

Subject: \*GRIDIN, Anatoli of Leningrad Kirov Ballet

7P

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SR-4599

30 Sep 64

Source : rk

D.O.B. ca 1932 in Siberia

Presently resides in Leningrad

Married. Wife also dances

with Leningrad Kirov Ballet

Re: KUPCHENKO  
30 Sept 64

Subject had contact in New York  
with Subject of [ ] [ ] future  
contact expected when ballet  
returns to New York in December 1964

Note: Subject: Gridin also has contact with [ ] [ ] [ ]  
on 30 Sept 64 in 74-124-29/3

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ABSTRACT	X	INDEX	X

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74-124-29/4

30 Sept 1964

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At 7:00 P.M. I went backstage of the Metropolitan Opera house. There I sat until the dancers started to come in. First there was a ballerina doing some practice dancing. I started talking to her, asked her where she was from. She was from Leningrad. I told her that my parents were from Ukraine. She said that she had never been in the Ukraine, but heard that it is very beautiful. At 7:30 I started a conversation with some dancers, I said that I saw the performance of Swan Lake and the solo of Gridin was very nice, at that moment Gridin walked by and I was introduced to him.

✓ Anatoli Gridin <sup>201</sup> CIT: USSR occ: arts  
DPOB: Born Siberia <sup>USSR</sup> d.o.b. ca. 1932  
Lives Leningrad, USSR

father from Chernihivshna, mother lived in Lviv.

Description: age 30-33

height 5'10"

weight 140

hair brown combed to the back.

wears glasses black rimmed

facial description : photo available.

In contact with Roman Kupczynsky

I introduced myself to Gridin as RK and complemented him on his solo. I said that I was a Ukrainian born in the US, he asked me where I learned to speak Ukrainian, I said in Ukrainian school. He wanted to know if there were schools, and other Ukrainian establishments in NY. I told him about the life of the emigration in the city. He wanted to know how many Ukrainians there were in N.Y. I asked him if he spoke Ukrainian, he said no. I asked him where his parents were from. He told me that his father was from the Ukraine, Chernihivshina, and that his mother lived in Lviv. He asked me if I was going to stay for the performance that evening. I said that I will try to see it. G. said that he is dancing the spanish dance. I asked him if he saw the city already. He said that he did not have time yet. G. said that all day they have something to do, and there is never time to go sightseeing. I offered to take him on a tour of the city if he ever had time. He had to go and dress for the nights performance, we agreed to meet after the performance. I also asked him where he was from, he said Siberia and smiled after he said it. I smiled and he seemed to understand the what I meant. After the performance we met in the hallway. He told me to come outside for some air. There we discussed the performance and I asked him for his autograph. He signed a pamphlet for me and told me that he is

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going back to his hotel with his wife. I ~~said-that~~ asked him if his wife is also a dancer. He said yes. We then arranged to meet on Saturday in the lobby to the stage. There he would try to arrange for me to see the ballet backstage again. This meeting is <sup>to</sup> take place at 2:00 PM and after the evening performance we could go somewhere. I said all right and we left.

During the performance I saw Zenin again, he asked me if I saw any Ukrainians in the troupe? I said no. Z. said that there might be some but they probably don't speak Ukrainian anyway.

