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ABSTRACT

INDEX

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74-124-29/3

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DOCUMENT DATE

8 Mar 68

DOCUMENT NUMBER

OCCA 12847

Chief, SB

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<p>References: A. OCOW-6309, 11 August 1967 B. OCOW-6170, 12 April 1967 C. OCOA-11707, 14 April 1967</p> <p>SMABOVE has provided the following report:</p> <p>"1. The delegation referred to in References A and B is, as suggested, identical to the one dealt with in OCOA-11707, 14 April 1967. Information available to us is substantially the same as contained in the reports to your Agency, with the exception of that contained in paragraph 3(a) of Reference B. There has naturally been nothing said by members of the delegation since their return to suggest that their problems were discussed in other than a serious and helpful manner in the Soviet Union.</p> <p>"2. For comparison purposes, we are attaching copies of the following material:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. An extract from the 15 May 1967 issue of the "Ukrainian Canadian" (Communist), which reveals the extent of contacts by the delegation in the Soviet Union. b. An extract from the January 1968 issue of "Viewpoint" (Communist) containing the report of the delegation to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada (C.P. of C.). c. An extract from the 1 February 1968 issue of the "Ukrainian Canadian" containing the impressions of William HARASYM, a member of the delegation. <p>Attachments: H/W As Stated 3 att h/w</p> <p>Distribution: 42 - Chief, SB w/att h/w 3 - Chief, EUR w/att h/w</p>		
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"3. The delay in replying is regretted. We had hoped to complete a thorough study of events leading up to the sending of the delegation, as well as subsequent developments, however, discussions are still underway in an effort to appease the Ukrainians in the communist movement. The results of this study will be made available to you when completed."

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*The Ukrainian Canadian
Toronto, Ont May 15, 1967.*

CPC Delegation Returns from Ukraine

A DELEGATION from the Communist Party of Canada recently spent three weeks in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Headed by the party's national chairman, Tim Buck, the group included William Harasym, William Ross, Peter Krawchuk, Anthony Bilecki and George Solomon.

The delegation left Canada on March 30, on the Soviet aircraft "TU 114". Landing in Moscow, they were met by candidate to the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine, A.D. Skaba; a director of the Department of External Affairs of the party, I. A. Persadenko; the Ukrainian ambassador to Moscow, Y. I. Dudin; a director of the department of external affairs, M. V. Matkovsky; and others. That same day the delegation left Moscow for Kiev, Ukraine, by train.

Arriving in Kiev on the morning of March 31, the delegation was met by member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Party V. I. Drozdenko, first secretary of the Kiev District Committee of the Party, F. P. Holovchenko, first secretary of the Kiev City Party Committee, O. P. Botvin, director of depart-

ment, their assistants and responsible workers. They acquainted the Canadian delegates with their various departments, with the state of education, especially in Ukrainian schools; the teaching of Ukrainian in the higher institutes of learning, particularly in technical institutes; and the further perspectives in the development of the Ukrainian language. The delegates, during these discussions, offered their opinions and observations on questions of interest to them.

In Lviv, the delegation visited the State University and the Politechnical Institute. The rectors of these two institutes acquainted the delegates with the national composition of their students, their social background, the curriculum, the personnel of the institutes and scientific research.

The delegates also visited a number of museums: the Shevchenko Museum in Kaney, the Ivan Franko Museums in Lviv and Nahuyevychi, the Museums of Regional Studies in Poltava and Ivano-Frankivsk. They placed wreaths at the grave of the Unknown Soldier in Kiev, on Glory Hill in Lviv, on the grave of Shevchenko in Kaney, Ivan Franko in Lviv and the Victims of Fascist Terror



DELEGATES from the Communist Party of Canada hold a discussion with the First Secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine, P. Shelest, April 21 in Kiev. P. Shelest is also a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Oleksiy Poltoratsky.

