

PLIGHT OF UKRAINIAN DPs

A few typical letters of many being received daily from Europe describing the tragic plight of Ukrainian displaced persons whom the Soviets would forcibly repatriate and doom to enslavement, persecution or death

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UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA
P. O. Box 721, Church St. Annex,
New York, 8, N. Y.

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An Appeal . . .

Tragic indeed is the plight of hundreds of thousands of the so-called displaced persons of Ukrainian nationality in Central and Western Europe. The majority of them had been driven into Germany as forced laborers by the Nazis while occupying Ukraine and later during the Nazi evacuation from Ukraine. Others had fled voluntarily from Soviet occupation, hoping to find sanctuary from Soviet misrule among the advancing Americans and British in the west.

Today these Ukrainian DPs would prefer to remain even where they are, miserable as is their existence there, rather than to return to their enslaved homeland under Soviet domination. Although they played a valiant part in the defeat of the Nazis, they well know that on account of their patriotic Ukrainian sentiments and their anti-totalitarian and pro-free Ukraine action, they face imprisonment, banishment to Siberian wastelands, or execution at the hands of

the notorious NKVD if the latter succeed in forcibly repatriating them.

American soldiers of Ukrainian origin stationed in Germany write to their relatives and friends here in America that they are often approached with pitiful pleas to help prevent their forcible repatriation by the Soviet authorities. Likewise they stress that many of these refugees threaten to kill themselves, and in a number of cases have killed themselves and their families, rather than allow themselves to be returned to Soviet rule.

Naturally these Ukrainian DPs love their homeland and they long to return to it, but the knowledge of the dire fate awaiting them there together with their instinct of self-preservation, compels them to try to remain where they are, or, better still, to find asylum in some democratic country, preferably in the New World.

Accordingly they appeal to their American kinsmen to help save them, to help prevent their forcible repatriation by the Soviets. These kinsmen, in turn, through the medium of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and its affiliated local and national organizations, parishes and societies, appeal to their fellow Americans of non-Ukrainian stock, especially to their government officials, to come to the aid of these unfortunates in the traditional manner of American fair play and justice.

They appeal to all Americans of good conscience and compassionate nature, to all who can lend a helping hand, to intercede on behalf these Ukrainian dis-

placed persons, so as to prevent their forced repatriation by the Soviets, and so as to help obtain for them an asylum, either in the Old or New World, wherein they may live in true democracy and freedom, a credit to their liberty-loving race and traditions, and an asset to the land of their adoption.

UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA

P. O. Box 721, Church St. Annex, New York 8, N. Y.

(NOTE: The letters following in this pamphlet describing the plight of the Ukrainian DPs are typical of the great numbers of them received daily by Americans of Ukrainian extraction and their institutions and societies. Their authenticity has been verified by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, which has many such letters on file. No names of senders are given, — excepting where the sender is an American soldier, — for fear of reprisals upon them or those near and dear to them.)

A cablegram received by the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, Philadelphia, Pa. from a responsible source whose identity is not given here for fear of reprisals.

October 8, 1945.

Paris, France

“At the present moment the Ukrainians are being arrested here in France by the N.K.V.D.[Soviet secret political police], aided by the French police. Last week about 30,000 Ukrainians were sent back to Russia against their will. The people commit suicide in order not to go home. We did everything we could but all in vain. Therefore we beg you to protest at the French Embassy against this inhuman attitude. Worst of all is the fear in which our people live all the time.

“Help us as soon as possible and now it is still possible, but perhaps in a few days it will be too late.

From a letter written by a former Ukrainian member and Deputy-Speaker of pre-war Polish Parliament.

July 16, 1945

Ausburg, Germany

According to approximate estimate there are about 250,000 Ukrainian refugees under the Anglo-American

occupation in Western Germany. Among them are highly qualified intellectuals: engineers, architects, judges, lawyers, teachers and clergymen; there are also merchants, journalists, editors and even printers. All of them, voluntarily or otherwise, fled as far as possible away from the Soviet regime. Many of them have already experienced life under the Communist rule . . . Besides these 250,000 there are many thousands of laborers and farmers.

