

Subject: MOISEYEV DANCE COMPANY in New York City.

Source: B.

Date: July 21, 1970.

A first contact took place on Thursday, July 16, at the Lincoln Center Plaza after the performance.

1. Source approached Vera ZAYTSEVA who was walking with two male dancers. After a few minutes she recognized Source but did not introduce him to her companions. All three of them were raving about the beauty of the new Lincoln Center and at the same time condemned the def^{er}ioration of New York City. ZAYTSEVA seemed to be uncomfortable and very reserved, so Source did not attempt to prolong the conversation when they proceeded to leave.
2. Then Source approached Nikolay (Kola) KOSOGOROV. He recognized Source right away. When he found out that Source could not get a ticket to see the performance, KOSOGOROV was quite concerned and said that he will do something about getting a ticket or a pass for Source.

KOSOGOROV was in a hurry to get to the hotel because his roommate, Anatoliy SEMENOV, an accordion player, was ill and KOSOGOROV had to massage his back so he soon could be ready for work.

On the way to the hotel, the conversation was very general, mostly about the ensemble and Source's acquaintances -- Natasha BOBROVA is here; Vera ZAYTSEVA married Boris SANKIN; Olga MOISEYEVA divorced Boris PETROV and remarried to someone in Moscow; Nadezhda MUZYKA-RYMAR divorced her husband at home and is about to marry someone from the ensemble.

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Source asked KOSOGOROV if Vassily BYRYULIN is here again with the ensemble. At first he could not remember him but when Source described BYRYULIN and added that he was one of the administrators, KOSOGOROV said, "oh, that one!" and added, "but don't ask me anything about him."

KOSOGOROV said that he is probably here in the U.S.A. for the last time because he has been with the company for 22 years and he could have retired two years ago with a pension of 50% of his present salary.

Source asked KOSOGOROV if he still drinks a lot and ~~reminded~~ ^{reminded} him of missing a TV taping because of a drinking spree. He replied that a similar situation happened to him in Halifax for which he was admonished in front of the entire ensemble. That time there were no serious consequences because there were three of them involved in that incident. Source commented that if he was not one of the better soloists he would have been sent to Siberia a long time ago for stepping out of line so frequently. KOSOGOROV only winked his eye in an agreement.

At the hotel KOSOGOROV went right away to his room and asked Source to come to the hotel the next day at 7PM and call his room. He also added that he will arrange for Source to meet some of his old acquaintances.

3. Source called several times BOBROVA and MUZYKA on the house phone but they were not in their rooms. Finally, just before 1AM MUZYKA's roommate answered and suggested that he call at 8:40AM.

Source called as suggested and MUZYKA recalled him well, but when he suggested to meet later on for a chat, she replied, "I can not. I am here with my husband" and hanged up the phone (she is not married yet, only about to get married -- Source).

On Friday, July 17, Source went to the hotel about 5PM. There was no one in sight. The lobby of the Park-Sheraton Hotel is not very well suited for the dancers to lounge because of its smallness and lack of chairs.

At 7PM Source called KOSOGOROV as suggested and he came down right away. They hardly had time to exchange greetings when some man (Boris Oblezov from New York City) approached KOSOGOROV -- they have met in 1965. Oblezov came to see some other dancers but since he had no ticket to the performance, KOSOGOROV invited him to come along. On the way to the theater Oblezov dominated the whole conversation, mostly complaining about the life in the U.S.A. -- crime, riots, narcotics, filth, etc.

At the theater KOSOGOROV managed to get passes for the performance.

After the performance Source met KOSOGOROV in the front of the theater. With him were Mikhail (Misha) ALEKSANDROV, Edvard (Edy) ZOLOTOV, Igor KALUGIN, and Boris (l.n.u.). KOSOGOROV went to find Natasha BOBROVA who came with her girlfriends -- Alla (l.n.u.) and other girl(f. & l.n.u.).

All went to a bar not far from their hotel. All the dancers were drinking gin and tonic.

