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Country: USSR

Subject: Reported New Efforts to resettle Carpatho-Ukrainians 'Voluntarily' in the USSR.

Place Acquired:

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Date Acquired:

Date of Info: Late March - early April 53

Source:

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1. "The authorities in the Zakarpatskaya Oblast (the former Carpatho-Ukraine) have resorted to new methods to induce the local people to resettle voluntarily in the USSR. Previous deportations have been compulsory. This information is dated late April 1953.
2. "During late March and early April 1953 the MVD authorities started to spread through their agents various rumors based on the amnesty announced by the Supreme Soviet. According to these rumors, which have become particularly strong in the Mukachevo (formerly Munkacs) district, the Soviet authorities have agreed to a voluntary resettlement of those persons in the Zakarpatskaya Oblast who would be willing to join their families who were 'resettled' (i.e. 'deported') to Russia proper after World War II.
3. "Many people believed the rumors. They called at CP and administrative offices, asking to be resettled in Russia so that they could join their families. All such people were entered on lists of 'voluntary resettlers'. Soon they began to receive free railway tickets to their places of destination and special ration cards for their journey. In the Mukachevo district alone over 160 families or single persons volunteered for such a transfer. Suddenly, people discovered that the whole action was a well prepared trick. The volunteers for resettlement were not to be sent to the places where their deported families are living but to entirely different regions.
4. "One (fnu) Bazyluk, a former railway employee had heard through clandestine channels from his son who had been deported in 1949 to the Komi-Permyak National District. Hoping to join his son, he entered his name on the list of 'volunteers' on 30 March. On 4 April he received to his great astonishment from the 'Raispolkom' in Mukachevo a railway ticket and a ration card entitling him to a free journey to the railway station of Loukhi in the Karelo-Finnish SSR. He went to the 'Raispolkom' office and asked for an explanation, contending that his son was living in the Komi-Permyak Nat. District. He begged to be sent there. The political official of the office, (fnu) Gavrilenko, rejected his request on the ground that he should not have received the news about his son in the first place. He threatened the petitioner with immediate arrest."

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