The repatriation is now in full swing . . . These people should be saved at all costs. If Bolsheviks get hold of them, they will destroy at least 90% of them . . . The American policy relative to repatriation is not clear, and is being differently interpreted in different localities. Theoretically all refugees from the East territories, under the Soviet rule prior to September 3, 1939, are subject to forced repatriation, while all former Polish citizens have right to choose whether they wish to go back, or not. But in practice this policy is not adhered to as is shown by the following incident: At Kaufbeuren, Bavaria, the Bolsheviks, with the assistance of the American authorities, arrested all members of the Ukrainian Aid Committee. They kidnapped the President of this Committee, Mr. Fedoryshyn, and we cannot locate him. Imagine the Bolsheviks permitting the American authorities to arrest people living under the Soviet occupation! A most significant and characteristic feature of this incident is the fact that Mr. Fedoryshyn came from the Western Ukraine and is therefore a Polish citizen.

Even worse conditions prevail under the French occupation. The Pro-Soviet policy of the French in its

best is hostile to our refugees. I have less information about the zone occupied by the British, but am told conditions there are similar to those under the American occupation.

From a recent letter to "America," tri-weekly published by Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics of America, written by a Ukrainian journalist and author.

· Frankfurt-on-Main.

This forced repatriation is a tragedy. Recently, a Soviet officer, Colonel Davidov, arrived with about 60 officers and officials at Frankfurt-on-Main, General Eisenhower's capital. Officially he came to aid the people to return to their "country." Actually, however, it turned out differently. Having first obtained lists of the refugees, drawn up by local American authorities, Davidov's NKVD agents swept through the American occupation zone "collecting our own" people forcibly, often with American help. People, who for six years suffered in German slavery, got married and places to live in—now don't know what to do with themselves, fleeing from one place to another, confused and terror-stricken.

For example, in Bad Kreuznach, where there is a large Ukrainian camp, Soviet officers entered the

camp headquarters, arrested its personnel, thrust them into an adjoining room, and taking possession of the place they seized everyone coming in and locked them up in the adjoining room. In this manner they caught about 30 persons, including Prof. Prykhodko. Then they packed them into Soviet trucks and began to drive away. Beside himself with despair, Prof. Prykhodko started to shout for help. As luck would have it, an American officer of Ukrainian extraction happened to pass by just then. He stopped the trucks and upon learning who was in them called out the guards and liberated the refugees. The Soviets were taken to the American headquarters and after being interrogated were permitted to go free.

Among those held by the Soviets is Bishop Platon from Ukraine. His illness prevents the Soviets from taking him away.

At a gathering of our refugees in Leipzig, which a Soviet official was haranguing in an attempt to persuade them to return to Soviet rule, an old man with an ax in his hand mounted the speaker's platform and extending to the Soviet officer the ax, said: "Here is my ax, and here is my head. Chop it off, but I won't go back." An American officer witnessed this scene and upon learning what the old man had said, promptly ordered the Soviet officials to leave.

It should be noted here that in many cases American officers defend those who refuse to return to their doom under the Soviets, and for this they deserve praise. After having helped to destroy the Nazi and Fascist hydra, it is difficult for them to reconcile their

democratic sentiments with one of the most terrible dictatorships in world history—the Soviet dictatorship . . .

We realize the American situation here. It is hard for Americans here to reconcile with logic the fact that people whom they would help to return to their homeland refuse to return to it. The trouble is that America has a faulty conception of the Soviet land. Only people who lived there know from painful experience what it means to live there. So it is no wonder that at a gathering of refugees being harangued by a Soviet agitator some old man got up and cried: "You came here to persuade us to return to our homeland? Who ever heard of a country being forced to send agitators to persuade its people to return to it? Do you think that we do not love our native land? When it becomes as it should be, we shall be glad even to crawl on our knees to it and with our last bit of strength! . . . Do you understand?"

With these words this simple peasant made clear why "Russian" Ukrainians, Poles, Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians, hundreds of thousands, millions of them, refuse to return to their homeland. We feel sorry here that this matter is not clear, however, in America, to which we are very grateful for having destroyed Hitler and which waged this war for the rights of man, for freedom, peace and happiness on this world.

From a letter to the "Narodna Volya" weekly of the Ukrainian Workingmen's Association, written by Pfc Dmytro Staroschak, member of the Board of Advisors of that organization.

Perhaps the Ukrainians in America are not very aware of the tragic plight of our people here in Germany now.

