

Subject: <sup>PH</sup> GRIDIN Anatoli of Leningrad, USSR occ: Ballet  
Source: <sup>A</sup> Leningrad, USSR CHOMA, Ivan of New York  
Date: 30 Sep 1964

MICROFILMED  
OCT 7 1965  
DOC. MICRO. SER.

*Born ca 1932 in Siberia, present home in Leningrad. Had contact with Source in N.Y. Future plans planned.*

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DATE 2007

USA with Leningrad Kirov Ballet  
contact with Roman Kupczynsky

1. Prior to Ballet performances (which started on 8 Sep 1964), end August 1964 Source met Subject at the Metropolitan Opera in New York through his (Source's) little girl who was included in a children's local supporting group of the Ballet. Source was bringing his daughter to rehearsals and thus came across Subject who had discovered Slavic name of Source's girl and heard him talk Ukrainian to her.

From the very beginning Subject showed interest in getting better acquainted with Source, asked whether he could help him in getting to the beach and in sightseeing, aso. Source introduced himself as an American of Ukrainian descent who had arrived to this country at the age of 8, and tried to play the role of a simple businessman little interested in politics. On the whole he behaved with some reserve to Subject and, for instance, did not respond to Subject's suggestion to get him and his friends to Orchard Beach. Otherwise he was friendly, tactful, and polite. After Subject continued to make efforts to be on friendly terms with Source, the latter began to reciprocate more and more. They met more often, Source accompanied Subject on sightseeing in New York, they talked mainly about life in the States.

One of the matters Subject was interested keenly in were churches, to be more precise Russian orthodox churches. During their 3rd or 4th meeting Subject asked Source to find out for him the address of Russian orthodox cathedral as he wanted to go there. Source brought him addresses of all Russian orthodox churches and added one or two Ukrainian ones. Subject visited one or two of them and as he explained it later - simply for sake of artistic interest. He was interested in church's art which he liked very much, indeed.

*Notes for 9/11/64: Source also had contact with Roman Kupczynsky. In 13 Sep 64*

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Subject pointing at the Bible remarked to his wife that it would be worthwhile to get a Bible "but how to get it through". Whether he wanted it again just for its artistic value or for other reasons, he did not explain.

Subject's interest in American way of life and some critical remarks on Soviet reality Source was inclined to interpret as his eventual potentiality for defection and he began to work on him accordingly. It turned out, however, that Subject's free behaviour, some admiration for America and some critique of individual Soviet shortcomings were not to be identified with an anti-Soviet attitude. Subject seemed to be rather one of those who find it fashionable, even ~~was~~ 'modern' to be critical of some features of Soviet life, to be genuinely concerned with them, but not out of hostility against the system as such. They want it just to improve, to correct but not to abolish altogether, and want to do it from inside.

Subject is very intelligent, smart, alert, observant. He asked, for instance, Source at once how come there was such a big difference between his and his daughter's English pronunciation although Source must have also gone to American schools. On another occasion, he noticed at once in the car a small figure of Virgin Mary and asked Source how come he as an Orthodox had a catholic version of the figure in his car.

2. On 24 Sep 1964 at 19.30 hrs at a meeting at the Metropolitan Opera Subject agreed to go next day to the World's Fair. Next morning, at 11.00 hrs Subject, his wife, Source and Mrs H. went by ~~Source's~~ <sup>Mrs H's</sup> car to the World's Fair and visited the Vatican Pavillion, General Motors, Futurama, Loewenbraeu. At the Russian Church some Russian emigres who happened to be there at the same time tried to involve Subject into a conversation but he refused to.

On the way back Subject sat together with Source in front. Source told him that he would like to talk to him about the Soviet Union but in an absolutely sincere way. Subject replied that he did not mind answering any questions Source will ask him.

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Source wanted to know what was the real life in the Soviet Union like and how would it compare with that in this country. Subject's reply was that there be actually could no comparison at ~~all~~ all. America is a great and nice country, the living standard is higher than in the Soviet Union, many things are better made than in the Soviet Union also. But on the other hand, there are many nice and valuable things in the Soviet Union which lack in this country. There is too little culture in this country, too much insecurity, too much gangsterism. "I am not afraid to go to Metro in Moscow at night - he continued - at any time. But I wouldn't do it in New York. Things like shooting people to death by daylight as it happens on Broadway are unthinkable in Leningrad or Moscow".

Subject complained particularly about lack of culture in America. He has been to England, France and to some satellites. Most of all he liked England, to be more precise London. He was impressed by English way of life, their interest in art, particularly in ballet, their "solid calm" and absence of haste he noticed in the States. As to the life in the Soviet Union - it was not bad now. Subject could not complain, he was well off. There was enough to eat and live in "a cultured way". Many things changed after Stalin's life to the better and were going to improve continually.

On the problem of freedom : Subject could go anywhere he wanted in the Soviet Union. If there were some restrictions to be followed - ,of course, there were, like in this country too. He cannot go, for instance, to New Jersey, so there are some similar "rules" for foreigners in the Soviet Union, too.

On the whole Subject responded in such a way as to indicate quite obviously that his critical remarks on some aspects of the Soviet reality were not identical with <sup>an</sup> anti-Soviet attitude.

When parting (this was their last meeting before Subject went from New York on the Ballet tour to other cities in the States and Canada), Subject promised to contact Source as soon as he comes back to New York. ( They are

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scheduled to be back in New York ~~between~~ from 4 to 7<sup>D</sup>ec 1964 .)

Subject's wife did little participate in talks. Russian, aged 24, sympathetic, from Leningrad. They live together with her mother in Leningrad.

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