

**UKRAINIAN PUBLIC GROUP TO PROMOTE
THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS**

**INFORMATION
BULLETIN
No. 1**

1978

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Kiev, Ukraine

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of Ukrainian political prisoners in the U.S.S.R.**

PREFACE

The formation of the Ukrainian Public Group to Promote the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords in November 1976 by nine men and a woman was hailed—by democratic circles in Ukraine, by dissidents in the rest of the U.S.S.R., by those in the West who follow the human rights movement in the Soviet Union—as an act of undeniable courage. But few saw it as more than a *symbolic* act, as a movement that could hope to survive and become viable in the face of the vicious repression that was sure to come. The Soviet government had in the past reacted swiftly and ruthlessly to any attempt to form—even if on an entirely legal and constitutional basis—a Ukrainian group, party or organization in defense of human and national rights. And the very attempt to form the Ukrainian Public Group was a bold challenge to the regime, inasmuch as it came a mere three years after the arrests of hundreds of Ukrainian patriots in the 1972-73 crackdown and the boasts of the KGB that that Ukrainian rights movement had been crushed for decades to come.

But the Ukrainian Public Group did have two advantages that earlier advocates of human and national rights in Ukraine did not.

First, it has taken upon itself the task of monitoring the observance of the Helsinki Accords and thus became part of a wider movement that has swept the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, a movement based on the hope that the principles agreed to in Helsinki in 1975 would indeed bring security, cooperation, peace and justice to Europe. Second, the Ukrainian Public Group found common cause and a spirit of cooperation and mutual support with other Helsinki-monitoring groups in the Soviet Union—the Public Group to Promote the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords in the U.S.S.R., founded in Moscow by Yuriy Orlov, and groups in Georgia, Armenia and Lithuania.

This exposure and support did help to end the informational vacuum in which events in Ukraine have occurred in the past, but it did not save the Ukrainian Public Group from what the authorities probably hoped would be a death-dealing blow. Of the original 10 members—most of them former political prisoners who had already spent a total of 63 years in Soviet labor camps, prisons and psychiatric confinement—five are now imprisoned. The special harshness that the Soviet government reserves for Ukrainian dissenters was once again in evidence: Mykola Rudenko, Oleksiy Tykhy, Mykola Matuselych and Myroslav Marynovych were sentenced to maximum terms of imprisonment and exile before any member of the other Helsinki-monitoring groups had been brought to trial. Levko Lukyanenko is once again in prison, just a few years after completing a 15-year term for his attempt to form a political party. A sixth member of the Group, Petro Vins, has been sentenced to a year in the labor camps on a fabricated charge of “parasitism.” Petro Grigorenko has had his citizenship revoked, while the other Group members who are still at liberty have been subjected to constant harassment.

It is against this backdrop that the uniqueness of the Ukrainian Public Group stands out. For those repressions have not destroyed it, have not kept it from making its contribution to the viability of the Helsinki process. The document that follows, "Information Bulletin No. 1," is the latest published by the Ukrainian Group (in February 1978) and as such is testimony to its strength and resilience. Inherent in its title is the promise that the monitoring work of the Group—begun in its "Declaration of Principles" and carried on in 18 "Memoranda" on violations of human and national rights in Ukraine—will continue.

That the Ukrainian Public Group to Promote the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords will not only survive, but will continue to be a major force in the struggle for human and national rights in Ukraine is evident not only from the documents it continues to issue. It was also underscored by the regime's failure to break the Group's leader, Mykola Rudenko, who for a year resisted physical and mental torture designed to make him renounce his ideals and dissolve the Group. And it was dramatized again by Petro Grigorenko—at 71 the dean of Ukrainian dissenters—who, though with tears in his eyes, rejoiced at the news that Mykola Matusevych and Myroslav Marynovych had been sentenced to maximum terms of imprisonment and exile, because it meant that "the youngest members of the Group had not given in, they had endured."

Finally, there is the phenomenon of new people joining the Group, despite witnessing the fate that befalls its members and after having themselves just returned from the Gulag Archipelago. In the words of Vasyl Stus, the Ukrainian poet who joined them after completing five years in the labor camps: "When the first line has fallen, someone should take its place."

The trial of and maximum sentence handed to Yuriy Orlov rightly evoked a worldwide storm of protests, including some emanating from the highest levels of the American government. However, this outpouring of indignation stands in stark contrast to the relative silence that followed the sentencing of five members of the Ukrainian Public Group—fighters for human rights no less deserving of support than Orlov.