The Secretary of the Committee of the Union of Writers, Vasil Kozachenko, acquainted the delegates with the achievements of Ukrainian Soviet literature, with the problems that were discussed at the 5th Congress of Ukrainian Writers recently. Writers Mykola Bazhan, Leonid Novychenko, Platon Voronko, Yakiv Bash, Oleksiy Poltoratsky and Alexander Korniychuk spoke of the perspectives of Ukrainian literature, examined a number

was a frank exchange of opinions covering a wide range of questions of mutual interest — questions pertaining to Ukrainian national culture, schools, language and economics. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere.

Tim Buck, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Canadian Party and the delegates presented the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Party with a letter voicing appreciation and thanks for the opportunity offered the delegation to become ac-

mitted. Present were P. Y. Shelest; Candidate to the Politbureau and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Ukraine, V. V. Scherbetsky; Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine, D. Korotchenko; members of the Politbureau of the Ukrainian Party, ministers, academicians, writers and other dignitaries.

During the banquet greetings were exchanged between P. Y. Shelest and Tim Buck. Other speakers were A. D. Skaba, Academician Mykola Krawchuk

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The Ukrainian Canadian
Toronto, Ont. May 15, 1967

Botvin, directors of departments H. H. Shevel, Y. Y. Kondufor and Chairman of the Presidium of the Ukrainian Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, K. A. Kolosova.

During its stay in Ukraine, the delegation, besides Kiev, visited Cherkasy, Kanev, Zolotonosha, Lesky, Poltava, Lviv, Zhovtantsi, Nahuyevychi, Drohobych, Truskavets, Stebnyk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kalush, Yaremchë, Kosiv, Stetseva.

In Kiev, the delegation had several meetings with the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Party, during which they exchanged ideas and opinions with responsible representatives on a number of questions of interest to the delegates. The discussions were frank and open.

The delegations also had the opportunity to meet and discuss with representatives of Government Planning, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, press, radio and TV, the Dovzhenko Film studio, the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, the Department of Social Studies, Academy of Sciences, the Historical Institute of the Communist Party. In all these institutions the delegation conducted frank discussions on questions of Ukrainian national culture, history, language, economy and laws.

Active in these discussions were ministers of the gov-

the Victims of fascist terror in Kosiv.

The delegation had meetings with workers in factories and plants in Stebnyk, Lviv, Kalush, Poltava and Cherkasy. After being shown the factory, the delegates and the workers met, exchanged greetings and held discussions.

In Zhovtentsi (Lviv District), Kanev and Lesky (Cherkasy District), Stetseva (Ivano-Frankivsk District), Poltava and Lviv, the delegates were entertained at concerts of local amateur ensembles. During the concert program members of the delegation, Tim Buck, George Solomon, Peter Krawchuk, William Harasym, William Ross and Anthony Bilecki presented greetings to those present.

In the town of Kosiv there was an open-air meeting attended by several thousand, at which, besides local party and administrative officials, Tim Buck and Anthony Bilecki spoke on behalf of the delegation. After the meeting there was an open-air concert presented by the local cultural groups.

In Kiev, the delegation had a meeting with the Ukrainian Union of Writers on April 10. Present at this meeting were such well-known Ukrainian literary figures as Mykola Bazhan, Leonid Novychenko, Vasil Kozachenko, Platon Voronko, Alexander Kornilychuk, Yakiv Bash, Dmytro Tsmokalenko, Alexander Diachenko, Ivan Zub,

of urgent problems that existed for contemporary literature, answered the many questions placed to them by the delegates.

On April 21, the delegation had a meeting with a member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Party, P. Y. Shelest. During the discussion there

the delegation acquainted with the work of the Party of Ukraine, with the life and creative endeavours of the Ukrainian people, the development of their economy, science and culture.

On the same day the delegates were guests of honour at a banquet given by the Ukrainian Central Party Com-

mission and received greetings from the delegation.

Before the end of their stay in the Soviet Union, the delegation also had a meeting with a member of the Politbureau and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR, M. A. Suslov, in Moscow.



**CENTENNIAL
CONCERT**

May 13, 8:15 p. m.

**PLAYHOUSE
THEATRE**

WINNIPEG

A Program of Ukrainian Song, Music and Dance in Celebration of the Canadian Centenary, and to Honour the Pioneer-Builders of Ukrainian origin for their Contribution to Growth and Progress in Canada's First Century.

