

SECRET

SR/W 2

21 January 1952

Recruitment  
Leads

To: SR/W C

From: SR/W 2

Subject: Autobiographical Sketch of Professor <sup>X</sup>PODOLYAK - a Possible Recruit as an Instructor in the Ukrainian P/A School.

## 1. Background Information:

I was born in 1902, the son of a poor peasant in Kamianets-Podilsk. Until 1920 I lived with my parents and I finished only the village school. I studied in the gymnasium in Kamianets-Podilsk and finished it in 1925. Following that, I entered the University of Kiev where I studied in the historical literary faculty completing it in 1929. From 1930 until 1932 I worked on my aspirantura at Kharkov in the scientific research institute on literature. I finished it and received the title of naukhnil rabotnik. From 1932 on I was employed as a docent in the historical literary faculty of the University of Kharkov. I taught the history of the Ukrainian literature and I also wrote as a literary critic. I taught people who, in turn, taught literature in the secondary schools. I held this job until 1934 when there were mass arrests of Ukrainian scholars, scientific workers, and literati. I was deprived of the right to teach and I was in such circumstances that I did not dare to publish any of my articles. They were "idealistic" and "anti-Marxist" with "nationalist deviation". These three labels were pinned on everyone whom they wanted to oust. I was without regular employment and I managed to live by doing odd jobs, such as translating. I moved to Kiev to see if I could get a job there and on November 25th, 1935, I was arrested by the NKVD. I was accused of counter-revolutionary activity and without any proof or corroboration of this charge and without having access to a court of law I received a five-year sentence in a concentration camp. This was given me by the Osoboe Soveshchannie of the NKVD. From August of 1936 until the autumn of 1940 I was in Vorkuta working in a coal mine. First I worked as a miner and later I operated a small train which pulled coal out of the mine. After my release I received the right to live in the city of Slaviansk in the Donbas. There I worked as a supply and food procurement officer in the local city hospital. I worked until the war and when the Germans came I was taken to Germany in 1943 as an Ostarbeiter and worked in factories. I

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CS Classification: 74-124-29/2  
JOB # 69-425753  
Box: 20 Fold: 3

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married in Slaviansk after I was released from the concentration camp and my wife is with me here in Germany. I have been teaching in a Ukrainian D. P. camp school near Stuttgart. I did not join the Komsomol because I was too old at the time and also I sympathized with the national movement in the years from 1917 to 1920. However, I was not in Petlura's army nor did I ever belong to any political organizations in the Soviet Union. I was a member of a trade union of scientific research workers, however, I studied so long in the Soviet Union and yet I had only a year and a half of intellectual work and writing. So much training and so little opportunity to use it. I could not work in libraries after I was arrested. Indeed, after I lost my job, I could not even teach in a primary school.

2. The above information is taken from the Harvard Project Report #356 which had been lent to us by John Reshetar.

3. Professor Podolyak has been backed almost completely by CASSOWARIES 2 and 15. He is said to be a really outstanding figure among Ukrainian pedagogues.

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