In publishing the Ukrainian Public Group's latest document, "Information Bulletin No. 1," we hope that it will serve as a reminder of the principles that it is fighting for, of the repressions it has suffered for it and of its greater than ever need of support from us in the Free World.

THE HELSINKI GUARANTEES FOR UKRAINE COMMITTEE
Washington, D.C.

**UKRAINIAN PUBLIC GROUP TO PROMOTE
THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS**

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 1

February 1978

OLES BERDNYK
Kiev, 8 Lykhachova St., Apt. 16.

VITALIY KALYNYCHENKO
Dnipropetrovsk Region, Vasylkiv, 2 Shchors St.

IVAN KANDYBA
Lviv Region, Pustomyty, 302 Shevchenko St.

OKSANA MESHKO
Kiev-86, 16 Verbolozna St.

VASYL STRILTSIV
Ivano-Frankivsk Region, Dolyna.

NINA STROKATA
Kaluga Region, Tarusa.

INTRODUCTION

Not much more than a year has passed since the time when in the early part of November 1976 our authors' collective got together and chose for itself the name "Ukrainian Public Group to Promote the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords in the Ukrainian S.S.R." We agreed unanimously that by bringing violations of rights in our native land openly and directly to the attention of the Soviet government and the world community, our Group would be making a significant contribution to the cause of peace, security and cooperation among peoples. All our appeals, letters and memoranda are based on premises of Law and constitutional guarantees.

The organs of state security decided otherwise. Our group has been branded an anti-Soviet organization; more than half its members have been repressed, and all the rest subjected to various forms of extrajudicial persecution.

Under these conditions of cruel, lawless terrorism and psychological pressure, we believe it imperative to continue the struggle for the rights of man and nation, for the dignity of the citizen, for guarantees of freedom of thought and action, all in accordance with the ideals of humanity, as expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In 1978 we have begun the publication of an informational bulletin in which we will inform about facts of human rights violations in our republic. We hope that our work, which is based on faith in Law, will bear good fruit, if not now, then in the future.

1.

In November 1977, the leader of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, sentenced in June 1977 by the Donetsk Regional Court to 12 years' deprivation of freedom, was brought to the KGB prison in Kiev. It was proposed to him that he condemn the Group's activities in a written confession in exchange for his freedom. Rudenko declined. He was sent off to serve his sentence in the Mordovian camps (Mordovian A.S.S.R., st. Potma, p/o Lesnoy, uchr. ZhKh 385/19-3).

A second member of the Group, Oleksiy Tykhy, sentenced to 15 years' deprivation of freedom, was also sent off to Mordovia (st. Potma, ZhKh 385/1-6).

In December 1977, Mykola Rudenko declared a hunger strike (three days) in protest against the confiscation of poetry he had written in prison.

2.

On December 12, 1977, in the city of Chernihiv (at 41-b Rokosovsky St., Apt. 41) still another member of the Helsinki Group was arrested—the lawyer Levko Lukyanenko, a man with an especially tragic fate.

In 1961 the young, successful jurist, an eight-year member of the CPSU [Communist Party of the Soviet Union], was sentenced to death by firing squad for writing a theoretical treatise, a draft [entitled] “The Ukrainian Workers and Peasants Union.” (The draft was written on the basis of the constitutional right of the Ukrainian Republic to secede voluntarily from the U.S.S.R.—Art. 14.)

According to the draft, **Ukraine was to remain socialist**, developing on the basis of Marxist-Leninist ideology. Industry would be nationalized, with private enterprise allowed, however, in services, cottage industries and the trades. As for agriculture, a combination of cooperative associations of farmers, based on voluntary membership only, and of independent one-owner farms, was foreseen.

The draft in its essence is a prefiguration of the new trend known as Eurocommunism.

According to the draft, social, economic and political changes could be implemented only in a peaceful, democratic way, and the secession of Ukraine, on the basis of a referendum.

The group of seven men—jurists and party workers—was arrested the moment they took to discussing the draft among themselves.

In June 1961, a closed court sentenced I. Kandyba to 15 years of camps, Virun to 11 years, and the rest (O. Lyubovych, I. Kyshysh, I. Vorovytsky, V. Lutskiv) to 10 years each. The Supreme Court of the Ukr.S.S.R., on appeal, changed Borovytsky's and Kyshysh's sentences to seven years each and commuted Lukyanenko's death sentence to 15 years in forced-labor camps.

L. Lukyanenko spent two months and six days in a cell for the condemned; four and a half years he spent in Vladimir Prison.

The completion of his sentence did not bring him freedom. For almost two years—until his new arrest—he lived in Chernihiv under the overt surveillance of the police, which was accompanied by covert surveillance and harassment on the part of the KGB.