Having had an opportunity of seeing thousands of Ukrainians and talking with hundreds of them, I am convinced that not all of them want to return beneath Soviet rule. On the contrary they greatly fear that if they do return "father Stalin" will "reward" them either by banishing them into Siberia or by slaughtering them like animals. Hailing from Galicia, as well as from Eastern Ukraine, these Ukrainians existed from two to twenty five years under Soviet rule and want no more of that "paradise."

When I informed them that a small portion of the Ukrainian people in America is well disposed and loyal to the Soviets, they replied: "Let those people go and live in the Soviet Union one or two months, and if they manage to escape from that 'Soviet paradise' then they'll surely be rid of their pro-Soviet sickness."

Agents of the Soviet secret police (NKVD) swarm all over Germany. Sometimes they abduct persons at night. Why do they attempt to force people to return to their homeland? The answer is clear. They know that as long as these people remain free they will continue to talk and write what they experienced and

witnessed in the "Soviet paradise." In this manner the world will soon learn that the Communist dictatorship in the Soviet Union is terrible. That is why the Red agents want to return these people to "father Stalin."

I am not certain concerning the number of our Ukrainians in Germany, but according to available information there are more than a million of them.

The Ukrainians in the United States and Canada ought to interest themselves in the plight of these refugees and save them, else they will perish.

This is no phantasy. The Soviets are trying to persuade America to return to the Soviets all those who were under Soviet "care" before 1939. Rumors are going around that the Reds are demanding that even those who were under the Soviets before 1942 be returned too. You can see now how "father Stalin" takes care of his children.

I anticipate that our Ukrainian Communists in America will immediately say that, "these people are fascists, and that is why they don't want to go back to Soviet rule." To call them fascists is mere nonsense and a bluff.

I personally spoke with many of them. Among them are intellectuals, professors, teachers, students, tradesmen and even most backwards peasants. All of them refuse to return to the Soviets and all of them suffer from Soviet inhuman economic and political persecution.

They told me that if the time arrives when they will be compelled to return they will slay their families and

commit suicide, or let themselves be killed by their captors, rather than return to Soviet rule.

I am certain that if our Communists in America and Canada had an opportunity of talking with these refugees who lead a gypsy-like existence in Germany they would realize that what the Soviets tell the world is entirely different from what is actually happening in the Soviet Union.

Why do I write this? There is but one answer. These refugees need immediate help. A month or two hence may be too late. The Ukrainian people have no communal life here, but flock together wherever they can to save them themselves, irrespective of their religious or political differences. The Ukrainians in America and Canada ought to organize help to save their kinsmen here from extinction. Time is costly, do it now, for tomorrow will be too late.

From a personal letter addressed to the Chancellor of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Diocese of the USA., Philadelphia, Pa.

Diehl (near Coblenz)
Germany
September 11, 1945

Shocking events are taking place here. Soviet officers enter camps in the American zone which con-

tain Ukrainians and demand that they be repatriated. News of their arrival stirs alarm and terror. Some attempt to hide, while others step forward boldly and announce their determination not to return to their "country" because they know death awaits them there, either by execution or by banishment to concentration camps in the Solovecki Islands and elsewhere.

To the camp at Manheim, south of Frankfurt, wherein dwell 3000 Ukrainians from Eastern Ukraine and from Galicia there recently came Soviet officials who demanded the surrender of the Ukrainians to them. The American authorities ordered the Ukrainians to prepare to leave. But the Ukrainians refused to obey. A tug-of-war ensued. Women and children began to cry and throw themselves before the feet of the Americans. But to no avail. The Americans threatened to shoot. Then one peasant from Eastern Ukraine tore open his shirt and pointing toward his bared chest said, "Shoot, but I won't go to the Solovki." The American officer once more ordered them to prepare to leave and those who refused were beaten with rubber clubs. Nevertheless the Ukrainians did not give in. The crowd began to mill. Outcries and threats were directed from it at the Bolsheviks. Seeing that bloodshed was imminent, the Americans attempted to reason with the people: "We are trying to help you to return to your homes, and yet you refuse. The Big Three decreed your return. Do you want to remain dependent on German rations?" All replied: "We don't care on what we live here, but we won't return to the Soviets." To this the officer said: "If that's the case I'll give you four days to think the mat-

ter over. In the meanwhile I'll consult my superiors and inform you accordingly." Throughout all this an American, Dr. Dudra, acted as an intermediary on behalf the Ukrainians. Later the Ukrainians sent an appeal to the Pope at Rome and to President Truman. And there the matter rests at present. What of the future, no one knows.

