



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

Information About the Current Struggle For National Independence and Human Rights

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Over 100 Arrested In Ukraine; Protests Begin

According to reports from Ukraine, the Soviet Security Police (KGB) arrested over 100 Ukrainian dissident intellectuals in January of this year. The arrests, at first placed only at 19 persons by Western news agencies, occurred in almost every major Ukrainian city and included students, youth, and professionals in various fields.

The sources from Ukraine stated that, in spite of the arrests and other repressions against Ukrainian intellectuals (some were dismissed from their jobs as well), petitions, letters, and appeals to various government organs have already appeared in Ukraine as part of a wide action of protest on behalf of those arrested. The arrests, say the sources, failed to intimidate the movement for national rights in Ukraine and have only provoked a massive reaction from every segment of Ukrainian society.

The identity of only a few of the persons arrested is known (See News From Ukraine, Vol. 1 No. 5), but reports from Ukraine also list the following:

Leonid Plyushch. Prominent engineer and mathematician, member of the Institute of Cybernetics in Kiev. Active in protesting political and cultural repressions in Ukraine as well as in all of the USSR. In 1968 sent a letter to a Party newspaper protesting the official silence on the artificial famine in Ukraine in 1933, the harassment of Soviet dissidents, and the repressive measures taken against outstanding dissident Soviet writers like Ivan Dziuba and Alexander Solzhenitsyn. The letter was widely circulated throughout Ukraine. In 1969 Plyushch signed a protest against the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia. He was afterwards harassed by the KGB who, at one point, searched his apartment and confiscated some books.

Iryna Stasiv. 31-years old, writer of poetry for children and teens. Instructor of Ukrainian language and literature until the summer of 1970 when she was dismissed from her job for writing a protest on behalf of Valentyn Moroz, Ukrainian historian sentenced to 14-years of prison and exile for writing works critical of Soviet practices in Ukraine. Iryna Stasiv is the wife of Ukrainian poet Ihor Kalynets who has dedicated a volume of his poetry to Valentyn Moroz and who was recently criticized by the Lviv Writers' Union for ideological lapses in his works.

Stefania Shabatura. 33-year-old artist specializing in tapestry work. Her works were recently on exhibit in Kiev and she has won general acclaim in the Soviet Ukrainian press for her artistry. In 1970 she requested to be a witness at the closed trial of Valentyn Moroz and also wrote letters of protest in his defense.

In other developments connected with the arrests:

DISSIDENT JOURNAL BANNED. An article in the February 5 issue of *The New York Times* confirms other sources in stating that the series of arrests in Ukraine were aimed at suppressing the underground journal, *Ukrainian Herald*. The *Herald*, which has so far appeared in five issues since 1970, carries information about nationalist activities and Soviet repressions in Ukraine. The article states that the recent searches, interrogations, and arrests were the result of a high level decision by the Soviet Communist Party to crack down on underground journals throughout the USSR, including the well-known *Russian Chronicle of Current Events*. KGB raids were also carried out in Moscow, Leningrad and Lithuania, but Ukraine appeared to be the hardest hit in terms of actual arrests.

UKRAINIAN TOURIST CHARGED WITH SPYING. The KGB has accused Belgian citizen, Yaroslav Dobush, of gathering "illegal information" and coming to the USSR on a "criminal mission of foreign anti-Soviet centers" connected with Ukrainian emigre groups in the West. Dobush, a student at Louvain University, was arrested in Kiev on January 28, while touring the USSR. In Brussels the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs lodged a protest with the Soviet ambassador and asked him that the Belgian embassy in Moscow be informed regarding further judicial action in the case. In further developments, the February 11 issue of the newspaper *Soviet Ukraine* carried a brief notice that prominent Ukrainian dissident intellectuals Ivan Svitlychny, Vyacheslav Chornovil (See page 2) and Evhen Sverstiuk had been arrested in connection with the Dobush case for activity hostile to the USSR. The terse statement was the first confirmation in the Soviet press of the recent arrests in Ukraine. The item also noted that the investigation was still "in progress."