They indicted him on charges of anti-Soviet activity. As incriminating documents they used, first of all, all the documents of the Ukrainian Group signed by Lukyanenko, personal correspondence and his publicistic articles, which had not been published in the Soviet press and which, regretfully, went unpopularized by the samvydav [samizdat].

A talented and sensitive journalist, he has remained unknown to the democratic Soviet public.

He is charged, in part, with the authorship of the following articles:

1. The autobiographical sketch "A Year of Freedom";
2. "Stop Judicial Injustice," submitted to the Ukrainian journal *Folk Creativity and Ethnography* in defense of the artist-intarsist Petro Ruban, whose sentencing has no precedent;
3. An open letter to Professor Rubin, who recently emigrated from the U.S.S.R. to Israel.

It was not a search at Levko Lukyanenko's, it was a robbery; everything was taken, down to the last typewritten line of manuscript, together with a typewriter, as well as previously inspected and censored correspondence of a most personal nature and some of the photographs. He and his wife Nadiya could not avoid a humiliating personal search.

Eight searches were carried out December 12 in connection with the Levko Lukyanenko case (No. 39): in the city of Chernihiv at Oleksander Lukyanenko's, who is Lukyanenko's brother; at his sister's in Horodnyansky District, Chernihiv Region; at his parents' in the village of Khrypivka in Horodnyansky District; at Rayisa Rudenko's; and also at [the homes of] Group members Ivan Kandyba, Vitaliy Kalynychenko, Oles Berdnyk, Petro Vins.

The searches were conducted in violation of Article 86 of the Code of Criminal Procedures of the Ukr.S.S.R., that is, it was not "documents and objects relevant to the case" that were taken, as is specified in the law, but personal correspondence, notebooks with addresses, copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (from Kandyba), manuscripts of literary works and a typewriter from writer O. Berdnyk, foreign publications of a religious nature at the home of Vins.

On January 23, a search was conducted at Stefa Hulyk's in Lviv.

After Lukyanenko's arrest, his wife, Nadiya Nykonovna, was on numerous occasions summoned to the KGB. Investigator Polunin and Sanko accuse her of helping Lukyanenko conduct his anti-Soviet activity by being hospitable to his friends who had drawn him into that activity. They tell her: "Now we will put him away. He'll get the entire 15 years."

3.

On February 8, Petro Vins, a member of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, was arrested. He was charged under Article 216 of the Criminal Code of the Ukr.S.S.R.

Two months prior to this, on December 8, P. Vins was detained at the Kiev rail station just as he was getting ready to leave for Moscow. He was beaten up by the police and placed under administrative arrest for 15 days for "insubordination towards the police." Police agents themselves told Vins' mother that they had beat him because he refused to submit voluntarily to a search. His request that they show him a search warrant was characterized as insubordination.

P. Vins declared a hunger strike and, because of this, did not report for work. For this they extended his term of arrest by another 15 days. Later the procurator acknowledged the illegality of the second 15 days and voided that decision . . . two days before they had run out. Vins fasted in the police cell for 28 days.

The arrest on February 8 was made on the street. His family was not informed of the arrest. The following day, Vins' mother went looking for him at the district police station, where they had brought him to be interrogated. Vins just had time to shout that he was being charged with "parasitism."

P. Vins is 23 years old. He is the son of Georgiy Vins, the well-known Baptist leader who in 1974 was sentenced to five years'

imprisonment. The authorities did not allow Petro Vins either to attend college or to set himself up with an acceptable job. He was forced to hire himself out periodically for unqualified work, which, with his state of health, was beyond his strength (in his youth he had undergone an operation, a stomach resection). Now the trumped-up "parasitism" threatens him with a year's imprisonment in a camp.

4.

On February 9, Group member Oksana Meshko was subjected to the next search-assault in the L. Lukyanenko "case." As they had a year before, the KGB entered the home illegally, having opened the door like thieves with keys they took from her lodger at his place of work (they brought him to the apartment in a KGB car for the purpose of—as the supervisor of his shop put it—"carrying out the instructions of the KGB . . . there is nothing to fear"). While one KGB agent was opening the door, the other eight waited concealed in the gateway of the neighboring house. They showed the search warrant after artificially inducing fear and confusion. The search was conducted by nine men over a period of over 19 hours. When Oksana Meshko would not surrender a personal letter she received from I. Kandyba (in it he described all the excesses of the administrative surveillance illegally set up around him), Captain Prystayko and Lieutenant Colonel Hanchuk grabbed her, one by the right hand, the other by the left, painfully squeezing her wrists until the veins on her hands stood out and turned blue. The letter dropped from her hands. . . . (Oksana Meshko is 73 years old.)

