



**40-th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE RESTORATION OF
UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE
30. 6. 1941**

1981
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UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT 1941

The provisional Ukrainian Government was formed by Mr. Jaroslav Stetzko of members of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (O.U.N.), the Ukrainian National-Democratic Union (U.N.D.O.), the Ukrainian Radical-Socialist Party (U.S.R.P.), the National Unity Front (F.N.E.) and independent members. The formation of a coalition Government met the demands of the hour, and was approved by the Ukrainian public. The composition of this Ukrainian Government was as follows: Jaroslav Stetzko (O.U.N.) — Premier and Minister of Labour and Social Welfare; Prof. Dr. N. Panchyshyn (independent) — First Vice-Premier and Minister of Health; Mgr. Lev Rebet (O.U.N.) — Second vice-Premier; I. Klymiv-Legenda (O.U.N.) — Minister of Political Co-ordination; Volodymyr Stachiv (O.U.N.) — Foreign Secretary; Dr. Kost Pankivsky (independent) — First Deputy Foreign Secretary; Dr. Maritchak — Second Deputy Foreign Secretary; Dr. Lysyj (U.S.R.P.) — Home Secretary; M. Lebid (O.U.N.) — Minister of Security; Dr. W. Horbovy (O.U.N.) — Minister of Justice; Gen. Vsevolod Petriv (independent) — Minister of War; R. Shukhevych, later General Taras Chuprynka, C-in-C U.P.A. (O.U.N.) — First Deputy Minister of War; O. Hasyn, later chief of Staff, U.P.A. (O.U.N.) — Second Deputy Minister of War; Ing. Chraplywy (U.N.D.O.) — Minister of Agriculture; J. Piasetzky (F.N.E.) — Minister of Forestry; Ing. F. Pavlykovsky (U.N.D.O.) — Minister of Economic Affairs; R. Illytzky — Second Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs; Ing. Olchovyj (independent) — Minister of Finance; Haj-Holovko (independent) — Minister of Information and Press; S. Lenkavsky (O.U.N.) — Deputy Minister of Information and Press; Prof. Dr. Radzykevych (independent) — Minister of Education and Culture; Prof. Turchyn (independent) — First Deputy Minister of Education and Culture; Dr. N. Rosliak (U.S.R.P.) — Chancellor of the Exchequer.



Jaroslav Stetzko

ACT OF PROCLAMATION OF THE UKRAINIAN STATE

1. By the will of the Ukrainian people, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists under the leadership of Stepan Bandera proclaims the restoration of the Ukrainian State, for which entire generations of the best sons of Ukraine have given their lives.

The Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, which under the direction of its creator and leader Yevhen Konovalets during the past decades of blood-stained Muscovite-Bolshevik subjugation carried on a stubborn struggle for freedom, calls upon the entire Ukrainian people not to lay down its arms until a Sovereign Ukrainian State is formed in all the Ukrainian lands.

The sovereign Ukrainian government assures the Ukrainian people of law and order, multi-sided development of all its forces, and satisfaction of its demands.

2. In the western lands of Ukraine a Ukrainian government is created which will be subordinated to a Ukrainian National administration to be created in the capital of Ukraine, Kyiv.

3. The Ukrainian national-revolutionary army, which is being created on Ukrainian soil, will continue to fight against the Muscovite occupation for a Sovereign All-Ukrainian State and a new, just order in the whole world.

Long live the Sovereign Ukrainian State!

Long live the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists!

Long live the leader of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists — STEPAN BANDERA!

The City of Lviv, June 30, 1941, 8 p.m.

Head of the National Congress

Jaroslav Stetzko

1941-1981

A HISTORICAL PARALLEL

Forty years ago, at the time when across the entire Eastern Europe, between the Baltic and the Black Sea roared the gigantic battle between the two greatest tyrannies of modern times, Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia, the radio station in Lviv, the capital of Western Ukraine, seized by Ukrainian nationalist insurgents broadcast on 30th June 1941 a proclamation which began with the following words: "By the will of the Ukrainian People, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists under the leadership of Stepan Bandera, proclaims the restoration of the Ukrainian State for which entire generations of the best sons of Ukraine have given their lives."

Thus began another chapter in the history of the Ukrainian nation's fight for freedom and national independence, a chapter telling the story of an unparalleled heroic struggle against the overwhelming forces of two most ruthless oppressor states in our epoch. The Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists which for more than a decade was preparing the Ukrainian people to an armed uprising against all alien powers occupying Ukraine, and above all against the most perfidious inhuman regimes of Nazi Germany and the Red Russian aggressors, decided to seize the slender opportunity which was provided by the confusion of the war between Nazi Germany and Communist Russia, to try to win independence for the Ukrainian people. An assembly of Ukrainian political leaders of various parties in Lviv appointed a Provisional Government of Ukraine headed by Mr. Jaroslav Stetzko. This Government received widespread enthusiastic support among the great majority of the Ukrainian population whom the news about the restoration of the Ukrainian State reached. The Proclamation was welcomed by the two greatest Church leaders of Ukraine — the Catholic Metropolitan Archbishop Andrey Sheptytsky, and the Ukrainian Orthodox Bishop Polikarp, who subsequently became the head of the Ukrainian