At the bar the conversation did not amount to anything of significance. The group was too large and the only big table to accommodate all was too narrow and long to permit everyone to participate in a conversation.

1. At first, the dancers expressed their impression of New York City comparing it with the past. Then they were talking about their tour and the program.
2. The male dancers were talking a lot about drinking and drinks. They all liked gin and ALEKSANDROV said that at present it is

possible to buy in Moscow gin and other foreign whiskey in a special store. KOSOGOROV added that English gin at that store is even cheaper than their domestic vodka. KALUGIN commented that our Smirnof vodka is better than their Stolichnaya sold back home, but the one used for export is the best he ever drank.

3. ZOLOTOV expressed quite an interest in pipes (Source smokes one) -- what kind of wood it is made from, how to break in and smoke, etc. Then he and the rest of the boys were trying Source's pipe, smoking it in turn.
4. The girls were mostly interested in our popular music -- Tom Jones, Engelbert Humperdink, various rock groups, their newest songs and recordings. They showed quite a knowledge of our popular music and performers.
5. The girls also expressed an interest in our latest fashion trends. They commented that everything new in fashion that appears in the West, in a short time comes to the Soviet Union.
6. BOBROVA asked Source about the commemorative Kennedy dollar which she would like to get because she collects coins.
7. When Source invited BOBROVA to go somewhere on Sunday, she said that they all are going on an excursion ride down the Hudson River and added that possibly she could skip it. However, later on, on the way to the hotel, she said that she better go with the group.
8. On the way to the hotel, while walking alongside Source, BOBROVA asked him about "his friend" that was here with the ensemble in 1965. After describing this friend, Source told her that

she is referring to Vassily BYRYULIN and added that she should know more about him since he lives in Moscow. BOBROVA replied that she does not know his whereabouts, but she remembers that upon their return home in 1965, BYRYULIN was talking a lot about coming back to the States to study and she thought that he met with Source (BYRYULIN came back to the States and studied at the Cornell University in 1965-1966 or 1966-1967 -- Source),

9. BOBROVA told Source that she got married shortly after their return home. Her husband is a chemical engineer and a lyrical writer. They have no children yet.
10. BOBROVA was not as comfortable as the last time, less talkative and more reserved.

Saturday, July 18, Source met KOSOGOROV after the performance. With him were ALEKSANDROV, ZOLOTOV, and his roommate Anatoliy SEMENOV, ensemble's accordion player. Together they went for some beer.

1. On the way from the theater and talking loudly in Russian they were stopped by two girls who were from the Soviet Mission. The girls walked with the group for several blocks talking about the performance. When the girls went their way, ALEKSANDROV got an idea inviting them along hoping to get them to their room. After thinking it over, the others decided that it may not be such a good idea.
2. Upon arriving in a bar, being somewhat stimulated, the boys talked about the problem of satisfying their needs during a long tour. KOSOGOROV complained that there are only six single girls on this tour. Of the others, if some are even willing, it is almost impossible to get anywhere because everyone is always seen by someone.

3. In order to cheer themselves up a little, the boys started to talk about their plans for Sunday -- KOSOGOROV and ALEKSANDROV were going to visit some friend and expected a lot of drinking there; ZOLOTOV met some American girl who speaks a little Russian and with her he was going to visit the Metropolitan Museum in the morning and in the evening he was going with a group of the dancers to see the movie "Funny Girl"; SEMENOV had no definite plans because he still did not feel completely well.
4. The boys were very pleased that their performances are being so well accepted by the audience and that all the tickets are being sold out. Mr. Hurok himself did not expect it to go so well because of the summer season.
5. The boys started praising MOISEYEV sky-high as being the best in the entire Soviet Union. SEMENOV stated that MOISEYEV is^a very talented choreographer -- not only that he is the best in the field of folk dancing, but he also is very good in the classical ballet. Recently, while working on their new repertoire, he composed choreography for a classical ballet which he sent to Leningrad where it is being staged now with a great success. Further SEMENOV added that MOISEYEV is very intelligent person, is very well versed in arts and literature, and is fanatic of chess. He also is a very good administrator, having very keen knowledge and understanding of human mind and behavior, he uses good psychology in handling the ensemble. It is quite a task, especially towards the end of every tour when the dancers become very restless. The dancers call MOISEYEV "khozyain" (master).
6. Source tried to turn the conversation to topic of literature. To the question about interesting new young writers in the Soviet Union they replied that there are many of them but were unable to cite any names. KOSOGOROV, when asked about Yevtushenko, just replied that he is all right, but could not say what he has written lately (in 1965 Kosogorov said that he is a friend with Yevtushenko -- Source).