Sponsors: ASSOCIATION OF UNITED UKRAINIAN CANADIANS and the WORKERS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF CANADA.

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Viewpoint

1-2-67
Discussion Bulletin issued by the Central Executive Committee, Communist Party of Canada.

Vol. 5, No. 1



Toronto, Ont.

10 Cents

January, 1968

Report of Delegation to Ukraine

Central Committee Meeting—September 16, 17 and 18, 1967.

Central Committee,
Communist Party of Canada
Comrades:

Your delegation, which was charged by the plenum in January of this year to visit Ukraine, on a mission of enquiry and discussion concerning the policy and the experience of the Communist Party and the Government of Ukraine in dealing with the National question, left Canada on its mission on March 29th. The delegation was composed of comrades: George Solomon, Tony Bilecki, Bill Ross, Peter Krawchuk, Bill Harasym and Tim Buck. On our arrival at Moscow airport we were met by a group of party comrades including representatives of the Communist Party of Ukraine. The latter accompanied us as we continued our journey to Kiev by train. Arriving in Kiev in the morning of March 31st, we were greeted officially by a delegation of members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, including members of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

We were in Ukraine twenty-two days, namely March 31st to April 21st inclusive. They were busy, at times intensely crowded days. We visited a large number of cities, villages, and institutions; we met a great many people, and we collected so much information, that a detailed description of our experiences, interesting and valuable though it would be, would make this report so extensive as to defeat the purpose for which you sent the delegation. Because of this we are concentrating our report on the

facts that we collected which bear upon and express in the lives of the people, the policy of the Ukrainian government, the Ukrainian people, and their great Communist Party, towards the National Question. It will be the task of the members of the delegation to popularize on the widest scale the many inspiring and deeply moving experiences through which we felt, warmly and surely, that we saw into the hearts of those wonderful people and learned something of the richness of the material and cultural progress that socialism is bringing to the beautiful Ukraine.

During our first day in Kiev we adopted a program of activity, aimed to make the fullest use of every day that we were in Ukraine, the plan that was decided upon projected two main types of action. One was intensive inquiry and discussion at the highest level to enable members of the delegation to inform themselves concerning the official policy of the Party and the government on the National Question, and the way in which the policy is being implemented. This was concentrated mainly in Kiev. The other type of action decided upon was for the delegation to travel through the countryside, visit cities and villages, industrial enterprises, educational institutions and collective farms, and see for ourselves the state of the National Culture of Ukraine, as it is expressed in the lives of the Ukrainian people.

Our experience showed us that the delegation was necessary and its mission was valuable. Furthermore it showed that the value extends beyond the movement in

Canada alone. Its work was a part, modest but very real, of the cooperation that the responsibilities of proletarian internationalism impose upon every Communist Party—to learn from and contribute to the solution of problems which confront brother parties anywhere. In addition to the very great value which we believe the progressive movement in Canada will derive from the results of the work of our delegation, we are of the opinion that it contributed modestly but positively towards continued progress in the solution of problems relating to the questions that our delegation was sent to inquire into in Ukraine.

There are problems in Ukraine relating to the National Question, as indeed there are problems relating to other aspects of the all-sided struggle to build socialism and advance to communism. It is not necessary to know exactly what political mistakes a person is charged with committing and, indeed, one may know what the mistakes were and condemn them unequivocally, and still be compelled to recognize that such mistakes are expressions of a problem. The vitally important fact, which impressed itself upon the members of our delegation, is that the problems are recognized and are being dealt with in Ukraine. This was expressed succinctly by comrade Peter Shelest, First Secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine, when he said in the course of a meeting with our delegation: "Yes comrades, we have had problems, many of them, and we still have problems, but we are overcoming them." Later in the

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same discussion, referring to the necessity for conscious enrichment and continuous development of the Ukrainian language, comrade Shelest said, "Yes, some comrades have on occasion expressed mistaken ideas about what they call the merging of languages, but only a fool could imagine that there is any possibility of Russian taking over in Ukraine."