They confiscated personal letters, notebooks with addresses, various notes for personal use which had no connection with the "Lukyanenko case," including also a list of international conventions on civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, which were signed by the Soviet government and reaffirmed in Helsinki in 1975.

Colonel Hanchuk also set aside for confiscation, for the purpose of "studying" them, the personal documents of her son, O. Serhiyenko, a prisoner of the Perm camps; only the arrival of Berdnyk helped save them—the documents were returned.

O. Meshko ignored summons to come to KGB headquarters. On February 14, with the participation of the police and "medical personnel," they delivered her—"brought her in"—to the Kiev KGB.

Investigator Sanenko interrogated her for four hours in the Lukyanenko case. Meshko refused to answer his questions as such that contradict Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Helsinki Accords. After the interrogation, Lieutenant Colonel Hanchuk issued her a "warning" about criminal responsibility and showed her a selection of documents, confiscated from her during several searches going back to 1972. O. Meshko refused to sign a record of the "warning," challenging the characterization of the documents as "anti-Soviet."

O. Meshko informed the investigator of her demand that they close down the technologically equipped surveillance base behind her house, which was set up in a neighboring vacant house and which functioned for over a year with no legal basis. The investigators replied with silence.

Over the past year and also during December and January, Meshko's acquaintances were questioned about her and her son, Oleksander Serhiyenko. Some of those questioned were threatened with imprisonment should they visit her and maintain the relationship; others were promised that they would be "freed" from their jobs in their professional fields, etc.

O. Berdnyk, who had arrived at the apartment at the time of the search, was subjected to a body search (some poetry was confiscated), then taken home (at present he lives with his family in Rudenko's apartment), where they also made a search.

5.

Ivan Oleksiyovych Kandyba, a member of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group and a former political prisoner (he spent 10 years in imprisonment in the same case as Lukyanenko), has lately fallen victim of new persecution.

On September 23, 1977, the head of the KGB in the village of Pustomyty stopped Kandyba on a Lviv street and took him to the regional procurator's office. Rudenko (brother of the Procurator General), the regional deputy procurator in charge of monitoring KGB investigations, and General Poluden, chief of the KGB administration in Lviv, talked with him. They reproached Kandyba for his "incorrect" way of life; they especially imputed to him trips to Moscow, Kiev, Tarusa and Chernihiv. The procurator proposed that he publicly renounce his views in the press and on radio and condemn his own activity and that of his friends (*i.e.*, the Helsinki Group). And for this he was promised permission to live in Lviv (Kandyba is registered in the village of Pusto-

myty, where for a year, until May 1977, he was kept under surveillance) and to work in his profession (Kandyba is a lawyer, a university graduate). Kandyba declined, for which the procurator called him an “un-Soviet person,” a degenerate and an enemy, and issued him a decree, prepared beforehand, which placed him under administrative surveillance for a period of a half year. Without even letting him stop off at his relatives’ for his personal things, they took Kandyba straight from the procurator’s office to Pustomyty, where on September 28 he was visited by General Poluden, who again demanded from him a “confession” and promises to change his behavior.

With great difficulty Kandyba found himself a place to live—a private apartment for 30 rubles a month—and a job as a stoker paying 70 rubles a month. During the time that he was seeking work—and encountering rejection everywhere—the police constantly threatened him with criminal prosecution for “parasitism.”

The grounds for setting up the administrative surveillance:

1. He avoided employment;
2. He did not reside at the place of registration;
3. He traveled around the cities of the Soviet Union.

Despite the illegality and, with respect to the first point, even the falseness of these charges, Kandyba was unable to get the order voided. His statements, containing qualified, juridically grounded refutations of the reasons for the administrative surveillance, were sent back to the district procurator in whose name the order had been issued.

On December 12, the day of L. Lukyanenko’s arrest, a search was made at Kandyba’s, during which a hand-written copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was confiscated (the Declaration had been confiscated from Kandyba during searches on previous occasions, especially in camp).

On January 2, Kandyba was summoned to the Lviv OVIR. They questioned him as to whether he has relatives abroad and whether he had asked anyone to send him an invitation. They suggested that he submit a written explanation in reply to these questions. Kandyba declined to comply with a request that was not grounded in law. He stated that if an invitation had come addressed to him, then the authorities are obliged to deliver it without [requiring] explanations of that sort.

According to the practice that has developed in Ukraine, statements which contain their authors’ intentions to emigrate often

serve as the basis for various kinds of persecution, including arrest and incarceration in psychiatric hospitals.