7. When Source asked them if the new Stalin's monument means a return to Stalinism, they started to laugh and replied that it is not so and will not happen. ZOLOTOV explained that no one can deny the fact that Stalin has done a lot of good for the Soviet Union, especially during the WW II, he deserves due respect and therefore a new monument has been erected.

Perhaps it was the subject of politics that ended the evening because the boys started to claim that they are quite tired *after* two performances and had to get some rest in order to be ready for the "big day" in the morning.

Sunday, July 19, Source went to the Lincoln Center about 4PM and met BOBROVA as she was walking with her two girlfriends to the hotel. They did not enjoy the excursion because it was poorly organized and therefore uninteresting. They declined Source's invitation to go anywhere because they were tired and needed some rest before going in the evening to see "Funny Girl".

At 6PM Source called KOSOGOROV's room as was suggested but he was not back yet. SEMENOV was there resting, and when Source asked him to come down he did and both went for drinks.

After some small talk, Source turned the conversation to some specific topics:

1. On the Soviet-^hCinese situation he commented that it is not a game and the conflict is of a serious nature. However, he does not believe that there is a danger of war because China knows that the Soviet Union is much stronger than they are. Soviet Union has better arms and better trained troops. The recent border incidents on the Ussuri River were Chinese provocations -- China was just trying the reaction of the Soviet Union. At first the Soviet Union was patient, but after quite a few Soviet soldiers were killed there, Soviet

patience run out and all they had to do was to fire only one shot (he strongly emphasized that there was only one shot fired - Source) in order to make the Chinese run 20 kilometers into their territory. If it ever would come to war, the Soviet soldiers are pretty tough, especially if someone is stepping on their toes, and they will destroy China as they did to Germany in WW II. Besides, China would have to think twice before starting the war because in addition to the Soviet Union they will have ^{the} Western Powers against them. The Chinese accuse the Soviet Union of conspiring with the U.S.A. against them which is not true. But he is sure that the U.S.A. will go along with the Soviet Union if China will start something big.

(Talking about Western Powers SEMENOV used names such as America, England, France as being the strong ones both militarily and as allies. But he never used name of Germany in that context, as if it were in a class by itself, and when referring to Germany he did so with obvious distaste - Source)

2. Further, Semenov commented that it is true that China is quickly becoming a strong nuclear power, thanks to the Soviet Union. He strongly condemns Khrushchev's stupidity in ^{helping to} ~~developing~~ China's nuclear arsenal. He also does not think that it was ~~a~~ very smart on the part of Stalin to initiate the development of China's industry. However, China still has a long way to go in order to catch up with the Soviet Union, if they ever will.
3. Source mentioned ~~consequently~~ that lack of living space and shortage of food for so many people - a very strong motive - may drive China into ~~the~~ war. Semenov replied that the situation of space is not so bad as it seems because in China only the regions around Peking and Canton are densely populated while the northwestern part of the country is very sparsely inhabited. As far as the food is concerned, he stated that there are great

possibilities in China and all they need is more knowhow in order to utilize all the possibilities. He commented further that the region of ^{the} Tibet Mountains is completely unproductive, but in the Soviet Union the Ural Mountains are agriculturally developed up to the height of 2,000 meters. The Chinese could have accomplished the same.