UKRAINIANS PROTEST. As a result of the recent arrests in Ukraine, Ukrainians in the free world have launched a series of protest actions and demonstrations with the aim of bringing world and public opinion to bear on the situation in Ukraine. Demonstrations against the arrests have taken place in London, Munich, Paris and many other cities in Europe, as well as in Canada and Australia. Widespread action also occurred in the United States: demonstrators disrupted UN sessions, massed in front of the Soviet mission and embassy, picketed art shows (Washington), interrupted poetry recitals (Yevtushenko), and carried placards through the streets in several cities across the country.

In Congress, Senators Beall and Mathias agreed to co-sponsor a petition urging President Nixon to inquire into the recent arrests in Ukraine. In the House, Congressman John R. Rarick called on members to support his House Con. Res. 64 and place the question of human rights violations in Ukraine on the UN agenda.

Chornovil Protests Destruction Of Graves

The current destruction of Ukrainian historical and cultural monuments by the Soviet regime in Ukraine has become particularly savage in Lviv in Western Ukraine. Here local authorities have ordered the uprooting and levelling of the graves of the Sichovy Striltsi, members of the Ukrainian Galician Army who fought against Poland in 1917-18 and whose graves have become symbolic to the local populace of Ukrainian aspirations for freedom. News of the destruction of the graves has reached the West through a document written by Vyacheslav Chornovil, journalist and author of *The Chornovil Papers* (See *News From Ukraine*, Vol. 1, No. 5). Chornovil has already spent 18-months in a labor camp and is reportedly one of the more than 100 persons arrested in January by the KGB for nationalist activities. The letter, dated August 18, 1971, is a declaration of protest to Soviet Ukrainian officials and has been circulating throughout Ukraine in mimeographed copies. The complete text follows:

It is difficult to imagine anything more savage, more inhuman or more dreadful than the desecration of the dead. It would probably be more humane to shoot a person outright than later on to demolish his grave with a bulldozer and cast his bones out of the ground...

What is now taking place at the Yanivsky Cemetery in Lviv, almost in the center of Europe, can be imagined only under the most brutal Asiatic, medieval standards. Under the direction of specially appointed persons, a bulldozer levels the graves of the Striltsi and a gravedigger's shovel digs up the human remains. They say that this is done with the sanction of the head of the Lviv Oblast Executive Committee, Telishevsky. I do not know what administrative talents this person has that he was entrusted with such a responsible position, but a single one of these savage acts is sufficient to demote this barbarous functionary to a swineherd.

SOVIET ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA

Let us consider what is happening. First, even the dishonoring of the graves of an enemy is a blasphemy rejected by the civilized world. Death levels opinions and ideologies. And death demands respect. Article 212 of the Criminal Code of the Ukrainian SSR provides criminal penalties for the desecration of graves. Second, these youths from Halychyna who in 1918 laid down their lives in the struggle with Polish legionnaires, defended Halychyna from colonial enslavement by a feudal Poland. Are they the enemies of the Soviet government? It is not known where they might be now if they had not died in those days. They would perhaps be in the army of the UNR (Ukrainian National Republic) or perhaps in the ChUHA (Red Army of Halychyna). In any case, those who dabble in quotations will find positive comments about the Striltsi in Lenin's works. Why should those who died over 50-years ago be taken vengeance upon now? Because they saved Halychyna from Polish oppression? We, who do not acknowledge solidarity with Pilsudski's followers, with pacification, with the Bereza Kartuzka (notorious Polish political prison—Ed.), see that even the Poles who occupied Halychyna and hated the Striltsi as their enemies did not desecrate their graves. Even during Stalin's time there was no thought of outright destruction of these

graves, even though desecration did occur. To what have we come now with you?

There is currently much talk about the infiltration of bourgeois ideology. I do not think that all the bourgeois publications and radio stations combined could muster such strong anti-Soviet propaganda as did one bulldozer in Lviv which cut down the tops of Striltsi crosses.

