



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

Information About the Current Struggle For National Independence and Human Rights

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The Case of Valentyn Moroz

In November 1970, Valentyn Moroz, a 34-year-old historian who has become a symbol of Ukrainian resistance, was sentenced to 14-years of prison and exile for the alleged writing and circulation of works assailing the systematic russification of Ukraine. This was Moroz's second prison sentence. He was first arrested in 1965 and sentenced to

4-years of hard labor in Mordovia on charges of "anti-Soviet propoganda and agitation." While imprisoned he wrote the hard-hitting *Report From the Beria Reserve*, a description of the present-day Soviet system of concentration camps. The document was clandestinely circulated in Ukraine and eventually found its way abroad. The recent charges against Moroz concerned chiefly his authorship of *A Chronicle of Resistance* (see excerpts), *Amid the Snows* and *Moses and Datan*, works aimed against the destruction of Ukrainian culture and nationhood.

The underground *Ukrainian Herald* (see p.4) devoted much space to Moroz's trial. News of his arrest spread quickly throughout Ukraine, and numerous letters, protests and petitions on his behalf were sent to official organs of the UkSSR by all segments of Ukrainian society. Moroz spent the two nights of his trial in the confines of the courthouse since the authorities feared an attempt might be made to free him or to give him a public show of sentiment while he was being escorted out of court. When Moroz was first brought to court, he turned to the people who were gathered in front of the building and raised his fists in a manner recalling a famous portrait of the great Ukrainian poet, Taras Shevchenko..

The authorities took extraordinary measures during the trial. Almost without exception all Ukrainians in Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk who were suspected of organizing a show of resistance were placed under surveillance, while additional militia units were brought in from neighboring cities to effectively quell any possible opposition. Even before the trial began, KGB agents warned several people not to participate in the gatherings before the courthouse at the risk of losing their jobs. Most of the warnings were disregarded.

The citizens of Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk reacted to the closed trial with numerous individual and mass protests. Among those protesting the illegality of the trial were such noted Ukrainian dissidents as Vyacheslav Chornovil, Ivan Dziuba and Ivan Svitlichny, themselves victims of the regime's oppressive policies. Two well-known Lviv poets, Ihor Kalynyts and Hrytsko Chubatyy, dedicated their new collections of poetry to the accused.

Moroz himself seemed optimistic. He is reported to have said that he believed in coming changes that would, among other things, not force him to serve out the full sentence imposed on him by the law of the "most democratic" constitution and the "most progressive" nation in the world.

On The Current Cultural Crisis

There is a new shadow emerging--the shadow of mass culture. The songs on the radio are the same on all continents. The fashions are the same in Japan and Brazil. Mass education and mass medicine are fine, but with them has come mass culture. Instead of the heaven that Utopians have promised us, there has come anti-intellectualism, alienation, de-humanization and the loss of one's roots. People are hypertrophically developing the technical functions at the expense of the spiritual, and for some reason this is called progress. Never before has there been such an urgent need to organize and mobilize the forces of Resistance and to take up arms in defense of those things which have more than once saved nations from loosing their identity.

To create traditions is just as ridiculous as to promote cultural revolutions. Culture and revolution are incompatible and conflicting phenomena. Culture represents centuries of maturation, a process which is impossible to speed up. Here any kind of revolutionary interference is destructive. You cannot create traditions. They create themselves in the course of centuries. You can herd people into a clubhouse and proclaim some idiotic holiday of swineherds or milkmaids instead of Easter, but it will never become a holiday. It will be just another kolhosp meeting with another drunken party afterwards. For a holiday there must be some spiritual meaning and an atmosphere which takes centuries to form.

Everyone likes to criticize dogmas and this is understandable in our circumstances. But in this pleasant pastime it is somehow not noticed that today the person without any dogmas, the person who does not believe in anything, has become the major danger. Today we have nihilism--a product of mass culture. It does away with all originality and puts on everything the stamp of facelessness.

Valentyn Moroz
A Chronicle of Resistance

Ukrainian Political Prisoners Protest Food Poisoning

"We have been arrested for demanding improvement in the conditions of Ukrainian workers and for defending the rights of the Ukrainian language, education and culture. Insofar as these demands are permitted by the constitution, we will continue to uphold them. Having failed to break us morally, the KGB is trying to transform us biologically from intellectuals into primitives."

So write three Ukrainian political prisoners in a petition to the United Nations Human Rights Commission. The petition, sent from Vladimir prison in June 1969, accuses the prison KGB of systematic food poisoning designed to cause progressive physical and mental damage to the prisoners. On October 9, 1969, the petition was forwarded to the UN by Amnesty International, ironically enough, only a few days after U Thant had announced, in a special decision, that the UN information centers overseas would no longer

be allowed to receive petitions of aggrieved citizens against their governments. The decision was interpreted as a concession to the USSR.

