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Re : General Situation in Ukrainian province, early summer 1968

Source: as under para 1.

Date : 11 July 1968

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
VAZ I WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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1. The man visiting his brother in Canada comes from the village of Zubrets' in the Buchach rayon, ^{obl. TERNOPIL} He is 28 years old, a brick-layer by profession, married and has three children - the oldest a girl of 8 and the youngest a baby 8 months old. Because he and his wife were married in church and only later registered with the authorities, the children were registered in his wife's name. In Zubrets" the visitor lives with his wife and children and also his mother who has told him a lot about the "old days". He was granted permission to spend 3 months in Canada with his brother. At the time, the officials who were preparing his papers told his wife that she shouldn't let him go because he will find himself another woman.

2. A daily newspaper called Rayon News is published in the rayon from which the visitor comes. Subscription to this publication is compulsory. In addition to this, pressure is used to make the villagers subscribe to other publications. For example, last year the visitor received three Kiev magazines in the mail: Perets, Radyanska Zhinka, and one other. The visitor did not want to subscribe to them so he took them to the rayon office. There he was sarcastically asked whether he wanted to subscribe to America instead. In this manner he was forced to subscribe to the three publications mentioned above.

3. The militia official lives in aneighboring village and has four villages under his jurisdiction. He in turn is responsible to the rayon KGB office. Many people still refer to the KGB by its original name - the NKVD.

4. The visitor reported that under Pidgorny and Brezhnev the economic situation has improved. While Khrushchev was in power the economic situation was in a very bad state. There were always very long line-ups for food and other commodities. Now conditions have improved, but even now there often are line-ups in Buchach.

SECRET

SECRET

5. Most people believe that the USSR is quietly working with the USA to create a common front against China.
6. In the spring "when the government was changing in Czechoslovakia", "it was very hot in the village". Sixty men were called up to army headquarters. Each of them was given a slip of paper stating when and where he was to report when mobilization was proclaimed. It looked as if there would be war.
7. Last year a "partisan" was caught by the KGB in Buchach. The man had been born in Monastyrsk but had been hiding out in an attic in Buchach for many years. He had built a double floor in the attic and kept a radio in his hide-out. The woman who owned the house looked after him. His presence was finally discovered when the neighbors saw a light in the house and told the KGB about it. The KGB watched the house for a while and then arrested him. When questioned the man admitted that he was a "partisan" and that he was "waiting for freedom".
8. Eight years ago a young teacher from Odessa had lived in the village of Zubrets'. This young man, whose first name was Vadym (the visitor could not recall his last name), collected old materials which had been published in the western oblasts of Ukraine before these came under Communist rule, ~~published~~ ~~books~~ read them and passed them on to others. He told some people that "Students from Kiev" would bring about a change in the government. Vadym also became involved in the matter of a Shevchenko monument in Buchach. For some time trash had been piling up around this monument and fresh supplies were added from time to time. Vadym led a protest to the rayon office demanding that the area around the monument be cleared because the trash was an insult to Shevchenko's memory. In due time the trash was removed. But after a while the monument itself disappeared. Vadym realized that certain people were displeased with him so he

SECRET

transferred his books and materials to a friend's home. Shortly after this Vadym's quarters were searched. Nothing was found but the authorities saw to it that Vadym left the vicinity. He wrote one letter from Odessa to the visitor but since then nothing more was heard from him. People think that the security organs have taken Vadym under their wing.

9. Both young and old attend church in large numbers. Only school children are not permitted to attend.

10. The atmosphere in the village is not particularly relaxed. Each person lives his own life. Villagers brew their own liquor ~~xxx~~ from sugar beets because the government product costs 3 rubles per liter. Everyone talks about peace but thinks about war.

11. The village of Zubrets' lies 12 kilometers from the rayon center. Its population consists of about 600 persons and is Ukrainian in all aspects. There is an 8-grade school and a church which is still functioning. The parish priest is 36 years old and a graduate of the Kiev seminary. A year ago permission was granted to ring the church bells to call people to services. This has been interpreted as the USSR's desire to conform to western ways.

12. There are only 16 Party members in the village. All 16 are natives of the village and were recruited from the poorest elements of the population. The people do not willingly join the Party. Anyone who has relatives living in the West is not eligible for ~~the~~ Party membership.

13. Most of the teachers in the village school are natives of Zubrets'. Only the principal of the school is from one of the eastern oblasts of Ukraine. The language of instruction is Ukrainian. Russian is taught twice a week. After

SECRET

SECRET

completing 10 years of school (equivalent to completion of high school) a student must work two years in a kolhosp before he or she may try to enter an institution of higher learning. Often after two years of working, the young people no longer want to go on with their education. In this manner the authorities tend to prevent young people from obtaining a higher education and thus force them to remain in the villages. People are very anxious to leave the country and move into the cities, but this is quite difficult. Skilled workers are paid higher wages in the country than in the city. This is also done with a view to keeping the skilled workers in the villages. The visitor earns 3 rubles and sometimes 3.25 per day as a bricklayer. In the city he would earn no more than 60 rubles a month. A male kolhosp worker earns 50 - 60 kopeks a day; a female kolhosp worker earns 30 - 40 kopeks. A teacher working in a village receives 60 rubles but the head of the village council or kolhosp, earns 100 = 120 rubles per month.

14. A kilogram of bacon costs 3 rubles, a kg. of high quality sausage, 3 rubles - one of lower quality - 2 rubles. Pork or beef costs about 2 rubles per kilogram.

15. 100 kgs. of wheat cost 19 rubles, but when weighing in, one must pay 1 ruble to the state, so in fact, 100 kgs. of wheat cost 20 rubles. Bread is baked at home or bought at 20 kopeks per 1 kg. Rye bread costs 30 kopeks per kg.

16. A kolhosp worker may keep as much livestock and poultry as he wishes. The problem is in feeding them.

17. The visitor had heard nothing about Oles' Honchar's novel, Sobor (The Cathedral).

SECRET