"I CANNOT BE SILENT"

Next to burning of the Ukrainian State Library of the Academy of Sciences in 1964 and the political arrests for the open expression of convictions it is difficult to name an act in the future which would so greatly undermine the authority of the Soviet government as this current outrage in Lviv. The results are already evident. During the past few days thousands of people from Halychyna have passed by the plundered and desecrated graves. Confusion and indignation have arisen among the populace. There are rumors about plans (also far from humane and perhaps even provocative) to destroy in retaliation the graves of party and army leaders, etc. Have we come to the point of introducing a state of siege in our cemeteries?

I refrained from individual appeals to Party and Soviet leaders after the incident in 1967 when, for honest remarks about the violations of the norms of socialist legality, I was first thrown behind prison bars and then transformed from a critic and journalist into a railroad worker. But today I cannot be silent. In the name of humaneness, I appeal to you to intervene in the acts of petty provincial despots, to stop this destruction of the graves of the Striltsi, to restore that portion of graves that were demolished, and to transfer the corpses of those who lie buried on the bones of other people. By doing these things, disassociate yourselves from the crime that is presently being perpetrated in Lviv.

Books

Revolutionary Voices: Ukrainian Political Prisoners Condemn Russian Colonialism. Second Revised Edition. Edited by Slava Stetsko. Foreword by Ivan Matteo Lombardo. Munich, 1971, 269 pp.

The book contains articles, petitions and protests to various Soviet officials written by Ukrainian intellectuals who are at present confined in Russian prisons and labor camps. The book also includes the most recent works by Ukrainian historian Valentyn Moroz, sentenced to 14-years of prison and exile for defending the rights of Ukraine. Order from Press Bureau of ABN, 8 Munich 80, Zeppelinstr. 67, West Germany. Price: \$5 softbound; \$6 hardbound.

Among the Snows: Protest Writings From Ukraine. London: Ukrainian Information Service, 1971, 64 pp.

"Among the Snows" is the title of a brilliant essay by Valentyn Moroz concerning questions currently under discussion by nationally minded Ukrainians in Ukraine about the contents, character, and tactics of Ukrainian resistance to russification and violation of national rights. The essay circulated in manuscript form in Ukraine and abroad. The booklet also contains materials from the underground *Ukrainian Herald* about repressions and illegalities in Ukraine. Order from Ukrainian Information Service, 200 Liverpool Road, London N.1., Great Britain. Price: \$1.75 softbound.

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Writer's Anniversary Sparks Protests

Last May on the 100th-year anniversary of the birth of Ukrainian writer Vasyl Stefanyk, some 20,000 people converged on the village of Rusov in the Czernivtsi region in S. W. Ukraine in order to pay homage to his memory and celebrate the event in the author's birthplace.

The visitors, many of them authors and writers from various parts of Ukraine, were told by the local inhabitants of recent repressions and illegalities in the area, as well as expressions of national spirit. In 1969, for example, in the town of Sniatyni, the KGB and local militia destroyed a monument to Stefanyk which had been erected some 9-years previously. Those who questioned the fate of the monument were threatened with interrogation by the KGB and even arrest. Notwithstanding the threats, local inhabitants began writing protests to government agencies, literary societies, and publishing houses. The action spread to the whole region so that finally the local authorities were forced to build a new monument.

The people of Rusov also told the visitors that in May 1970 students in the Medical Institute at Czernivtsi University destroyed a portrait of Lenin and hung a trident, outlawed national symbol of Ukraine, in its place, as well as substituting traditional Ukrainian blue and yellow flags in place of the red ones. Underneath the monument to Lenin someone had written: "Here someday a monument will stand to those who died for Ukraine."

The villagers also told of the destruction of old Ukrainian churches. In Sniatyni one church had been closed and another turned into a warehouse. The visitors were told that the situation was the same in many villages in the area. Some villagers described how they defended their churches from destruction by authorities.

The villagers also told several writers at the celebrations about former NKVD members who cruelly mistreated hundreds of Ukrainian prisoners during the war. The villagers asked the writers to publish books about the Stalinist terror and to expose former members of the Soviet secret police.

