

Re : Soviet Journalists Group to Philadelphia and Suburban New Jersey Areas, April 30 to May 7, 1970, sponsored by Philadelphia Council For International Visitors

Date : 11 May 1970

1. The Soviet Journalists Group, consisting of 26 individuals (see the enclosed list), left Philadelphia and New Jersey area on 3 May 1970 for New York City where they stayed at Penn Garden Hotel. On 4 and 5 May 1970 they were scheduled to visit Washington, D.C., and on 6 May were back in New York City. On 7 May 1970 they left by air via Montreal, Quebec for Moscow.

On 1 and 2 May 1970 contacts were made by our Source with several members of the Group in Morfistown, Pa and Philadelphia, Pa.

On 6 May 1970 two of our Sources contacted the journalists in New York City.

Those contacted and identified were:

SOROKA, N.A., Editor-in-Chief of Znamya ta Pratsia, Kiev, Ukrainian, born 1935;

MELNICHENKO, A.O. Editor of Komsomolskoye Znamya, Kiev, Ukrainian, born 1934, his father is a retired artillery general;

PAVLENKO, V.Y., Correspondent of RATAU (Radio -Telegraph Agency of Ukraine), Kiev, Ukrainian, born 1935;

POLANICHKO, V.P., Group leader, Ukrainian, born 1937, Chelyabinsk;

LOY, O.I., Institute lecturer (professor), Zaporozhe, Ukrainian, born 1942

ZAKHARCHENKO, I.P., Editor of Molodaya Guardiia, Moscow.

2. Most interesting among the contacted and identified turned out to be SOROKA, N.A. In presence of his colleagues he conformed to the official line though to a lesser degree than, for instance, POLANICHKO or PAVLENKO. In tete-a-tete conversations he sounded more sincere and even tried to act more independent and "original" than the others.

Following is the gist of what he said in a tete-a-tete encounter on 2 May 1970.

a) Ivan Dziuba was under strong attacks "from all sides" but ^{now} it is somewhat easier. He retained his job with the Publishing House Dnipro in Kiev. Of particular significance, however, is the fact that Dziuba has not been expelled from the Union of Writers.

b) Svyatoslav KARAVANSKY was brought to Kiev from Volodymyrska Prison and given here in Jan 1970 an additional 7 year term (and not 5 years as was recently reported by The Chronicle). His case is very well known all over

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Ukraine and in the Soviet Union in general, " in proper circles".

c) One should not complain against SHELEST, Petro, First Secretary CPUkraine. In Soroka's opinion it's primarily to Shelest's "credit and merit" that lately there were no arrests nor any other harsh persecutions in the Ukraine.

d) Soroka claimed to have read Suchasnist in Kiev and asked for it here. He was given 2 issues of Suchasnist, Svoboda, America, and 2 volumes of "Coordinates". He did not know about Sverdiuk's publication abroad on "Sobor" by O. Honchar.

e) Soroka was interested in "The First Circle" by Solzhenitsyn. He read his "Cancer Ward". In his opinion Solzhenitsyn was definitely stronger than Honchar. In New York City he took together with Ukrainian also Russian books.

f) According to Soroka, the late Malyshko Andriy, Ukrainian poet, wanted to see "The Coordinates" before his death but couldn't. Soroka and Malyshko were close friends.

g) Soroka could not say what changes are to be expected from the next Party Congress but in his opinion at least "for the time being" the "dual" collective leadership will continue to exist.

h) Asked about Khmil, Ivan, of New York, Soroka replied that he knew him and made a move indicating that he is of no good opinion about him.

i) Russification is still "very much in sight" but one should not overlook the resistance against it which is growing stronger every day, particularly among the young.

aa) In a meeting with American students Soroka stressed several times that he was Ukrainian and not Russian. Once, before the audience in Philadelphia, Pa he also said that one could ask him any questions except for those about Solzhenitsyn and Kuznetsov Anatoli.

On other occasion he asked ^{for} rather preferred, a Ukrainian ~~guide~~ speaking guide to the Russian one.

3. MELNYCHENKO, A.O. stuck all the time to official line. He is married to a Ukrainian, he went to school in Lvov while his father was stationed there, ~~which~~ he works for a Russian paper ("Komsomolskoye Znamya"). While in Lvov he lived in former Pekarska wul.

Following ~~is~~ the gist of what he said.

a) Symonenko was published not only abroad but in the Ukraine as well. Thus, Suchasnist should not take all the credit for it. As to Symonenko's "Diary", it was unfinished, and Symonenko would have been against its publication. Ivan SWITLYCHNY had stolen Symonenko's works from his mother and gave them to people abroad.

b) It was wrong to complain against the Russians because Ukrainians owed very much to the "elder brother" for his generous help through centuries. There was no Russification as a deliberate policy.

