

KGB Operations against the Ukrainian Diaspora in “Capitalist” America, 1953-1988

Sergei I. Zhuk

During the Cold War, for the KGB, the Soviet political police, one of its major targets for KGB operations in Canada and the USA was the Ukrainian diaspora there. According to the KGB narrative, this diaspora was “mainly nationalistic anti-Soviet fascist group of *banderovtsy*, who fled to capitalist America to fight against the socialist political system of Soviet Ukraine.” Therefore, the KGB administration in Kyiv, tried to create a series of the special operations against the Ukrainian diaspora, involving various groups and venues abroad, which they could unite under “anti-Fascist” slogans in their fight “against American Ukrainian nationalists.” As Ukraine’s KGB leadership in 1968 noted, “we need to create the anti-fascist front in capitalist America against *banderovtsy*, from the Black Panthers (of Afro-Americans), American Communists to American journalists and the scholars from the American centers for Ukrainian Studies.” Using the archival materials from the SBU Archive in Kyiv, Ukraine, this paper will analyze those “anti-fascist” KGB operations against the American Ukrainians, concentrating on the KGB cases against the CIA “spy schools” with the Ukrainian agents, on the role of the Ukrainian American/Canadian communists, such as Peter Krawchuk, in discrediting and compromising the radical nationalists in diaspora, and on KGB active measures, which involved the American/Canadian mass media and American academia, especially various centers of Ukrainian Studies, with a purpose to discredit and divide the Ukrainian diaspora in “capitalist” America. Paradoxically, the traditions of those KGB operations from the 1950s through 1980s still serve as the models for the Russian intelligence today in their struggle to undermine the unity of the international Ukrainian community, facing the Russian aggression against independent Ukraine.