All this is taking place at a time when we hear much about the freedom of person, individual, religion and expression . . . That is why I appeal to Ukrainians in America to bring our plight to the attention of the American government with the plea to provide asylum for us. We exist in a state of alarm every day, while winter draws closer and closer.

**From a personal letter written to the editor of
The Ukrainian Weekly from Austria by
Captain Joseph Lesawyer, U. S. Army, formerly
of Hudson, N. Y.**

I have talked to a considerable number of Ukrainians in the past two months. They are up against a tough problem with no solution in sight. It's a case of living on borrowed time. Only the hope of some aid from 'America' is keeping many of these people going. Often have wondered whether you realize the magnitude of the problem here. Nearly a million Ukrainians in Allied occupied territory according to conservative estimates, all breathlessly waiting with

what seems to me to be hopeless hopefulness for the miracle of America. The tragic circumstances of these people cannot be adequately described in words. It all leaves me very unhappy. •

From a letter to the editor of The Ukrainian Weekly, published by the Ukrainian National Association, written by a former New York City policeman and now an M.P. in the American occupation zone in Germany, Pfc. Harry Polche.

Ingolstadt, Germany
September 20, 1945

I've been traveling through Europe and have seen many sights, but there is one in particular I want to tell you about. It concerns the welfare of a great number of Ukrainian people. It is only recently that I was stationed in Ingolstadt, Germany. I happened to take a walk through a park, and suddenly I heard Ukrainian voices. I looked into a grove of trees and there I saw a group of about thirty children ranging in age from three to seven years, and a teacher, a girl of about twenty years.

Sure enough they were saying a prayer in Ukrainian. After that the teacher began to teach them a verse. And then one of the children would recite out loud in Ukrainian. I was surprised and decided to inquire into

this. First I went back to my barracks and got some candy, and then returned. I approached the group and introduced myself. I told her I was Ukrainian. She was glad to see me. She explained that there are many Ukrainians living there in the camp. The teacher then had the pupils recite for me and sing familiar Ukrainian songs. They sang very well with their childish voices. Then they played Ukrainian games, just as we used to in America, only they conducted these games in Ukrainian. I liked them very much and gave them all some candy. They were glad to get it for they seldom get any sweets here.

Meanwhile other Ukrainian people hearing me speak gathered around. I found out that these Ukrainian people were taken from their homes in Galicia, Western Ukraine, and forced to work for the Germans. These same people had been mistreated first by the Poles, then by the Russians, and finally by the Germans. I spoke to some of them who came from my mother's town, Berezhane, and they said that it was greatly ruined. They told me of the dreadful conditions they endured at home and the cruelties the Germans inflicted on them. They were all poorly dressed. I gave the men cigarettes, which are a luxury to them. The UNRRA helps them to keep alive but that is about all.

At our mess hall Ukrainian children beg for the left over food and coffee. It made me very sad to see the Ukrainian children reduced to this. I visited the barrack where they lived and it was pitiful to see where they slept. Many people slept in a room on straw mattresses. I don't see how they will be able to spend the cold winter in this manner. Their clothing is flimsy

and they need something much heavier for the winter. They have just about one suit of clothes to their name.

They are a homeless people. They want to go home, but they know that under the Soviet rule they will suffer more. They all hate the Soviet rule and have suffered much under it. They do not want to go back to that sort of life. So they remain here as the lesser of two evils. These people are the same kind of Ukrainians that we are, and many of them have friends and relatives in the United States that could help them. I spoke to the young teacher's father, a priest, and he gave me a letter to enclose.

I feel sorry for these, our people, and something should be done to help them. They need food and clothing and most of all encouragement, by showing them that we will help them.

In spite of their misfortunes they have managed to organize a very fine chorus. I was delighted to hear them and also to see them perform some fine Ukrainian folk dances.

These people are living for the present and have no future before them. They are many in number, and they comprise all ages, from children to old people.

As a Ukrainian I would not feel right if I did not try to help them. And you have been fighting all along to help better the condition of our people. An article in the paper would bring these present conditions to light, and I am sure that the Ukrainian American people would do all in their power to make life better for these refugees. I only hope that these Ukrainian people in Ingelstadt, Germany can be relieved of their misery.

