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"UKRAINSKYJ VISNYK," NO. 5

Summary: Several copies of the fifth issue of Ukrainskyj Visnyk, published in samizdat in the Ukraine, have appeared in the West. While only the table of contents is available here as yet, it would appear that, compared to earlier issues, the latest one contains much more information.

In December 1971, several Ukrainian-language papers appearing in the West reported about the fifth issue of Ukrainskyj Visnyk. Apparently, various circles in the USA, Canada and Western Europe have all received the samizdat publication at the same time, and all have announced intentions to publish the full text in the near future. (*)

The fifth issue of Ukrainskyj Visnyk is dated June 1971. Compared to the previous issues it is the longest, containing some 100 typed pages. Judging from the table of contents, the authors have concentrated on the arbitrary activities of the security organs and other authorities, arrests and all sorts of repression. At the same time, they appear to have avoided articles of an ideological or politically programmatic nature.

(*) According to Svoboda (New York), 16 December 1971.

The first portion is entitled "Chronika." It contains various materials about the historian Valentin Moroz, whose case continues to attract considerable attention and protest from the Soviet Ukrainian intelligentsia. S. Karawanskyj is probably the author of a study on the "Cyril-Methodius-Society," a secret political organization which was formed in December 1845-January 1846 in Kiev at the initiative of the Ukrainian intelligentsia under the influence of the Russian "dekabrists." Just what Visnyk has reported about this organization is not yet known in detail. "Chronika" also reports on a hitherto unknown case, that of a Russian doctor, Olga Skrebcz.

In addition, Visnyk appears to be informed on the background of the prohibition of the student journal Ikar which was being published at the Polytechnical Institute in Kiev. Information from the Chronicle of Current Events is also included. A special section of the "Chronika" reports on various extra-legal repressions. For example, information is contained about the bugging of Raisa Moroz' apartment (she is the wife of Valentin Moroz), about the persecution of the poet G. Chubay, about various incidents at the University of Lvov, as well as the background to the firing of the Odessa KGB chief, Kuvarsin.

Another article in Ukrainskyj Visnyk bears the title "Documents from Ukrainian Samizdat." A study "On Some Functions of the Rayon Party Committee in the Social and Cultural Life of the City of Kiev" is published there. Moroz' essay "In the Snow" is also published for the second time. Of special interest is a long polemical article on a certain Bogdan Stenchuk. In 1969, the Society for Cultural Relations with Ukrainians Abroad had published a brochure by this author entitled "Who Is Ivan Dzuba and What Does He Stand For?" It was a sharply polemical argument against the author of the Marxist analysis of party nationalities' policy, also known in the West, "Internationalism or Russification." In the article Dzuba was called a "traitor" and "nationalist." This standpoint was not, however, adopted by the Party; Dzuba was not expelled from the Writers' Union, and repression against him was limited to making it difficult for him to publish. The article in Visnyk is entitled "Who Is Bogdan Stenchuk and What Does He Stand For?"

Material on the 6th Writers' Union Congress of the Ukraine is also presented. On the basis of information from various sources it was known that an uproar was caused when,

in disobedience to "official" wishes, the presiding chairman of the Union, Oles Honchar, a recognized writer and author of the controversial novel, Sobor, was reelected. The Party forced an annulment of this election and Yury Smolych, who was absent due to illness, was appointed chairman. During the Congress, some of the writers in attendance were said to have shouted that "a corpse had been elected chairman." Ukrainskyj Visnyk now provides further information on this matter.

Also Visnyk continues the publication of lists of prisoners and labor camp inmates, as well as of those who have been released from such institutions. It appears that a certain degree of misunderstanding had arisen on the matter of cooperation between Ukrainskyj Visnyk and the Chronicle of Current Events. The Kiev intelligentsia was probably not in agreement with the Chronicle's limiting its information to Russian readers on events in the Ukraine. Ukrainskyj Visnyk discusses this matter. A statement on the next planned issue of Visnyk is also contained in the fifth issue.