The three prisoners--Mykhailo Horyn, Lev Lukyanenko and Ivan Kandyba--were sentenced at closed trials in 1961 for protesting Russian suppression of Ukrainian cultural and political rights. They are said to be members of a larger group of Ukrainian intellectuals arrested in 1961 for allegedly conspiring to form an underground organization intending to seek the secession of Ukraine from the Soviet Union under Article 17 of the Soviet constitution.

At the end of October 1969, four months after the above petition was sent to the UN, Ivan Kandyba wrote another letter to the UN, charging that the food poisoning was continuing and accusing the Soviet regime of gross violation of human rights. Excerpts from his letter appear below.

Letter of I. A. Kandyba to UN Commission on Human Rights

. . . The Soviet Union energetically condemns fascist regimes and practices and at the same time immeasurably extols its own regime as the most humane and democratic of all regimes mankind has ever known. However, this does not prevent this "most humane" regime from using, throughout its whole existence, methods more cruel than those practiced by even the most extreme fascist regimes.

In this connection, it is a matter of great surprise and disgust that Professor Nedbailo, a representative of a Muscovite colony, the Soviet Ukraine, is a member of the UN Human Rights Commission and in 1968 was even awarded the UN International Prize for his alleged services in the defense of human rights. Do the free world and the United Nations still not realize that in the Soviet Union there has been established a savage communist dictatorship where citizens are deprived of the most elementary rights, where the peasants are driven into slavery and the workers into semi-slavery, where the citizenry is subjected to mass persecution and repression? Do they not realize that in Soviet concentration camps millions of completely innocent victims, including several million of Professor Nedbailo's countrymen, Ukrainian patriots, have been tortured to death, executed or killed by slave labor, hunger and cold? Do they not realize that over ten million Ukrainians alone were killed as a result of the artificial famines of the thirties?

There has been little change for the better even after the condemnation of the so-called cult of per-

sonality. In Ukraine, Ukrainian patriots are even now persecuted *en masse* merely for striving to preserve the Ukrainian nation from forced russification, from the artificial inhibition of its cultural development, and from the plundering of its wealth by Russian chauvinists. In the course of the past decade alone a number of political trials were held in Ukraine on orders from Moscow. These trials were held either in secret or without admittance of the public. After such judicial reprisals, the government of Soviet Ukraine, under instructions from its sovereign in Moscow, sent the Ukrainian patriots to a foreign land, thousands of kilometers away, for further reprisals at the hands of Russian prison guards. Thus in addition to the unwarranted and illegal deprivation of their liberty, Professor Nedbailo's countrymen are even deprived of their native land.

Professor Nedbailo stands "on watch" for "human rights" in a world organization, while in his own country those who try to make use of the Declaration of Human Rights are persecuted, and copies of the Declaration are confiscated from anyone found in possession of it. It was confiscated from me personally, as well as from L. Lukyanenko and many others. Some brazenly claim that the Declaration of Human Rights was adopted only for Negroes, while others maintain that it has no legal force but is merely a "goodwill" gesture.

Professor Nedbailo is rewarded for alleged services

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in defense of human rights, while Russian chauvinists subject his fellow countrymen, Ukrainian political prisoners, to ceaseless tortures and even discriminate against their relatives (our letters to relatives and their letters to us take about a month or more, while the letters of Russian political prisoners take only a few days). Visiting relatives are forbidden to talk in Ukrainian, and anybody unwilling or unable to speak Russian is simply deprived of his visit. This occurred during Ukrainian political prisoner Dmitro Khvetsko's "visit" from his 63-year-old peasant mother. They were prevented from seeing each other because Maria Khvetsko could not speak Russian. The unfortunate woman had travelled 2,000 kilometers joyfully expecting to see her son and talk to him after their long separation, but was turned away with tears in her eyes because the Russian chauvinists ignore all human rights.

Even under the Greek military dictatorship foreign correspondents have access to Greek political prisoners and are permitted to interview them. An International Red Cross commission has also visited them. But under the so-called most democratic and most humane regime of the USSR nothing of the sort has

ever been permitted during the entire half century of this regime's existence.

Just what guided the UN in electing Professor Nedbailo to the UN Human Rights Commission and in awarding him the UN International Prize for his alleged services in the defense of human rights? Is this not a mockery of the millions of victims of communist terror? Is this not ridicule of those many people who now languish in concentration camps and prisons, of the many dozens of millions of slaves, citizens without rights, entire captive nations in the Muscovite-Communist empire?

On the basis of the above, I request that a competent UN commission be sent to Ukraine and to the sites where Ukrainian political prisoners are interned to determine the true state of the Ukrainian nation. I request that the medical officer attach a copy of this appeal to my medical record. Along with this appeal I am sending the medical officer samples of poisoned food for the purpose of laboratory analysis. I have retained similar samples for myself.

