

INTENSIFIED SOVIET RUSSIAN OPPRESSION IN UKRAINE

This month, Mikhail Gorbachev, designated successor of Konstantin Chernenko and thus the Second-in-Command in the Soviet Union, is visiting Britain at the head of a parliamentary delegation. He will remain in this country as a guest of the House of Commons.

Gorbachev represents a tyrannical government and system, which consistently employs a full-scale policy of systematic organised state terror in order to maintain itself in power and to keep its territorial possessions firmly together.



Olexa TYKHYY



Yuriy LYTVYN



Valeriy MARCHENKO

As an illustration, since the Spring of this year (1984), 3 prominent Ukrainian political prisoners — Olexa Tykhy, Yuriy Lytvyn and Valeriy Marchenko, all active campaigners for national and human rights in Ukraine, have died as a direct result of the latest crackdown and repression of all dissent and opposition in Ukraine by the Russian authorities and the KGB.

All three men were tortured to death, physically and mentally, in a long drawn-out process of lengthy sentences, followed closely by additional sentences, to keep them permanently out of the way, and thus to curtail their influence on the movement

of opposition in Ukraine. In the labour camps, these men were constantly subjected to acute suffering and maltreatment as well as other forms of physical and moral brutality. They were deprived of proper food and greatly needed medical care and facilities, despite being seriously ill, suffering from diseases acquired during earlier terms of imprisonment. They were also made to work in the severe climatic conditions of Siberia in total disregard for their critical health conditions. In this way, they were made to die by the Russian authorities. The tragic deaths of Olexa Tykhy, Yuriy Lytvyn and Valeriy Marchenko can only be seen as cold-blooded and cynical murder.

Another victim of Russian oppression, Yuriy Shukhevych, the son of General Roman Shukhevych, Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) during and after the Second World War, who has spent over 30 years in Russian prisons and concentration camps since the age of 14, has now become completely blind. And yet, since this occurred in 1982, he has not been released but continues to be detained in exile in Siberia. How long can he survive?

In addition, 5 former members of the Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), which fought against the Nazis and then actively opposed the reimposition of Russian rule — Olexander Palyha, Mykhaylo Levycky, Nil Yakobchuk, Vasyl Bodnar and Filonyk, were rounded up and shot as “traitors” and “war criminals” in the Summer and Autumn of 1984. Who is next on the list of those destined to die?

As the designated Second-in-Command in the Soviet Union, Gorbachev, along with the other members of the Politburo and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, is responsible for the criminal deeds mentioned above. Western governments and people must remember that the Soviet Union is and has never been a voluntary union. It is a prison of nations held together by terror and military force — the two basic ingredients of Russian imperialism, guided by men such as Mikhail Gorbachev.

The British Government, the House of Commons, the Foreign Office and the general population of Britain must not allow

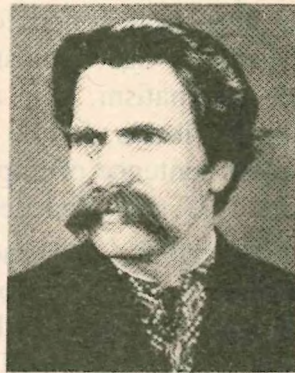
themselves to be tricked by “friendly” smiles, “warm handshakes” and “reassuring” words. For representatives of a government and system, which promotes “friendship”, “peaceful co-existence” and “disarmament”, and at the same time increases its own “defence” budget by a substantial 12%, can only make the same false promises as the government and system they serve.



Yuriy SHUKHIEVYCH



Oksana MESHIKO



Levko LUKYANENKO

This system, driven by traditional Russian imperialism, is striving for expansion, territorial conquest and the spread of Communism throughout the world. Witness to this is the invasion of Afghanistan, the latest country to be subjugated by Russia, and the whole string of wars on the continent of Africa and South America.

The expanding Russian empire presently poses a greater than ever threat to the West with the latest increase in Russian military spending. Representatives of this system cannot have anything of definite value or meaning to say to the leaders of Western democratic countries, who are still prepared to see some goodness in Russian officials. The Ukrainian nation and all the nations subjugated by Russian imperialism have constantly shown, through their own bitter experience, that this is not so. Genuine and useful co-operation and peaceful co-existence with any system or government, which perpetrates such atrocities as do the Russian authorities and the KGB, is impossible, and representatives of such systems should never be accepted as guests

of governments or institutions of freedom-loving democratic countries.

Ukrainians condemn the latest Russian crimes and atrocities committed against their people in Ukraine!

We urge the British Government, while acting as host to Mikhail Gorbachev and his delegation, to demand from the Soviet Russian Government the immediate release of all Ukrainian political prisoners in the USSR, especially Yuriy Shukhevych, who has been imprisoned for over 30 years; Mrs. Oksana Meshko, 79 years of age, almost blind and suffering from acute diabetes and rheumatism, who is presently serving five years of internal exile in Siberia; Levko Lukianenko, currently serving his second 15-year sentence of imprisonment; Mykola Rudenko, imprisoned since 1977, and Vyacheslav Chornovil, imprisoned since 1972.

Furthermore, we also urge upon the British Government to stipulate to Mikhail Gorbachev and his delegation that all future political, economic and cultural co-operation with the Russians shall be preconditioned by the proper treatment of national and human rights of the Ukrainian nation and all the other nations enslaved by Soviet Russian imperialism in the USSR, nations that should have the right to independence, sovereignty and a democratic way of life on their own ethnographic territories.

Ukrainians warn the West against the threat to the lives and freedom of people living in the free world, posed by the Russian imperialist drive of expansion, conquest and the spread of tyrannical Communist rule!

December, 1984.

**COMMITTEE
FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE UKRAINIAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE USSR
49, Linden Gardens, London, W2 4HG**