

9 Feb 1970

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

SHORT NOTES.

1. Following information was obtained via Yugoslavia:

a/ Late autumn 1969 in Kharkov there was arrested and
assumably liquidated by the KGB BALBUK, I.S. for allegedly belonging to
an underground organization which had its people also in Lvov.
BALBUK was born in Poltava. He was employed with Kharkov Tractor Plant (Kh.T.Z.

b/ In Lvov there is a group of Ukrainians who took the
obligation of paying 1 Rubel ^{OR MORE} per month for support of Ukrainian prisoners
and others " in need". Sometimes this group is being referred to as
"Ukrainian Freedom". It conducts its collections "on private basis".

2. According to a Ukrainian priest (now orthodox, previously
catholic) from West Ukraine , on a visit to this country since late January
1970 , the main accusation presented by the KGB to Bishop VELICHKOVSKY
Vasil consisted in his alleged appeal to orthodox clergy to confess and
repent their former and present sins against the Catholic Church and
from now on while remaining pro forma orthodox , in reality act as
Catholics. At the Pochayiv Sobor this question was openly discussed and
condemned as " a new catholic subversion". A resolution was passed to
address proper authorities to defend the Orthodox Church against this
latest attempt of the "enemies of our Holy Church ".

During the search at Velichkovsky's house a great amount of
money and "blackmarket goods" were found and confiscated.

According to the same source the Soviet regime evidently
tries to ingratiate itself with the Orthodox church by taking proper care
of loyal clergy, repairing churches, inviting ~~even~~ clergy to some "state
festivities". The source himself ,for instance, gets Rubel 200.00 per month
as dekan plus another 200.00 or so from Sunday collections. " So I can't
complain comparing with teachers or even physicians and engineers".

The political situation was described by the source by
the contemporary saying , " Za Brezhneva, Po Prezhnemu" (During Brezhnev, As
It Was Before) meaning that all the Khrushchev liberalization came to an end,
and the conditions were more like during Stalin. Of course, there could be

no return of Stalinist terror but on the whole the emphasis is on
"order", "preservation of healthy values", and "no messing around".