On February 6, administrative surveillance of Group member N. A. Stokata was extended for another half year.

After four years of imprisonment in a camp, N. A. Stokata has already lived two years under surveillance.

6.

In October 1977, Vitaliy Kalynychenko and Vasyl Striltsiv joined the Group.

Vitaliy Kalynychenko served a 10-year term of imprisonment (1966-76) for an attempt to flee across the border, which was qualified as "betrayal of the Motherland." Since his release he has lived under police surveillance in the city of Vasylkiv, Dnipropetrovsk Region, and works as an engineer.

After OVIR's refusal to draw up emigration papers for him (he has an invitation), Kalynychenko stated on October 23 that he renounces his citizenship and sent his passport, military card and diploma to the Supreme Soviet of the Ukr.S.S.R.

Vasyl Striltsiv is a former political prisoner of Beria's camps who was sentenced to 10 years' deprivation of freedom when he had barely turned 15. After exoneration (in the era of the "thaw"), he graduated from Chernivtsi University and worked as an English-language instructor in a high school. Recently he has become the target of extrajudicial persecution. His complaints to scores of republican and union institutions have remained without positive answers.

V. Striltsiv declared a strike and in August 1977 applied for emigration to Great Britain.

A strike was also declared by Ivan Sychko, an engineer from the city of Dolyna who had been transferred illegally to a job not in his profession. He submitted a statement to the government renouncing his citizenship and declaring his desire to emigrate from the U.S.S.R. His son, Vasyl Sychko, who had been expelled from the University of Kiev (Department of Journalism) for ideological reasons, submitted a like statement.

7.

On February 3, the people's court in Kiev sentenced the musician and composer Vadym Smohytel to three years' imprisonment. He was sentenced under Article 206, part 2 (malicious hooliganism). The trial, announced as open, was guarded by the

police and KGB agents. Only Smohytel's mother and uncle were allowed into the courtroom; his friends and acquaintances were shoved out. All the places in the small room were occupied by the "special public." The trial proceeded without a defense, though with an appointed lawyer present, who declared that he was "not acquainted with the case." They would not let Smohytel defend himself—the judge would interrupt him: "Stop, you're speaking not to the point."

The only witness who was a passer-by (the rest were *druzhynyky* and police) *had not seen* the fight of which Smohytel was accused; he testified only that, brought to the police station along with everybody else, "he saw that the victim had scratches on his knees"—in the police records this was classified as a "slight bodily injury."

The hooliganism incident had been staged December 13, 1977, on a street, in the dark, in a span of two minutes: some man suddenly fell at his feet and Smohytel was immediately shoved into a police car that was parked nearby.

In protest against the falsified charges, V. Smohytel declared a hunger strike and held it until the trial, *i.e.*, for 53 days.

After the arrest, they made a search of Smohytel's apartment. Books and original tape recordings by the arrested musician were confiscated.

The "fight" was preceded by a telephone conversation with Canada on December 12—Smohytel asked an acquaintance of his to help him emigrate. And still earlier, in August, he had sent a statement to the Supreme Soviet of the Ukr.S.S.R., asking for permission to leave the Soviet Union in order to complete his musical education and work in his vocation.

V. Smohytel, born in 1939, a talented and original musician, organized a national ensemble, the Zhayvoronok university chorus, which won popularity among the student youth. His works were recorded for radio broadcasts, he was preparing a film about Nina Matviyenko, a singer with the Vervovka Chorus—all of these successful innovations were periodically interrupted on signals given secretly. His situation became hopelessly worse after the repressions that came pouring down on the Ukrainian intelligentsia in 1972 (he was a close acquaintance of several of those arrested).

These were the circumstances that led Smohytel to his decision to emigrate.

Vasyl Barladyanu, sentenced July 26, 1977, in Odessa under Article 187, Criminal Code of the Ukr.S.S.R. ("dissemination of consciously false fabrications about the Soviet social and governmental system"), is in a camp in the village of Rafalovka in Rivne Region. After a beating to which he had been subjected at the time of his hunger strike in investigations prison (upon his latest refusal to take food), the condition of his health progressively deteriorated. At the camp he was assigned to heavy work in a rock quarry; only at the end of November, after numerous complaints from his wife, was Barladyanu sent to a hospital in Lviv. After 10 days he was returned with the stipulation that he could not be used for heavy work; he was reassigned to making boxes. However, the swampy Polissya climate itself has a pernicious effect on Barladyanu, who in addition to other illnesses suffers from tuberculosis. They refuse to transfer him to another camp.

Yevhen Sverstyuk, who is in Perm camp No. 35 (VS 389/35), has been deprived of [the right to receive] parcels in 1978.