4. PAVLENKO, V.Y. was contacted in New York City and spent the whole afternoon with our Sources on 6 May 1970. He made impression of a rather simple, unsophisticated character. In the beginning he refused to go beyond phrases and generalities but after a while was willing to say something of his own.

Following is the gist of what he said.

a) Ivan Dziuba was not arrested for "Internationalism or Russification" because he sent it to Shelest, Shcherbytsky, and Korotchenko. Pavlenko read this book still in Kiev; "it's being circulated around in the city". He also read Stenchuk's reply to Dziuba's book. Stenchuk is right, Dziuba emphasized only negative sides of Soviet Ukrainian reality and overlooked the positives. Then Pavlenko repeated most of Stenchuk's arguments. Despite "everything", Dziuba continues to work with Publishing House "Dnipro".

b) PAVLENKO knows personally CHORNOVIL, Vyacheslav. They studied together journalism in Kiev. POLTORATSKY lied when he wrote in Literaturna Ukraina in July 1968 that CHORNOVIL was no journalist. He was a journalist and a very good one. He was also very active in Komsomol. At one time he was secretary of Komsomol at Kiev HES (Hydro-Electric Station). He also showed his talent while working with Lvov Tele-Station. But Chornovil has also his weaknesses; one of them is his fondness of women, another one - his anti-Soviet attitude. At present he is working at a Meteorological Station in Carpathian Mountains.

c/ PAVLENKO denied there was any "tightening of screws" at the present. Punishments of those who are attacking the government and the

party are normal, in his view. The same is being done all over the world. The main thing is that it is being done in accordance with law and he is proud that Soviet authorities are observing it (the law) meticulously.

d) Pavlenko denied that Brezhnev new definition of "friendship of Soviet nations" as expressed in his speech in April 1970 in Kharkov should be interpreted as a further step towards "fusion of nations". In his view it was just the opposite as it stressed at the same time the necessity for further cultural and economic development of individual socialist nations.

e) Bilodid's theory about "two native languages of Ukrainians" (Ukrainian and Russian) is his private affair. Actually, Bilodid himself recently repudiated it.

f) The demonstrations of 22 May in Kiev (on the anniversary of transfer of Shevchenko's body from Petersburg to Kiev) are organized by students of Literature and Ukrainian Language. In 1968 there was a turmoil during the demonstration because one student assaulted a militiaman. The latter were there to keep order, as usually. "But that's about all".

g) Among good poets Pavlenko mentioned Pavlychko, Vanhranovsky, Korotych, Drach. As to Lina Kostenko he could not say much because she is not publishing anything.

h) KAYKAN, Petro, chairman of Ivano-Frankovsk oblyvkonkom who visited the USA together with Kolosova's group in 1964/65 and who claimed that ZALYVAKHA Panas was sent to Mordvinian Camps for "orgies" organized at his ~~xxxx~~ studio, obviously lied, - according to Pavlenko since it was generally known that ZALYVAKHA was sentenced for his anti-Soviet activities.

4. Pavlenko, Polanychko, Melnichenko and others were quite well informed about Ukrainian cultural activities in the USA. They knew, for instance, about Ukrainian Studies at Harvard, prof. Shevelov of Columbia, Prof. Ohloblyn etc. Bohdan Kravtsiv of Suchasnist seemed to be quite known to Pavlenko whereas KRAVTSEV I. Ye. of Kiev, known for his pro-Russification essays, did not ring the bell at all.

On the whole they were quite willing to talk but not about political topics. As soon as the talk switched ^{over} to politics they became stiff and reserved and did not go beyond official line. Polanychko himself was a typical representative of orthodox apparatchiks and mostly acted more like a KGB officer than a journalist.

5. List of literature given to Soviet journalists:

1. Suchasnist nos. 2,3/1970 (2 copies of each)
2. Coordinates No.1 and 2 copies of volume 2
3. 2 copies of "Svoboda"
4. 1 copy of "America"
5. Report from the Beria Reserve
6. Rybalka: Russian Social Democrats and the Nationality Question
7. Mazlakh: On the Current Situation (Do Khvyli)
8. Pages from the history of the KPU parts 1 and 2
9. A contemporary Concept of the Ukrainian Revolution
10. Symonenko: Shores of Expectations
11. Ukraine, Present and Future
12. Mykola Kholodniy: Poetry
13. New Poetry # 8/66
14. Albert Camus : Les Justes
15. Moscow Summer 1964
16. Cancer Ward by Solzhenitsyn
17. My Testamony - Marchenko
18. Only One Year - Alliluyeva

Total:

Books: 19
papers: 3
magazines: 4