In order to diminish the national character of the celebration, the KGB resorted to various ruses and provocations. Stefanyk's two sons and two grandsons were not allowed to address the participants at the rally. The KGB started rumors that "nationalists" from abroad were supposedly coming to take part in the festivities. In spite of various incidents of this nature, however, the observance of Vasyl Stefanyk's birthday turned into a strong and moving manifestation of national sentiment.

Guerillas in the Carpathians?

Illegal possession of firearms is a problem that also seems to exist in the Soviet Union. According to an article in the *Hannover Allgemeine Zeitung*, the Soviet press has reported that in the past 3-years over 3,000 rifles have been confiscated in Western Ukraine, especially in the Carpathian region bordering Rumania and Hungary. The figures for Moldavia are even larger. The article states that, even though hunting equipment is sold in the Soviet Union, the buying and selling of such firearms have recently been severely restricted, and there have been some demands for prohibiting the possession of firearms in general. Of interest also is the information in the article that authorities have built protective embankments around road tunnels in the Carpathians, surrounding them by barbed wire fences and erecting small soldiers' cabins

near them. Soldiers stand guard in the cabins. The same precautions have been taken around bridges. Such protection of bridges and tunnels has been sighted by tourists in the area, and the author of the article speculates that the elaborate protective measures together with the confiscation of weapons are precautions on the part of the authorities against possible underground guerilla activity that might result from the current political unrest in Ukraine. The article notes that as late as 1956 Ukrainian nationalists disrupted roads and bridges to hinder Soviet Army crossings into Hungary.

Poet Honored In Stormy Sessions

Last year on May 22, following a tradition established over the last several years, people in Kiev gathered near the monument of Taras Shevchenko to mark the anniversary of the burial in 1861 of Ukraine's greatest poet. In order to neutralize the speeches and demonstrations, government organs staged a "festival" of their own near the monument. When the official program ended, however, those who had come to honor the occasion took over the official platform and, ignoring the orders of security forces to disperse, began to read Shevchenko's poetry, as well as the works of young Ukrainian poets of the 60's. The celebration lasted well past midnight. Unlike past years, the KGB and the militia did not attempt to arrest anyone at the monument, confining themselves only to petty provocations.

In Lviv the annual Shevchenko celebrations regularly turn into stormy displays of patriotic feeling. Two years ago a Shevchenko program at Lviv University ended in a large demonstration near the monument of writer Ivan Franko (there is no monument of Shevchenko in Lviv) with several arrests taking place. Last year the organizers of the official Shevchenko observance at the Philharmonic Hall in Lviv did everything possible to avoid similar incidents. Authorities carefully scrutinized the program, choosing only the most innocuous of Shevchenko's poems for public reading. Russian songs and poems were prominent on the program and were greeted by the audience with coughs, foot-stamping or silence. The same reaction occurred at a program at Lviv University where Shevchenko's message was excluded altogether. Instead, the evening was dedicated to "friendship between peoples," and Shevchenko's poems were read in Arabic, Japanese, German, and other translations which no one could understand . . .

Mark Anniversary of Death

Last November a large group of people gathered at a cemetery on the outskirts of Kiev to mark the anniversary of the death of Alla Horska, artist, community leader, and defender of Ukrainian rights. The group of people lighted a torch and candles, read poetry and sang songs. Alla Horska (See *News From Ukraine*, Vol. 1, No. 4) was found dead at her father-in-law's house outside Kiev on November 28, 1970. Her body was buried in a pit under the house where it was found by the police at the urging of Alla's friends, who had grown suspicious of her absence. Her skull had been crushed by a blunt instrument. Persistent rumors in Kiev say that Alla Horska was killed by an agent of the Soviet Security Police (KGB) in an attempt to frighten other Ukrainian dissenters from their activities. Kiev authorities ordered her body buried in a new cemetery outside Kiev so as to discourage mass visits to her grave. Observers report, however, that her grave is regularly visited by students, workers, and former friends who often place lighted candles on her grave or sing songs.