In January 1978, Ivan Svitlychny (Perm camp No. 36) contracted infectious jaundice. After a long delay, he was sent to a hospital. A quarantine was set up in the camp in February.

In December and January searches were conducted in Ukraine in connection with a case of theft, committed, according to the investigating organs, by one Ivan Dyky. The following were subjected to searches: on December 12—Lyubomyra Popadyuk, the mother of political prisoner Zoryan Popadyuk (in Lviv), his grandmother, Sofiya Kopystynska (in Sambir), and Olena Antoniv (in Lviv); on January 5—Bohdan Soroka (son of M. Soroka, who died in a camp) in Lviv, and in Kiev, the wife of political prisoner Vasyl Lisovy, Vira Lisova.

None of them were at all acquainted with I. Dyky.

The Group does not know exactly whether I. Dyky committed the theft, but it does know for a fact that those who were subjected to the searches could not have had anything to do with it. The purpose of the searches was to uncover the monetary means used to aid political prisoners and their families.

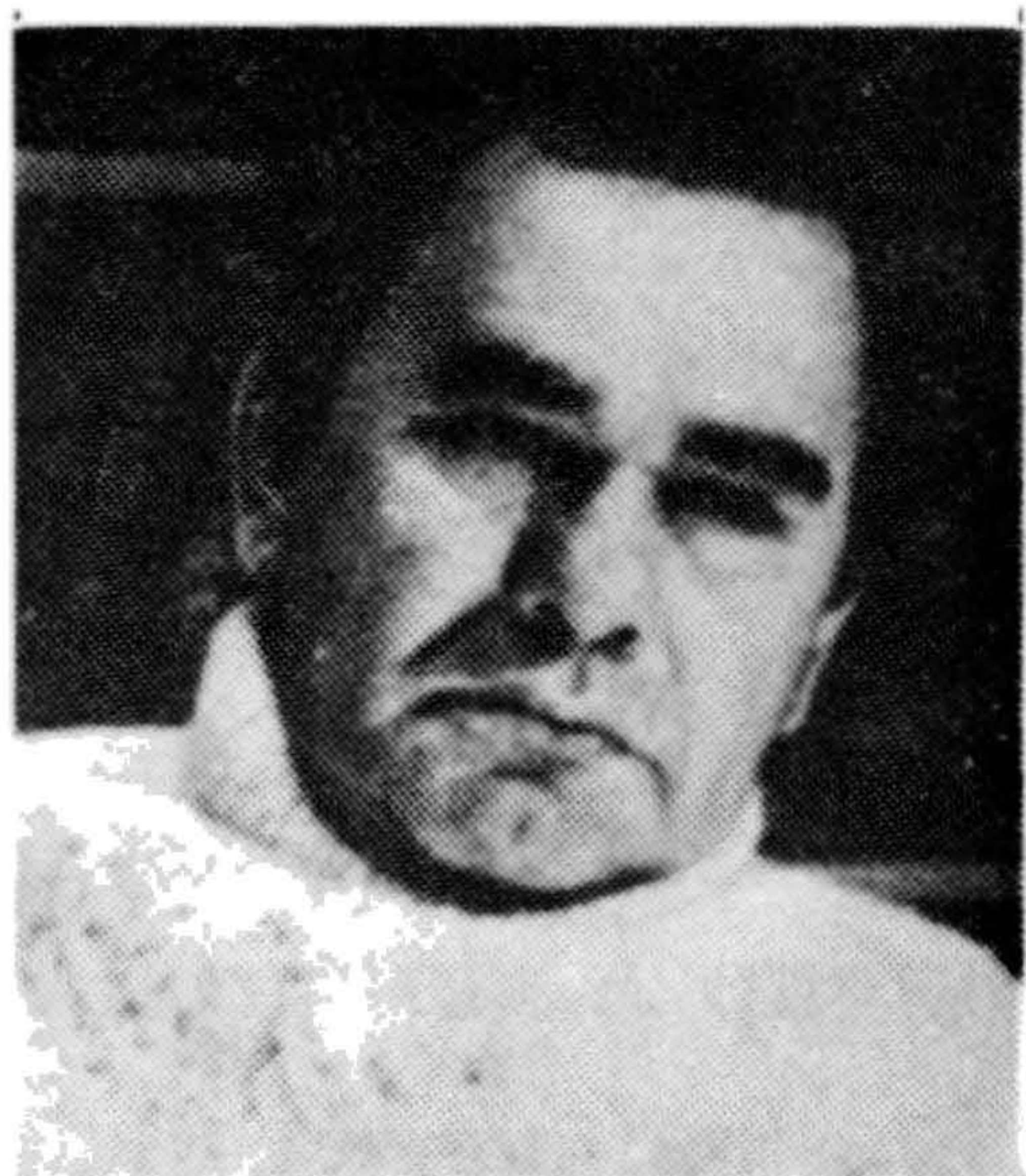
It is also known that Ivan Dyky, having returned to his homeland a few years ago after five years of camps and two years in exile, to which he was sentenced under Article 62, Criminal Code of the Ukr.S.S.R. (“anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda”), for anonymous letters he sent to state organs, could not get permission to live with his family (he has two children) in a village in Western Ukraine, did not have a permanent registration card or work, and was persecuted by the police.

