would be a good idea to arrange for a discussion of local emigres with Professor HONCHARENKO who would read a paper on Soviet Ukrainian literature. BONDAR would come too and a dozen or so of younger Canadian Ukrainians would suffice. Later on , BONDAR repeated the same suggestion to # 29 but with a "slight " modification, namely, it should be a meeting with at least 50 people present. Both, # 11 and # 29 promised to participate in such a discussion but were against a meeting. The discussion should take place still before the Ukrainian Days at the Expo.

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