Those few words, spoken by the First Secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine who is also a full member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, express clearly the fact that the problems are recognized and, even more important, that they are being dealt with. In various other discussions in ministries of the government in the Academy of Science and such, we saw evidence that the problem is recognized and, where necessary, changes are being made to facilitate solution of the problem. As noted above, the work of our delegation contributed to this process.

It would be an exaggeration to say that, in the short time that we were there, our delegation found the full answer to the satisfaction of each one of its members to every question that we were interested in. But the very large amount of information that we collected and the various aspects that we saw at first hand of the lives of many Ukrainian people, testify to the fact that the Great October revolution and the socialist state to which it gave birth created opportunities for the Ukrainian people, along with all the other peoples of the Soviet Union, to enrich and develop their national culture to a level that was never possible before. Never before, anywhere, has official governmental policy fostered the development of the national culture so all-sidedly. It is not and cannot be duplicated except by other socialist societies.

It is natural even inevitable that, in the course of such an all-sided advance, over a path that has never been trodden before anywhere, problems arise. They are dealt with democratically in the living competition of both ideas and practice. If differing or contradictory points of view make the advance uneven

at times, that fact mirrors the democratic character of the process.

The Ukrainian people and their government and their great Communist Party are united firmly and enthusiastically in their sweeping economic and cultural advance. There is no capitalist exploitation in Ukraine and therefore no conflicting class interests. Differences of opinion arise from time to time concerning immediate tasks, priorities, questions of emphasis, the relation of immediate tasks to long term perspectives etc. Such differences are inevitable. They are part of life and, particularly, they are part of progress. They arise spontaneously between people who agree unequivocally upon their collective lofty aim to advance to communist society while cooperating loyally with peace-loving people all over the world to abolish forever the sinister threat of world nuclear war. When comrade Peter Shelest said to us "We still have problems but we are overcoming them . . ." his simple words mirrored the living realities of the boisterous all-sided advance of the Ukrainian people. Their colossal achievements in building their new socialist society are, naturally, accompanied by the emergence, here or there from time to time, of differences of emphasis etc. Overcoming such differences in the process of socialist construction enriches the process and helps to speed-up the advance to Communism. But, to make the overcoming of such differences positive contributions to progress, involves an element of give and take. In social life the best solutions are those which win acceptance because they correspond with reality; not "solutions" that are imposed.

We learned that the debate concerning the role of the Ukrainian language, its meaning to the Ukrainian people and its future, was summed up and its lessons drawn on the position of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, reaffirming the primacy of the Ukrainian language in the Ukraine. When Comrade Bazhan, the famous writer, told our delegation ". . . I don't think we shall have any more trouble with that question," he did not suggest that there will not be arguments. His point was quite distinctly that the position of the party

corresponds with the realities of life and will win overwhelming support because of that. Erroneous opinions will become discredited. It is socialist democracy at work.

We also consider it useful to remind Canadian readers of this report that the forms of democratic expression, the methods of seeking democratic solutions to problems have evolved under socialism in the Soviet Union in ways different from the forms and methods which will take shape in the socialist Canada of the future. The conditions of historical development are quite different. This is not at all to suggest that the forms and methods prevailing in the Soviet Union are somehow "less democratic." On the contrary, it is to suggest that Canadians would make a mistake in too easily assuming that our ways are superior just because we happen to be more familiar with them.

It was with sincere respect for the development of socialist democracy that our delegation spoke frankly and sometimes critically to all those with whom we discussed virtually every aspect of social life in Ukraine. We are confident that the comrades who are responsible for the leadership of the Ukraine will prove in life the validity of their own confident assurances to our delegation in this connection.

The Economic Basis for the Flowering of the National Culture

Our delegation had intensive discussions with the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Culture, the Ukrainian Academy of Science, the Ukrainian Institute of Social Sciences, the Dovzhenko Film Studios, Radio and TV Kiev, the Institute of Party History, the State Publishing House, and others. We spent an exhilarating and valuable evening with a group of Ukrainian writers at the headquarters house of the Ukrainian Writers Union.

In our discussions at the Ministries, the State Planning Commission, and other institutions, we were given detailed information, including statistics, on virtually all aspects of life and developments in Ukraine, of which the following facts illustrate the main features.

