

SECRET

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

6 June 1968

*declassified
CSLT - 3/3/0126*

MEMORANDUM FOR: SB/RR

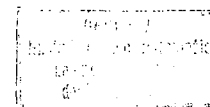
SUBJECT : Recent Developments in the Ukrainian SSR

SOURCE : AECASSOWARY/29 from Western citizens who
visited in the Soviet Union in late
April and early May of this year

1. According to Ivan SVITLYCHNYI, (Soviet Ukrainian literary critic arrested in 1965 for anti-regime, nationalist activities), Oles' HONCHAR continues to be criticized for his book Sobor (The Cathedral), but 90 percent of the intellectual community is behind him. In spite of pressure from the authorities to say he is sorry, HONCHAR continues to hold out. It is believed by many that if he continues to resist he will be expelled from the Union of Ukrainian Writers. As soon as the attacks against HONCHAR began, Sobor was in great demand. The book has since been withdrawn from many of the bookshops on orders from the authorities. Vasyl' KOZACHENKO, Secretary of the party committee of the Ukrainian Writers Union, has lead in the attacks on HONCHAR. Dmytro PAVLYCHKO has refrained from criticizing Sobor to date. (Note: Yuri KOCHUBEY, 1st Secretary of the Ukrainian Permanent Delegation to the UN, on 20 May told a source that Georgiy SHEVEL, was the instigator of the attacks on HONCHAR. KOCHUBEY said that Sobor gave the authorities an excuse for their attacks on HONCHAR, who has supported Ukrainian restive youth and the dissident writers. When HONCHAR celebrated his 50th birthday recently, TRONKO, ^{Party (Ukrainian)} *Dep. Chairman Council of Min.* Pater T. OVCHARENKO, BELOKOLOS ^{Party (Ukrainian)} and others present complimented him on his Sobor. Georgiy SHEVEL and Andrey SKABA later attacked HONCHAR, and now most of the literary party potentates have changed their tunes accordingly.)

2. The two most popular songs in Kiev this season are "The International" and "Shaliyte, Shaliyte Skazheni Katy" (Go Mad, Go Mad, You Raging Torturers). The youth sing

SECRET



SECRET

-2-

these songs in restaurants and in the streets to the annoyance of the Russians within hearing distance. A new slogan also has become popular among the Ukrainian youth, "Bud'mo! Shanuymosya! Khay vony vyzdykhajut" (Let us live! Let us have respect for ourselves! Let them perish!) "Them" implies the Russians.

3. Over 2 million Ukrainians have been resettled to other parts of the Soviet Union during the past two years. This has been accomplished by the "creation of an artificial unemployment situation" in the Ukraine insofar as Ukrainians are concerned.

4. Intourist-KGB types are keeping themselves very busy these days going through the luggage of Westerners in hotel rooms, exposing films and putting cameras out of order by breaking small mechanical parts in the cameras. Young activists approach Westerners on the streets of Kiev and try to provoke them into anti-Soviet discussions by posing as non-conformist intellectuals.

5. According to an earlier source who visited in Kiev in early April, Soviet Ukrainian intellectuals were making preparations for a large demonstration to be held by the monument to Taras Shevchenko* in Kiev. (Annually on 22 May, Ukrainians in the Soviet Union commemorate the anniversary of the transfer of the poet's remains from Petersburg to Kiev. In the past 4 years the celebration has taken on more nationalist tones, and this year the affair reportedly was to be accentuated by a manifestation in protest against the arrest and imprisonment of Ukrainian intellectuals.) The source was told that Soviet authorities learned about the planned demonstration and began to disseminate provocative anti-Soviet and anti-Russian leaflets, in an effort to compromise the leaders of the planned celebration. When the leaflets came to the attention of the organizers of the demonstration, they began to distribute new leaflets explaining the intention of the authorities and instructing the public to disregard the literature being distributed by the authorities. So far as the source was able to learn, plans for the demonstration were being continued. Soviet Ukrainians with whom the source talked asked him to try to encourage Western press representatives to visit Kiev on 22 May so that there would be Western witnesses to whatever took place on that day. A source who was in Kiev in late May reported that authorities took further measures to counter the effect of the Shevchenko anniversary by organizing a meeting in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Komsomol. The Komsomol meeting did check the Shevchenko

*Taras Shevchenko, 1814-1861, Ukrainian writer considered symbol of Ukrainian national movement.

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

celebration to some extent but, nevertheless, a large group gathered at the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and a crowd of over 2,000 at the Shevchenko Monument, where Shevchenko's poetry was recited and the crowd participated in the singing of Shevchenko's last will and testament.

6. A source reported in April that Vyacheslav CHORNOVIL (Ukrainian writer and TV critic sentenced in 1966 to 3 years in prison because he refused to testify at a secret trial of Ukrainian intellectuals arrested for alleged anti-regime activities), was operated on for cancer in a hospital in Lvov in March or early April and then transferred to a prison in the vicinity of Vinnytsya to complete the remainder of his sentence. (His sentence had been reduced to 1 1/2 years in the amnesty last fall). Because his wife and family had been refused permission to visit him and because everything he had written had been confiscated, CHORNOVIL threatened to begin a hunger strike on 1 May. He postponed the date to 15 May when the authorities permitted his wife to visit him. CHORNOVIL's family, according to a source, does not believe he will be released when he completes his sentence because in spite of pressure from the authorities, CHORNOVIL refuses to say he was wrong.

7. If you have any questions concerning this memorandum, please contact [] on extension 6508, in room 5B4804.

[] SB/CAO]

Distribution:

Orig & 1 addressee
1 74-124-29/3
1 201 file
1 SB/CA chrono

SECRET