

16 February 1968

Jamey:

The attached indicates (as have previous reports) that there is discord at the Soviet Mission. One can't help but feel also that some of Kochubey's true feelings (and not only his but also the feelings of some of his colleagues) have come through during his talks with the source.

An interesting comment by Kochubey was that the Mission would not attempt to deny recent reports in the Western press about Chornovil et al because it would be foolish to pretend the reports were not true.

In para 5 there is reference to the report of the Ukrainian delegation from Canada which appeared in Viewpoint. It is interesting to note Kochubey's comment that it is not an every day occurrence for members of the party to openly criticize the system. (FYI: a 9 February article in the Toronto Daily Star stated that a former Communist member of the Ontario Legislature who led "The last famous battle within the ranks of the Party of Canada over national rights for Soviet Jews, said that the bitter battle over Moscow's attempts to Russify 40 million nationalistic Ukrainians could lead to desertions by more than half the party's membership. He also asked, "Are they /the Russians/ the master race? Or is it that everybody is equal / in the Communist world/ but they are more equal?" Also note that Kochubey said this report by the delegation was the "final nail in Skaba's coffin", and that Skaba and his deputy have been removed from office. (FYI: According to an 11 February item in Radvanska Ukraina, Skaba was still in office, and there have been no official announcements noticed in the press, although another source from Kiev said Skaba was replaced by F. D. Ovcharenko, a liberal in the nationalist question and that Skaba was made director of the Inst. of History at the Ukrainian AS.)

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of intrigues going on in the "Kosovo". That's why Shevchenko is also looking forward to his return to Kiev in the spring.

4. Source asked what was the meaning of the address of the Kiev Orthodox Archbishop to Ukrainian emigres in Dec 1967, published in Pravda issue of 11 Jan 1968. Subject replied that in his personal view this was a diplomatic faux pas. The tone of the address was too rude and too naive. It could not appeal to Ukrainian emigres anyway. Moreover ~~the~~ the Archbishop spoke in the name of ^{the} Russian Orthodox Church and not of the Ukrainian one. "So why to bother, it didn't make any sense, anyway".

5. Subject noticed Mapa z Ukrainy on the table and asked whether Source read the report of the OPCanada on their Delegation's visit to the Ukraine last year. Asked what was it all about Subject explained that the delegation went to many places in the Ukraine, talked to highest authorities, presented their case and now writes a report in which they stated that some problems in the Ukraine continued to exist.

"So what - asked Source - this seems to be no big deal".

Subject replied that from nationalist and western point of view it might not be a big deal but from "ours", and in our circles, as you well know, it is a very, very big deal. "It was not usual in our world to state that there are problems and particularly in such a way as the report put them".

"As a matter of fact this report was the final nail for Skaba's coffin together with present writings and protests in the Ukraine".

"Skaba and his deputy have been demoted and removed from their posts".

Subject did not want to say who was to be Skaba's successor. He said that he knew this person but was reluctant to mention his name just in case something else crops up and someone else gets this post.

He could only say that if really the person he was told about would get this top official position, things in the Ukraine which would change for much to the better. Skaba's removal will be soon announced officially.

Mapa z Ukrainy

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6. Subject remarked that whereas the Canadian printed the report of the Delegation in an open and direct manner, the NKVD has had to print it in Ukrayinski Visti with an apologetic introduction entitled "In the name of truth". This was just the difference between Canadian progressives and Colopkos - subject concluded.

7. As to the articles published on Chornovil and others in The New York Times Subject said that he was looking at them from two angles, international and Ukrainian. First of all he could not understand why the New York Times and other American press waited so long with these materials because he is sure they had had them before. Also why did they have to wait until the London Times ^{had} published them, first. His conclusion from all that was that neither American press nor official circles had changed their attitude to Ukrainian problem. "So basically nothing changed."

From Ukrainian angle, he would advise the Ukrainian sponsors of all those materials abroad to present them in a different form. So far, all that has been going on in the Ukraine, is being presented as a movement of a small group of intellectuals. This was not true and this was also wrong "tactically". Recent developments in the Ukraine were results of a massive, and quite often, consciously organized phenomenon, and as such should be presented. This would be truthful and would put present situation in the Ukraine into proper perspective.

Asked whether the Mission will publish anything or arrange a press conference in response to the publication of that material in the press, Subject replied he did not think the Mission would. "Why, what can you say, deny obvious facts? or what?" - he concluded. "This is all true, so it would be foolish to pretend something else".

These developments in the Ukraine forced also Skaba out of his position and Subject was quite happy about it.

Here he turned to his family, and said that his son Bohdan speaking Ukrainian was a symbol of "Ukrainization" getting through in the Ukraine. His daughter, for instance, was first ~~rukyant~~ taught Russian but now she also speaks Ukrainian, and she and her brother will both go to Ukrainian school in Kiev. They would be like Shevchenko's ryshky (or ryshky) who speaks only Russian. But what can you do. ~~Ukrainians speak only~~

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only in Russian."
(Oksana is the name of Subject's daughter).

8. So far Subject had no reaction from Kiev on his memo about the release of three ladies submitted to him by Source's friend. Next week he will write again to Kiev on the matter since he thought that after Skaba's removal it might be easier to achieve something along this line. Also recent documents from the Ukraine published in the Western press "might help".

9. Subject asked Source whether she knew Prof HUBBARD was here with Human Rights Commission, and whether she wanted to convey her greetings to him. Source replied that she did not know about Prof's arrival to New York and was only too glad to greet him. HUBBARD is staying here until 8 March 1968. Source hoped that when her friend comes back they will have the occasion to meet with Prof.
"And did you know that ~~one time~~ the Professor was a Prokurator?" - Subject asked. Source did not. What was the meaning of this question Source could not say.

10. According to Subject "there will be no more Montreal or Leipzig Fair this year". The Ukraine will have her own separate pavilion at Leipzig, East Germany.

11. Subject told Source that there were again some changes with "Cultural Societies" in Kiev. "It was decided not to follow Moscow's example and retain Kolesova's Society". As a result, in the Ukraine both Association for Contacts with Abroad will continue their activities. It was difficult to find a good successor for Kolesova and the chairmanship was still vacant. Three individuals were approached with suggestion to take this post and all three refused to. Subject did not say who they were. "So the search for the head of the Society continues".

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