



set forth Skaba's point of view on the question of language policy in the Ukraine.<sup>2</sup> While Skaba identified himself with the Russification Policy in the Ukraine, the members of the Canadian delegation maintained that the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party, P. J. Shelest, held an opposed point of view.

A few weeks ago, a book appeared in Canada on general education in the Soviet Ukraine. The book's former Communist author, Ivan Kolaska, had taken the opportunity to familiarize himself with the educational situation in the Ukraine. Kolaska maintained that Skaba had been personally responsible for the Russification of the school system in the Ukraine.

It is characteristic of conditions in the Soviet Ukraine that Skaba's successor, Fedor Danilovich Ovcharenko, is a scientist, i.e. a doctor in chemistry.<sup>3</sup> Ovcharenko had some experience in Party work from the period between 1956 and 1958 when he was head of the section for Science and Culture in the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party. Since 1964 he has been chairman of the Ukrainian Republican Society for the Propagation of Political and Scientific Knowledge, Znanye. There he gained some experience in political education.

The significance of these events can be summarized in two points:

1. In the ideological sector there has been a crisis situation in the Soviet Ukraine for years. The apparatchiki who have been responsible for this activity are being blamed for a series of shortcomings and for the unnecessary exacerbation of the relationship between the Party and the intelligentsia, especially its younger members.

2. The Party leadership is no longer in a position to risk returning to a hard line. In addition to the domestic political motive reestablishing internal calm in the society, for the first time in the history of the Ukrainian Communist Party foreign political reasons were of essential significance for the demotion of Skaba, namely a harsh criticism of its cultural policy by the Canadian Communist Party of the leadership of the Ukrainian Communist Party.

Finally, the following factor is important. The Soviet Ukraine not only has common borders with Poland and Czechoslovakia, it also maintains close cultural and economic ties with these countries. Numerically large Ukrainian minorities are living in Poland and Czechoslovakia. Particularly close relations existed between the Ukrainian and Slovak partisans during the Second World War. It is justified to assume that the most recent developments in Czechoslovakia have also been an important stimulus for convening the March plenum of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party and for the important personnel changes made in the ideological sector.

<sup>2</sup> See Annex 1 for an excerpt.

<sup>3</sup> See his biography in Annex 2.

ANNEX I

Excerpt from Viewpoint No. 5, January 1968

"Secondly, there was the opinion expressed by the Minister of Education to the effect that the question of national aspirations doesn't depend on language. A similar position was advanced by A. D. Skaba, Secretary for Ideology in the Central Committee, who declared that what is important is that technique develops, not the language in which the text books are published. It didn't bother him, he stated, whether there were more signs in Russian or in Ukrainian at the hydro station Burshtyn. Moreover, a statement was made in the State Planning Commission to the effect that one of the reasons why so few technical books had been published in the Ukrainian language was that some authors consider it more important that their books be published in Russian. This was reinforced by one of the professors present who declared that when he prepared a text book he wanted it read as widely as possible throughout the entire Soviet Union and therefore wrote it in Russian.

"This attitude that language was secondary or unimportant, that it is technique, the building of Communism alone, which counts was one that we found to be widespread. Our delegation can only assume that this reflected a distorted concept of the language question in relation to the nation. This concept was, however, contradicted by the statements of P. Y. Shelest, member of the Politbureau, CPSU and First Secretary, Central Committee, C. P. Ukraine, who declared emphatically that the development of Communist society must permit the fullest and freest economic and cultural development of every nation. 'Patriotism,' he went on to say, 'is developed in the family and its roots are in the family'."

ANNEX 2

Fedor Danilovich Ovcharenko

Born in 1913, Ukrainian, member of the Communist Party since 1939, graduate of the Pedagogical Institute of Hluchov, doctor of chemistry, professor; after graduation from the Pedagogical Institute (1934) assistant professor in this institute and later at the Institute for Veterinary Science in Kiev; 1941-45 in the Soviet Army; 1945-50 assistant, chairman, oldest scientific collaborator, head of the laboratory of the Institute for Veterinary Science in Kiev; 1950-1956 head of the laboratory of the Institute for General and Inorganic Chemistry at the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR; 1956-1958 head of the section for science and culture at the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party; 1958-1963 head of the laboratory and since 1963 section head of the Institute for General and Inorganic Chemistry at the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR; since 1961 member of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR; since May 1964 chairman of the Ukrainian Republican Society for the Propagation of Political and Scientific Knowledge Znanye; since December 1964 deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR; 1966-1967 candidate of the Central Committee; since November 1967 member of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party. Author of more than 75 scientific works.