APPENDIX

UKRAINIAN PUBLIC GROUP TO PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS

MEMBERS

SENTENCED



MYKOLA RUDENKO—born 1920 in Vorshylovhrad Region, Ukraine; poet and writer; head of Ukrainian Public Group. Disabled WWII veteran and recipient of several awards, including Order of Red Star; author of over 20 books; former secretary of party organization in Writers' Union of Ukraine. Arrested in April 1975 for several days for membership in Amnesty International and then expelled from Communist Party and Writers' Union. In February 1976 taken to psychiatric institute in Kiev for evaluation, but released. Chosen as head of Ukrainian Public Group upon its founding. Arrested 2.5.1977 in Kiev; June 1977, tried in Druzhkivka, near Donetsk, on charges of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda"; sentenced to seven years' camp, five years' exile. Kept in prison and put under intense pressure to disband Group; declined, sent to Mordovian labor camp in November 1977.

OLEKSIY TYKHY—born in Donetsk Region, Ukraine; teacher. In prisons and concentration camps from 1957 to 1964 for political views; barred from his profession, worked as fireman and laborer. In Summer 1976 home was illegally searched; detained for two days and brutally beaten. Arrested 2.5.1977 for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda"; in July 1977 stood trial along with Rudenko; sentenced to ten years' labor camp, five years' exile; presently serving term in labor camp in Mordovian A.S.S.R.



MYROSLAV MARYNOVYCH—born 1949; electrical engineer. Thrice dismissed from his job for non-conformist views and association with dissidents; worked as editor for publishing house until arrest in April 1977 for membership in Ukrainian Public Group. March 29, 1978, at closed trial in Vasylykiv, near Kiev, sentenced to seven years' labor camp, five years' exile for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda."



MYKOLA MATUSEVYCH — born 1946; historian. Not allowed to complete education because of political views; once arrested and jailed for 15 days for taking part in traditional Christmas caroling; dismissed from work several times for defending political prisoners; arrested in April 1977 for membership in Ukrainian Public Group. March 29, 1978, at closed trial in Vasylykiv sentenced to seven years' labor camp, five years' exile for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda."



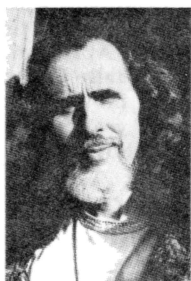
PETRO VINS—born 1955; son of imprisoned Ukrainian Baptist leader, Georgiy Vins. Jailed for 28 days in December 1978 for refusal to submit to search. Arrested 2.8.1978, sentenced 4.6.78 to one year in labor camps on a fabricated charge of "parasitism."

ARRESTED



LEVKO LUKYANENKO—born 1927 in Chernihiv Region, Ukraine; lawyer. Member of Jurists' Group and co-author of program of Ukrainian Workers' and Peasants' Union, which made plans to raise constitutional issue of Ukraine's secession from U.S.S.R.; arrested and tried in closed court in May 1961 for "treason" and "participation in an anti-Soviet organization"; sentenced to death penalty, subsequently commuted to 15-year term in hard-labor camps; transferred to Vladimir prison twice; released in 1976 after serving full term; lived under surveillance in Chernihiv, working as electrical repairman; founding member of Ukrainian Public Group; arrested in December 1977. As of June 1978 still in prison, held without charges.

RESIDING IN UKRAINE



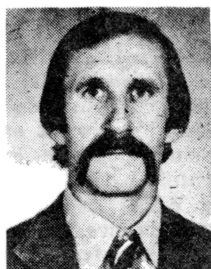
OLES BERDNYK—born in 1927 in Kher-son Region, Ukraine; writer and futurist, currently earning his livelihood as a physical laborer. Fought in Red Army in WWII; arrested after the war on political charges and imprisoned in concentration camps from 1949-56. From 1956-71 wrote almost 30 works, mostly science fiction novels; expelled from the Writers' Union of Ukraine in 1972 because his last two books were found to be lacking in "socialist realism"; received invitations to lecture at Rutgers University in New Jersey and York University in Toronto. Repressions against Berdnyk increased after he joined in the formation of the Ukrainian Public Group in November 1976; head of Ukrainian Public Group since arrest of Mykola Rudenko; also founder and head of Alternative Evolution group in Ukraine. Staged hunger strikes in protest in 1972 (16 days); June 1976 (20 days); and December 1976. Arrested in December 1977 and detained for 15 days.