From a letter signed by four young Ukrainians, formerly of Eastern Ukraine and now in the American zone of occupation in Germany, sent to a Ukrainian American here whose soldier son became acquainted with them over there. The letter was forwarded to the "Svoboda" daily of the Ukrainian National Association, by a member of the association's Board of Advisors.

July 7, 1945.

We are young Ukrainians who left our homeland from two to three years ago. The Germans separated us, ill-dressed and shoeless, from our parents and sent us to do factory work in Germany. Here we worked a lot and hard, but always were hungry and went around in shoes with wooden soles. When the American army came we had a chance to return to our native land, to our formerly flowering Ukraine. But we have no desire to return to where the Bolsheviks and their regime rule.

I am only 24 years old, but have known much woe. When I was a boy my grandfather used to tell me how well our people used to live once, but such life I never knew. All I know was how during 24 years of Bolshevik rule our people suffered, how many of Ukraine's finest sons the Bolsheviks destroyed, and how barbarously they treated our clergy, whom they drove into Siberia in chains and allowed not one to return. Out of churches they made movie-theatres or ware-

houses for the storage of wheat. Children were born unbaptized, young couple lived without being married, and no one dared to speak even a half word in praise of the Lord. Holy pictures were not allowed to be hung in houses, and the reading of the Evangelium was banned. Anyone found having either was given ten years in Siberia.

Many people, who have fled from the Bolsheviks to the American and British zones tell of what is happening in Ukraine now. They say that Moscow is banishing our people to Siberia and in their place it is settling Siberian Russians. In this way they are destroying our people.

Such big nations like America and England have no real idea what communism stands for, and what for 200 years the Russian-enslaved Ukrainian people have been striving to win for themselves. Millions of sons of Ukraine have died in the cause of a free Ukraine and millions of them are dying now like heroes so that "Ukraine should live, her freedom and glory . . . "

All four of us are awaiting advice and help from you. If you can help us get into the American army, then send us the necessary papers. At present we are working in a military kitchen, and under no circumstances do we want to return to the Soviets. By chance we met your son, who gave us your address and told us a lot. We await a letter from you, as we would from our own father. Concluding this letter we beg and all Ukrainians to pray for our people suffering in Bolshevik slavery. May God be with you. Glory unto Jesus Christ.

From a letter by S/Sgt. John Kolotylo, formerly of Buffalo, N. Y. to The Ukrainian Weekly, published by the Ukrainian National Association.

July 27, 1945
Salzburg, Austria

Among the thousands of displaced Ukrainians here in Salzburg, can be found all types of talented Ukrainians, including artists, formerly members of theatrical and musical groups in Lwiw, Kiev, Kharkiv, etc. Their talent is being wasted here. Not only are the Ukrainian people but the whole world is being deprived of the privilege of enjoying beautiful Ukrainian music, drama, and dancing spectacles as only the Ukrainians can present them. This group here in Salzburg is only a small cross-section of the Ukrainian refugees for I know that there are much larger settlements of Ukrainians in cities like Munich, Frankfurt-on-Main, Hanover, etc. . . .

It is, therefore, the duty of Ukrainian Americans to promote our Ukrainian artists stranded in Germany and Austria. These people absolutely refuse to return to their Sovietized homeland, which is easily understood. Their future is completely unknown; their only hope for assistance is the generosity of the Ukrainians living in the United States, Canada and the South American countries.

**From a personal letter written by a member of
the Canadian Occupational Forces to his
friend in Canada.**

August 23, 1945
Germany

It's hard to picture what a Russian Communist is like, but the best description I can give is a human animal, or human being without religion or the Ten Commandments, with no respect for life, property, morals, etc. This I speak from experience. If the Communist in Canada saw what I saw and then were asked: "Do you want your children raised like that?", then I think there would be none in Canada. I have discussed the question with many, and all our experiences are the same . . .

At Kiel there is a purely Ukrainian Camp, about 1,300 people, who do not choose to go back to Western Ukraine, under Polish regime prior to September 3, 1939 . . . These camps are under control of British Military Government, so they are fed and looked after: There are things they need, but they have the necessities of life. Some Red Cross parcels were distributed and believe me they were welcome. The Red Cross parcel is sure a good one. They contain bits of food and things that are scarce here. In Germany the food is "bare necessity only." What these people need most is moral uplifting. They have a terrible fear of being sent back to Russia or to present-day Poland. In fact they are afraid of everything that has anything to do with Russia.