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On Sept. 19 I went to meet G. and his wife at the performance. I arrived there at 2:30, there G. was waiting for me. He said that he had seats for me to see the performance. But we had to wait for the assistant administrator Victor Zenin to come because he had the tickets. While we were waiting, G. was approached by a man with a camera. This man was introduced to me as a lover of ballet and wanted to take G's picture. G. and the man were familiar and we were introduced. G. asked me to be with him in the picture. The man ~~also~~ had a Soviet camera "Kiev" and a American or German make camera. He took the picture with the American. G. talked to the man through me since ~~she~~ said that he doesn't speak Russian. When the photographer left G. was approached by a man who spoke Russian they talked about some personal matters, the man said that he was leaving for Florida with a group of dancers next week and mentioned something about his <sup>son</sup> ~~brother~~ getting in touch with G. The man also invited G. to his house during the week. When he was leaving the man gave G. a leaflet with a poem on it. G. put the leaflet in his front pocket, but the man told him to hide the leaflet G. did as the the man said. When the man left G. suggested that I meet him after the performance. Zenin then came and he took me to the box reserved for directors. In the box with me were The man who talked with G. and a young Russian girl. Later there were two woman who Zenin brought in and they sat in the box. After the second act the Russian and the two ~~women~~ <sup>women</sup> left. I was left there with the young girl. When the performance ended I went to the stage door, there I met two Ukrainian girls whom I knew, we talked about the performance, At 6 P.M. G. came out with his wife and I walked them to the hotel. There we arranged to meet ~~af~~ after the evening performance and go see the city. I told them that my friend would bring his car and we could drive around the city a bit. We arranged to meet on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 30<sup>th</sup> St. at 10:30 P.M. At 10:30 we met at the prearranged place G. came with his wife, I told them that my friend could not show up with his car and we would have to walk or take the subway. G. said that he wanted to see Greenwich village very much and I said all right. ~~We took~~ G. told me to wait for them because they will go and change into their clothes and his wife will put her handbag away. In 15 minutes they came back and we went by subway to the village. On the way to the village a G. asked me if I liked jazz. I told him that I like it very much and have quite a collection of jazz records home, I promised him that I would give him a few records the next time we meet. In the village G. wanted to see

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the beatniks, I promised to show him some of them.

### Topics

Jews: G. asked me if there is a problem with Jews in America. I said that there is no real problem. I said that there is some anti-semitism but it is very sporadic. I asked him if there is a problem in the Soviet Union concerning Jews. He said that there is some trouble with it. I asked him if he had heard of the book "Judaism without Embellishments" He said no and asked what it was about. I explained what the book was about. He seemed surprised and said that he never saw it on the stands in Leningrad.

### Ukrainians in America

G. wanted to know if the Ukrainian emmigration has its churches and schools, and national homes in the city, I said yes and offered to take him there some day. He asked me what kind of church there is in N.Y. I said that there is a Ukrainian catholic and orthodox church. He seemed surprised that there is a catholic church. He said that most Ukrainians were orthodox, I told him that the catholics were mostly from the western part, that was under Poland. G. asked if the Ukrainians in America had their own newspapers I told him yes and told him the names of some of the papers.

### Stalinist Era

I asked G. about the era of Stalin. I wanted to know if times have changed in the Soviet Union. I said that some of my family were killed by the terror of Stalin. G. said that Stalin killed everyone except Georgians. I asked him if the people knew about these deeds. He said that most of the people did not know about this. I said that this is a stupid answer. He then changed his mind and said that the people were afraid to say anything. His wife agreed with him on this point.

### Life in the U.S.

G. wanted to know how we live in the U.S. what my father does for a living. I asked him about the life of a ballet dancer in the USSR. He said that the pay varies with experience. He said that he is being paid 200 rubles a month. and his wife is being paid 150. They are living in Leningrad in with G's mother. G. wanted to know if I have a car, and if I plan to buy one. He wanted to know how much a car costs, and how much the gas costs.

### Catholic Church

G. wanted to know if it was necessary to become a catholic in the U.S.

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if one wanted to advance in industry and be successful. I told him that it was un-necessary and in fact many people in the U.S. were not catholic. He said that in the Ukraine many catholics became orthodox so as to improve their status.

We talked about art and jazz, in the village we went to visit a cafe which featured jazz and modern art. G. was very impressed by the music. He said that in Leningrad there is mostly American jazz. I asked G<sup>+</sup> about Evtushenko, he was very proud of him and said that Evtushenko was also from Siberia.

After a few hours we went back to the hotel. There we arranged to meet after some time. He said that when they get back to the city they will have more time and we could meet again. I promised to buy him a few records of jazz.

On his return I told him that I would get in contact with him, I said that I would try to have a car by then and we could go and see the city.

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Description of "the Photographer":

Apparent age 35-40, 5'7, 155 lbs, round face, light complexion, wears glasses. Had a light colored hat on, beige trenchcoat with a belt; two cameras - one Soviet "Kiev" and the other was Western, unidentified by Source.

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