OKSANA MESHKO — served 10 years (1946-57) in concentration camps for refusal to renounce her husband, imprisoned during Stalin era on political charges; active in the defense of Ukrainian political prisoners, especially her son, Oleksander Serhiyenko, who is dying in Vladimir prison of tuberculosis. Injured November 9, 1976, when Rudenko's apartment was stoned during Ukrainian Public Group's first meeting.



IVAN KANDYBA — born 1930; lawyer. Member of Jurists' Group and co-author of program of Ukrainian Workers' and Peasants' Union; sentenced in 1961 to 15 years' imprisonment in labor camps; transferred to Vladimir Prison in 1969 for writing letter to UN Commission on Human Rights to protest drugging of prisoners' food in camps; released in 1976 after serving full term; not allowed to return to home city of Lviv; now lives in Lviv Region under conditions of nighttime curfew and other restrictions; deprived of right to work in his profession. Joined Ukrainian Public Group after hearing of its formation from foreign radio broadcast. Subjected to constant harassment, searches, surveillance and periodic dismissals from work.



VITALIY KALYNYCHENKO—born 1932 in Dnipropetrovsk Region, Ukraine; engineer. Tried in 1967 for an attempt to flee across the border; sentenced for “treason” to 10 years’ imprisonment.

VASYL STRILTSIV—born 1929 in Ivano-Frankivsk Region, Ukraine; teacher. Arrested by secret police in 1944 at age 15; sentenced to 10 years’ imprisonment; released in 1954; returned to Ivano-Frankivsk; exonerated. Taught English in various high schools and institutes; for seven years headed seminars for English-language teachers. Renounced Soviet citizenship on 9.15.1977 and asked for permission to emigrate to England. Joined Ukrainian Group in December 1977.

IN INTERNAL EXILE



NINA STROKATA—born 1925 in Odessa, Ukraine; physician and microbiologist; dismissed from Medical Institute in May 1971 and arrested in December 1971 for refusal to renounce her husband, Svyatoslav Karavansky, and for defense of other Ukrainian political prisoners; tried in closed court in May 1972 for “anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda”; sentenced to four years in strict-regime labor camp. In May 1974 voted full member of American Society for Microbiology. Released in December 1975; not al-

lowed to return to Ukraine; lives under surveillance in Tarusa, near Moscow. A founding member of the Ukrainian Public Group.



VASYL STUS—born 1938 in Vinnytsya Region, Ukraine; poet, literary critic. Arrested 1.12.1972 in Kiev during wave of arrests of Ukrainian dissidents. Tried in September 1972 on charge of “anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda” (for writing poems and open letters and disseminating samizdat literature) and sentenced to five years’ labor camps, three years’ exile. Released from camp in January 1977. November 29, 1977, while in exile in Magadan Region, wrote to Ukrainian Public Group: “I have agreed to become a member, al-

though, being so far from Ukraine, I can do little. For when the first line has fallen, someone should take its place.”

EXILED TO THE WEST



PETRO GRIGORENKO—born 1907 in Zaporizhe Region, Ukraine; former major-general in Red Army and department head at Frunze Military Academy. Recipient of numerous decorations, including Order of Lenin; author of 78 scientific articles and several textbooks. During WWII, criticized Stalin's military policies and failure to prepare the country for war; dismissed from Academy in 1961 for criticizing "Khrushchev personality cult"; arrested in February 1964 for continued dissidence; stripped of rank

and placed in psychiatric hospital. After release in 1965, protested against 1965-66 trials of writers and 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia; supported Tartar movement for right to return to Crimean homeland; arrested in May 1969 and tried in absentia for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" and "defamation of the Soviet state"; confined to special psychiatric hospital until June 1974. In 1973 awarded Freedom Prize by New York-based Freedom House. Joined Moscow Helsinki-monitoring group in May 1976; in November 1976 became founding member of Ukrainian Public Group and served as Group's representative in Moscow. Fall 1977, received 6-month visa to U.S. for medical treatment. On March 10, 1978, the Soviet government announced that it had revoked his citizenship for activity that was "detrimental to Soviet prestige."

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