At present the only assistance that can be given them is through the Red Cross. Until some other channel opens up, the Red Cross is the best bet. Apparently the higher-ups in England (both British and the U. S. representatives) are acquainted with the situation over here.

There was one bad incident near Flensburg, just south of the Danish border, when the Russian liason officers convinced the British officers of the camp that all refugees were Russians; so they were taken in vehicles to the Russian zone. There were 250 Ukrainians who should not have gone. The Poles had informed the camp what was going to happen, therefore the worried ones from the Russian side went for the bush; those who thought they had no worries—stayed. The English being convinced that all were Russians, loaded them all into trucks and sent them on. Other Military Government officers who had Ukrainian camps were much upset and refused to let any Russian officer around. The Ukrainians on the whole in these camps are a good lot,—not like the Russian Communists.

**From a letter from three political refugees of
the older generation to United Ukrainian
American Relief Committee, P. O. Box 1661,
Philadelphia, Pa.**

September 5, 1945
Metz, France

We often used to read that refugees from the USSR, be they of the older or younger generation, who

do not chose to return to their native land need have no fears—no one will bother them. But entirely different situation prevails here—a terrible one.

During the night of September 3 and 4, between the hours of 1 and 3 A. M. we were besieged by French police acting in complicity with a Soviet mission. The sudden awakening and scare thrown upon us resulted in some of the women being sent to the doctor. Thirty of us were seized and taken to the Soviet camp, irrespective whether we were old or young immigrants. After about a twelve hour stay with no food, about four or five of the older immigrants were let go, the rest remained in the camp for evacuation to their native 'country.' The treatment of us was brutal.

We beg you as our blood brothers and as an organization which exists on the terrain of a democratic country, to protect us from further such exterminations. We are old immigrants, and there is nothing in the "fatherland" to draw us to it, at least for the present. But such practices of hunting us like wild animals may lead us to the evil hour when we may have to return to where they may destroy us as political opponents.

From a letter to Flight Lieutenant Bohdan Panchuk, Canadian forces overseas, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Servicemen's Association (Overseas).

Address in Germany,
c/o B.L.A.
20th August, 1945.

Arrived safe and sound via Brussels where I spent a half day, then on to Hamburg—where I remain for a period, how long I do not know. I am still with the same unit working out of Hamburg.

Spent a day at Kiel, and while there got in touch with our D-P Det and visited the Ukrainian Camp.

Here I found matter that was rather upsetting—and if you can do anything with the contact that we spoke of on the 14th i.e. the British and the American committee, then PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE and get these people to tie in the British Home Office policy with the Military authorities here. The area I speak is under 8 Br. Corps.

The camp at Kiel. The incident I wish to speak of happened at a Ukrainian camp near Flensburg (which is at the Danish border).

Apparently the Russian Liaison officers convinced the British authorities that those in the Ukrainian camp at Flensburg were all Russians. Therefore 6 Russian officers in company with some British officers and O. R.'s came with vehicles etc., ordered the

people into trucks and sent them into the Russian zone.

One man absolutely refused to go and was shot dead by a Russian officer. This behaviour of course was not approved of, but . . .

This camp contained people from Eastern Galicia and places that made them free from any compulsory movement.

From the story I got, the camp was warned several days ahead of time of what was going to happen therefore those who were on the spot left the camp. Those who were on the safe side stayed in camp. So on the 8th of August about 10 A.M. along came the British officers and men, the 6 Russian officers and trucks and moved some 250 to 300 by force to the Russian side.

The above was checked and found true. It is not a rumour.

Three men who escaped came to Kiel and told their story to the camp there who reported the matter to our D-P Det. The people at the camp had fears that the same fate would be theirs. The Mil Gov. D-P Det. at Kiel has taken a firm stand but should Corps give definite orders than their hands might be tied.

If you can bring the matter to the attention of the Committee who could use some influence and sense and use on Corps level that a Ukrainian is not necessarily a Russian but may come from Poland, Czechoslovakia etc. and must not be turned over to Russian authorities the better, and the sooner the better.

From a letter received early last July from an American soldier of Ukrainian descent, addressed to the Ukrainian National Association, of which he is a member.