October 31, 1969

I.A. Kandyba

Workers Strike

The Munich newspaper *Donau Kurier* reported on January 28, 1971, that strikes similar to those which occurred in Poland last December also took place in Ukraine, chiefly in the cities of Kiev and Kharkiv.

The immediate reason for the strikes was the chronic shortage of such products and necessities as food, clothing, fuel and fruit. In many industrial cities the aroused workers spoke in strong opposition to the Soviet authorities and demanded the immediate delivery of necessary products. The workers' demands apparently grew out of control and resulted in clashes with the militia.

Ukrainian One of Leningrad Eleven

Generally ignored by the press was the fact that among those tried at the Leningrad hijack trial last December was a 28-year-old Ukrainian from Kharkiv, Oleksa Murzhenko. At the trial he underscored his Ukrainian nationality and stated that in his short life he had lived only 2-years as a free man and that for this reason he wanted to escape from the Soviet Union.

Murzhenko was sentenced to 14-years of very strict regime in the Mordovian prison camps. In his last address to the court he stated: "You are deciding my fate, my life. The 14-year prison term that you have given me means that you regard me as incorrigible and have declared me an out-cast. I have never had any criminal intentions. I ask the court to give me a term of punishment that would leave me some hope for happiness, for my future and that of my family."

Six Ukrainians Executed

A little noted UPI dispatch reported on March 7 that six Ukrainians were sentenced to a firing squad for allegedly collaborating with the Nazis in World War II. The Soviet news agency Tass said that the six had "killed women and old men and helped the Fascists drive Soviet people to Germany." The trial, which took place in the city of Vilniansk, Zaporozhe province, lasted for 1½ months with approximately 300 witnesses called to testify against the accused. Commenting on the incident, Congressman John Rarick stated:

"The execution announcement by Tass is an insult to civilized intelligence. Tass would have us believe that there was a trial which lasted 1½ months and involved 300 witnesses; yet, there was never any news concerning the charges, the trial nor the verdict and sentencing until after the execution had been carried out. The Soviet experiment hinged on whether they could stifle sympathy and compassion by branding these Ukrainians as Fascist sympathizers.

I suggest that this is but another move by the Communist Party bosses to strike fear into the discontented Ukrainians in a move to discredit them and disorganize their efforts for a Ukrainian war of national liberation in the Soviet Union."

Congressman Rarick went on to call for the support of his House Concurrent Resolution 64 which urges that the United States place the question of human rights violations in Ukraine on the agenda of the United Nations.

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*NEWS FROM UKRAINE will gladly provide, to anyone interested, full or additional information about any item appearing in these pages.*

# WACL Resolution

(The following resolution was adopted at the meeting of the Executive Board of the World Anti-Communist League (WA CL) on March 18-21 in Manila.)

The Executive Board of WA CL condemns the barbaric methods currently employed by the Russians to persecute the Hierarchy of the Christian Churches, the laity, cultural workers, artists, intellectuals and freedom fighters in the Soviet Union and the satellite nations, and especially in Ukraine.

These champions of freedom and national independence have been deprived of their basic human rights and sentenced to death or to long terms in prisons or concentration camps where their mental health and physical capacities are systematically undermined.

The Executive Board of WA CL protests this cruel persecution and condemns Soviet Russian imperialism and communism.

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## INSURGENTS IN THE CARPATHIANS

*ABN Correspondence* in Munich reports that it has received news from Ukraine about the constantly growing number of Ukrainian insurgents in the Carpathian Mountains. Their ranks are filled particularly by young people who escape forced deportation to the Asian parts of the USSR and who must face repressions or arrest for their political views and criticisms of existing conditions. According to the information received, these small groups are often forced to use arms in self-defense or in carrying out acts of a diverse character.

News about the growing insurgent movement in the Carpathians was quick to spread, particularly in Carpatho-Ukraine, and caused alarm among Russians and high party officials. In the Carpathians it is generally well known that Russians did not dare go deep into the mountains this past vacation season for fear of possible reprisals by the insurgents.

## *Underground Journal Begins Circulation*

An underground documentary journal has appeared in Ukraine. Called *Ukrainian Herald*, the periodical is similar to the Russian underground publication *Chronicle of Current Events* and carries information about russification, arrests, trials and various other events in Ukraine that are not reported by the official press. The journal began to circulate in January 1970 and five issues have appeared so far. A statement of purpose in the first issue reads, in part:

"The *Herald* will report information about the violation of freedom of expression and of other democratic freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, about judicial and non-judicial repression in Ukraine, about violations of national sovereignty and instances of chauvinism and Ukrainophobia, about attempts to misinform the public, about the condition of Ukrainian political prisoners in prisons and camps, and about various protests... The *Ukrainian Herald* will be able to function only with the active support of a public that will not only propagate it, but will also report and react to every anti-democratic and anti-Ukrainian act, every instance of illegal persecution of persons for their beliefs."



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