Harass University Professors

Handwritten leaflets circulating secretly in Ukraine last fall carried information about the latest KGB repressions against Ukrainian university professors and scholars. In Lviv, for example, one professor of history was dismissed because of a too critical treatment of the cult of personality in his lectures. The same professor had been dismissed from a previous post for giving a favorable evaluation of the Ukrainian independence movement in 1917-18. Another professor at the University fell into official disfavor because of an unorthodox study of 19th-century Ukrainian economic and political thought. His doctoral thesis has not been accepted for the same reason. The leaflets also told of various agents and informers planted in the Academy of Sciences in Kiev with the object of spying on ideologically suspect members. In 1970 one agent alone was responsible for forming no less than 18 "committees" which investigated numerous scholars and made recommendations for dismissals. Several scholars were dismissed solely because of their "suspicious" past. One scholar was actually replaced by a well-known KGB agent whose orders were to remove "unwanted" people from the Institute.

Reply in Ukrainian Causes Assault

A brutal though not uncommon example of current anti-Ukrainian attitudes is an incident described in the third issue of the underground Ukrainian Herald. It seems that Lubomyr Mazurak, who was visiting his family in Lviv in the fall of 1969, was returning home one evening when he was accosted by three drunken young men, one of whom spoke to Mazurak in Russian and asked for a cigarette. When Mazurak replied in Ukrainian that he didn't have any, one of the men cried out: "Can't you speak in a decent language?" "We'll teach you," cried another one. The three men then proceeded to beat Mazurak until he fell to the ground, unconscious. The men kicked him in the head, chest and stomach. When the militia arrived, a scuffle broke out and only two of the attackers were finally apprehended. At the trial it turned out that one of the men was a Russian and the other a russified Ukrainian. The two refused to identify the third assailant, and the court did not press the matter. Several aspects of the trial were rather irregular. For example, contrary to court practice, the judge went out of her way to make excuses for the two men. She categorically rejected the chauvinistic motives of the attack by the hooligans and at one point even asserted that "They were not

brought up in such a spirit." The judge also rejected as evidence the testimony of a militia officer who stated that the attackers had fought with him and attempted to take his weapon (attacking the militia is severely punished by Soviet law). The sentence was surprisingly mild too, considering the usual verdict in such cases: One of the men received 1½ years of prison, the other 1 year, but both were out after serving only a few months of their sentences.

Fired for Singing Carols

Early last year, philologist Lidia Orel was dismissed from her job as a teacher in a Kiev school for singing in a Ukrainian choir and for singing Ukrainian New Year carols in public. The principal of her school, after receiving certain information from the "appropriate organs," told her to stop her singing activities or else. When she refused, he dismissed her, even though the faculty had evaluated her work highly and she was considered one of the best teachers in the school.

A similar incident occurred at the Kiev Arts, Folklore and Ethnography Institute where research worker T. Hirnyak received a verbal reprimand for her participation in New Year carolling. Hirnyak, a student of folk customs, wished to see how contemporary New Year carolling was conducted and joined the Ukrainian choir Homyn, later even publishing an article on carols in a literary journal. A closed party meeting of the Institute examined her "case" and issued the warning.

"How Dare You Complain ... ?"

Though a Party member, journalist Roman Yanushevsky was arbitrarily dismissed from his job at the editorial offices of the Lviv Party newspaper, *Vilna Ukraina*. Seems that he had written an article about Petro Linynsky, a talented ceramic artist and icon specialist at the Lviv Museum who in his youth had been a member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN). And even though Linynsky had served a prison sentence for his nationalist activity, journalist Yanushevsky was nevertheless found at fault for writing about an "enemy." Considering his discharge from his job to be illegal, Yanushevsky took the matter to court. Later he was summoned by the chief editor of *Vilna Ukraina* who told him: "How dare you complain against me? Do you know who you are and who I am? You are s . . . t, but I am a member of the Party Oblast Committee!"



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