Orthodox Church. Both of them issued pastoral letters imploring divine blessing upon the restored Ukrainian State. All over the Ukrainian territory from which the Red Russian troops had escaped, local Ukrainian administration was set up and the proclamation of the restoration of the Ukrainian Independent State was repeated at mass public rallies. The joy of expected national revival was mixed however with deep sorrow of mourning for countless thousands of relatives and friends, political prisoners, bestially murdered by the Russian occupation authorities in Ukraine headed by Khrushchov at the order of Stalin. The sight of huge mass graves discovered in the prison yards in every town in Western Ukraine evoked in every Ukrainian's heart a profound desire to avenge the death of one's dearest relatives and friends and not to rest until the criminal Russian Communist imperialism would be abolished once and for ever. But in reality, the Russian oppression in Ukraine was soon replaced by the brutal Nazi German occupation which refused to recognise any rights of Ukraine to liberty. Hitler's Gestapo arrested all the leaders of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and members of the Provisional Government who did not manage to escape and go underground, and imprisoned them in the concentration camps in Germany. Many were shot without trial. Ukraine was dismembered and its biggest part was put under the blood-thirsty rule of Reichskommissar Erich Koch. A wave of resentment and protest against the German rule began to rise in Ukraine. From small partisan detachments the large Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) under the command of General Taras Chuprynka was formed late in 1942. It fought under the slogans of Ukrainian independence against the German occupation. Later, after the return of the Red Russian Army, the UPA fought against the Russian domination in Ukraine for several years long after the war in the West ended. And although Moscow has succeeded in suppressing large-scale open resistance in Ukraine, discontent with the Russian rule in Ukraine has remained profound and this presents a favourable soil for the existence of an underground aiming at the overthrow of the present oppressive system and the restoration of Ukrainian independence. Numerous risings and strikes in the concentration camps in Siberia and Kazakhstan since Stalin's death bear witness to this fact.

The West faces today the threat presented by the huge Communist slave empire ruled from Moscow in the interests of Russian world power. This threat must not be underestimated. The Free World must be as full of resolve to defend the freedom of mankind as the Communists are full of the determination to destroy human dignity and liberty. The leaders of the West must take into account the potential forces within the Communist Russian slave empire which are capable of undermining it from within and thus help the West to get rid of the present threat and avoid world nuclear catastrophe. The first place among these anti-Communist forces as regards their strength belongs to the Ukrainian National Liberation Movement which is engaged in a life and death struggle against the diabolic Russian Communist domination. If the West ignores the Ukrainian aspirations to national independence, as did Hitler in 1941 confident in the strength of his army, if the West does not soon come in its own interests to the support of the Ukrainian liberation struggle, its difficulties in resisting Russian aggressiveness will increase constantly, and it will lose the chance to win the bitter fight with the Kremlin dictators. The tremendous strategic and economic importance of Ukraine to the Soviet empire is widely known and hardly needs to be restated. To support Ukraine's fight for freedom means in the most literal sense to fight for the very survival of the entire Free World. Hitler's failure to respect Ukrainian aspirations sealed his fate in Eastern Europe. It is possible to solve the present conflict in the world in the interests of the Free World only if Ukraine's aspirations to liberty are taken into account. Let us hope that the statesmen of the West are farsighted enough to make that vital provision in their policies.

Whatever the situation, the Ukrainian nation is determined to fight for its freedom until final victory is achieved.

"By the will of Almighty God!"

A new epoch has begun in the life of the Ukrainian Independent and Unified State. The Popular Assembly, which took place yesterday, ratified and proclaimed this historic event.

In informing you, the Ukrainian people, of the fact that our supplicatory prayers have been answered, We call upon you to extend an act of gratitude to The Almighty, to remain faithful to His Church and to be obedient to the Government.

The war years will yet seek many sacrifices, but once the deed has been begun in God's name and with God's blessing, it will be brought to a successful conclusion.

These sacrifices, which are inevitably needed to secure our goal, will depend, before all else, on an obedient submission to just commands, not contrary to God's laws.

The Ukrainian people must show in this historic hour that they have enough authority and vitality to earn their place amongst the nations of Europe, where they may be able to develop their capacities granted to them by God to the full".

(Metropolitan Andrey Sheptycky)

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"Peace be with you all in the name of God, Our Father and of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

My beloved children, God's great mercy and justice has descended upon us!

Our immemorial dream has been realized. In the city of Prince Lev, from the broadcasting station a joyous message spreads over our hills and fields, over our country sprinkled with blood so many times before: an Independent Ukrainian State has been proclaimed. The much-suffered Ukrainian Church rejoices together with the Ukrainian people. The free Ukrainian Orthodox Church, reborn in a free Ukrainian state, will be united with the people in a bond which will never be broken asunder.

At this great hour I turn to you, my beloved children, with words taken from St. Paul the Apostle: "I implore you in the name of Jesus Christ that we utter the same things, so that no discord may reign between us, but that we may be united in one understanding and in one thought." (Ap. Paul to the Cor. Ch. 1 Verse 10).

(Rt. Rev. Policarp, Bishop of Volyn')