4. Semenov does not believe at all that there is a chance of a Third WW because everyone knows that it would be a complete Annihilation of everything in existence.
5. Source commented that perhaps nuclear weapons would not be used, just like poisonous gas during WW I. Semenov replied that atomic and hydrogen energy is already outdated -- the Soviet Union developed a new energy which makes atomic energy so insignificant "like wood energy in comparison to atomic energy." This new energy (he did not use its name - Source) will be used for orbital flights, only what remains now is its adoption. He added that the U.S.A. already has similar energy and also is working on its adoption.
6. As far as the gas is concerned, Semenov stated that there has been developed gas so powerful that .005 of a gram could kill 15,000 people in a second. He added that there is also some-kind of bacteria which is very contagious and when contracted by a living being, it brings instant death. It can spread through touch and air alike. These two new developments are worse than any kind ~~of~~ bombs and, naturally, eliminate their usefulness in ~~the~~ war.
7. As to the Western Bloc of nations, Semenov stated that it is very unlikely that anything serious could happen between them and the Soviet Union. Western nations, just like the Soviet Union want to live peacefully and in harmony with others. Besides, now they have a rapport and any misunderstanding can be ironed out between the governments.

8. Talking about the Satellite countries, Semenov said that the Soviet Union does not have a problem with any of them. As for Czechoslovakia, he just said that it was quite an unpleasant incident.
9. When asked why the Party Congress has been postponed, Semenov replied that it is not so and the Congress will take place in October as scheduled.
10. As to the changes that the Congress may bring, he answered that every Congress brings some changes, but what kind, this one will bring it is too soon to tell. The changes that this Congress will bring will be, as all other changes in the past, ^{will} definitely be for betterment of the country.
11. Source asked Semenov about the rumor that Brezhnev may be "retired soon, just like Khrushchev was. He replied that the rumor is completely unfounded, and added that there always is a possibility that Koygin may be asked to form a new government (?).
12. Talking about the Soviet government, Semenov said that the present leaders have done a lot of good for their country -- they have tremendously developed industry, especially in the Asiatic region, built new and modern cities there, and rebuilt the old ones. They have also improved trade and relations with foreign countries.
13. Semenov also mentioned failures in agriculture. Ukraine, having the richest soil in the Union, has always been capable to supply all the wheat that was needed and more. At present the Soviet Union has to import wheat, just like it was during Khrushchev's period. The only difference is that during Khrushchev's period it was his agricultural policy that forced the Union to import. Now it is a disaster which could not ^{have} been avoided -- last year there was one of the worst droughts they remember,

especially in Ukraine, which had practically no harvest. He admitted that without Ukraine the Soviet Union could not sustain itself.

The conversation with SEMENOV had to end. He wanted to write a letter to his wife. Besides, his back was still giving him trouble and he needed a lot of rest.

Monday, July 20, about 3:30PM Source went to the Lincoln Center to meet some dancers but no one was there. None of Source's acquaintances were in the hotel either. In the evening he found out that the dancers finished their meal sooner and many of them went to the Mission to get fresh supplies -- mostly vodka and cigarettes.

After the performance Source met KOSOGOROV, SEMENOV, ALEKSANDROV and ZOLOTOV and they suggested to have a beer (it seems that these four always go together - Source).

In the bar KOSOGOROV and ALEKSANDROV were boasting about the good time they had on Sunday. KOSOGOROV said that they consumed gallons of vodka and he got home completely drunk. In the morning he was told that he punched ZOLOTOV in the face but does not remember anything about it.

Someone from the ensemble heard on the radio about the Soviet plane crash. Being concerned, they asked Source details of the accident.

Source also mentioned to them that recently a Soviet submarine sank. This information disturbed them and they also wanted to know the details. This information was a real news to them.

After having one beer each they left, claiming that they are very tired. ALEKSANDROV explained that the day after their free day is always the most difficult for them because they enjoy themselves to the fullest.

Just before entering the hotel, Source gave SEMENOV and KOSOGOROV two books -- Alliluyeva's "Only One Year" and Solzhenitsyn's "Cancer Ward". SEMENOV said that he will share these books with KOSOGOROV.