Nurenburg, Germany

I've met many Ukrainians who, as they put it, "don't want to go back to father Stalin's heaven," with which they already have had quite enough to do . . . Those people know very little about the Ukrainians in America and were quite surprised when I showed them the copy of *The Ukrainian Weekly*. They were very surprised to learn that the Ukrainians in America knew of their plight as far back as the famine year of 1933.

. . . At one time I began to think that the fight for an independent Ukraine was practically hopeless, but after talking with these people for hours at a time and hearing of their efforts and dreams I felt like a heel for thinking that Stalin could destroy that indomitable Ukrainian spirit that thirsts so much for independence and freedom.

Excerpt from a letter to the Ukrainian Canadian Committee from a Soviet Ukrainian, now serving with the British forces in Italy.

Italy, July 19, 1945

To a large Ukrainian camp in Forli, Italy, there came members of the Russian Cheka and tried to take

these Ukrainians to Russia. After some discussion a fight developed in which some were killed, others wounded. Polish soldiers, stationed in this town came to the assistance of the Ukrainians; actually they were not Poles, but Ukrainians serving in the Polish army.

**From a personal letter written by a Ukrainian
refugee in Germany to his relative in Winni-
peg, Manitoba.**

Brunswick, Germany

July 26, 1945

Here in Germany, under the occupation of the Western Allies, there are thousands of us. In all larger towns and cities we have organized committees and are working in cooperation with the English military authorities. Most of our people here are afraid of being transferred to the East. We have discussed this matter with the English authorities and they assured us they will not do such a thing. Another important question is this: What will happen to us next? Where will we be taken from here? All of us would gladly go to Canada or the United States, because there there are our own people and we would be far removed from the Bolsheviks.

Please inform the Ukrainian Canadian Committee in Winnipeg to intervene with the British authorities not to send us East. Also to apply to the Canadian

authorities to admit us to Canada. It is imperative that the said Committee send their representative to visit our camps. We would greatly appreciate to see some one of our own people, so that we could lay our case before him.

Excerpt from a "Memo about persons of Ukrainian origin living in Germany in 1945."

Geneva, July 15, 1945

The situation of the Ukrainian as well as the White Russian, Polish, and Czechoslovak refugees will be different according to the region of occupation where they happen to be. Thus the situation of those who are under the Soviet occupation will be the most delicate; threats of forcible repatriation are to be expected. It would be extremely desirable, from a purely humanitarian standpoint, that the international institutions which will be entrusted with the fate of the refugees in Germany claim, through the Inter-Allied Central Commission, the right of option for the refugees, and that the Committee for the International Red Cross or other institutions examine on the spot the various individual cases.

All the refugees in Germany who do not want to return to USSR will be found in the zone occupied by the British, the Americans and the French. It is here that the task of the agencies dealing with the refugees will be particularly effective. It must be expected that

the Soviet authorities will demand the extradition of refugees who happen to be in this zone. From what we know the Ukrainian and White Russian refugees rely a great deal on the generous protection of the occupational authorities. They hope that Western democracies in a humanitarian spirit, will accept largely the principle of option and that they will not allow themselves to be impressed by the demands for extradition. Thus many human lives and especially the elite of these countries would be spared mass deportation into Siberia or Turkestan or even capital punishment.

Ukrainian Aid Committee in Geneva

APPENDIX

Text of cablegram of petition by twenty-five members of the Canadian Parliament to Prime Minister Mackenzie King, now in Europe, to help relieve plight of Ukrainian displaced persons threatened with forced repatriation by Soviets.

OTTAWA, October 21, 1945.

Despite appeals and protests by Canadian and American citizens against forceful repatriation of Ukrainian displaced persons from the British and American zones of military occupation to the East under the

Soviets, reports are reaching Canadians that forcible repatriation of Ukrainians continues. We the undersigned members of Parliament appeal to you in name of humanity to use full moral force of Canada's position with all other Allies to effectively and immediately relieve plight of displaced persons in British and American zones, especially of kin of Canadian citizens.

(SIGNED)

W. Tucker

Solon Low

W. Benedickson

John Blackmore

R. Jutras

Douglas Ross

Anthony Hlynka

Fernand Viau

F. Zaplitny

Charles Johnson

A. Stewert

D. McIvor

G. Castleden

F. Shaw

W. Little

J. Dechene

James Marshall

F. Townley-Smith

Norman Jaques

E. Bowerman

Walter Kuhl

W. Bryce

R. Moore

J. Burton

W. Wylie