The Growing Riches of Ukraine

Before the October Revolution there was very little industry in Ukraine. Except for coal mining and railway repair shops nearly all industry was of a local character. It consisted very largely of mills for processing sugar beet, and distilleries. The overwhelming majority of the people depended upon agriculture for their livelihood and lived in abject relation to the landlords, who owned two thirds of all the land. Following the October Revolution and the achievement of Soviet Power in Ukraine that age-old situation was changed. By 1940, the year of the highest development before the second world war, no less than six million six hundred thousand workers were engaged in industry in Ukraine.

But, the Nazi vandals destroyed factories, mills, mines, railways and other property, to the value of two hundred and eighty five billion rubles, equal to more than 330 thousand millions of Canadian dollars today. In addition four and a half million people were killed. As a result, the total number of workers engaged in industry immediately after the war was reduced to 4,300,000. It is from that figure and the utter devastation of the country both in the cities and on the countryside that one must start, to realize what a gigantic change is expressed in the fact that the number of workers engaged in industry in 1966, was 13,960,000.

Today Ukraine is one of the great industrialized countries of Europe. Her production of forty million tons of steel per year is surpassed by only one capitalist country in Europe, namely Western Germany. She produces 31% of all the manufactured steel products of the Soviet Union, from diesel locomotives to fine tools and precision measuring instruments, and including a third of all Soviet tractors. The Ukraine produces 34% of Soviet coal and 49% of Soviet iron ore. She has big modern plants manufacturing a wide variety of consumer goods, from radios and TV sets to automobiles and the finished manufacture of synthetic fibres. Her chemical industry and natural gas industry, and the secondary industries based upon them are all expanding rapidly, along with her generation of electrical energy. Her trade with countries

outside the Soviet Union totals fifteen thousand million rubles a year, 21% of all Soviet foreign trade.

Agriculture in the Ukraine is highly diversified and much of it intensive. Thanks to big investments of social capital by the state, equaling more than ninety-five billion Canadian dollars, it is more and more becoming highly mechanized. Before 1917 the overwhelming majority of the people were directly dependent upon agriculture for their livelihood, today only 40% are. Of them, only seven million are actually engaged in agricultural production. Farm income has multiplied several times. The farmers own 58,000 combines, with the corresponding number of tractors and other machines and equipment for plowing, seeding, cultivating, harvesting and handling their varied crops. Ukrainian farmers are receiving six and a half million tons of chemical fertilizer this year but the industry is being expanded rapidly and they will be receiving twelve million tons per year in 1970. Other improvements in agriculture include the irrigation of six hundred and fifty thousand hectares, which will be completed by 1970, and the establishment of processing plants in a number of localities.

Education for the People

At the Ministry of Education we were met by the Minister, P. P. Udovichenko, and all his deputies and heads of departments. The delegation explained the purpose of our visit and proposed that we should start with an introductory report by the Minister or a member of the Collegium. There upon the Minister gave the delegation a detailed informative statement of which the following are the main features.

"Before the October Revolution there was not one state school in Ukraine in which the language of instruction was Ukrainian. Indeed there was not one state school that included the Ukrainian language as a compulsory subject in its curriculum. Now we have 34,000 such schools, with 480,000 teachers. We have 31 pedagogical colleges in which studies are carried on in the Ukrainian language. 40

Pedagogical schools and a Scientific Institute for the study of Pedagogy. In all these the studies are carried on in the Ukrainian language."

"We do have other schools besides Ukrainian" the Minister continued. "Because we have in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic considerable numbers of people of other nationalities, comprising 23% of our population. Many of these people live in long settled national communities." For example, to summarize this point, until Crimea became part of the Ukrainian Republic the language used there was Russian. Russians were by far the largest group in the population. In much the same way there are Moldvian, Hungarian, and Polish communities. In Kiev, Donbas, and some other areas there are substantial groups of people who want their children to receive primary school education in the language of their parents. In every case the parents decide. Reflecting the free choice of parents there are 4,800 Russian schools, 73 Hungarian schools, 2 Polish schools. In addition to the 31 Pedagogical Colleges mentioned above, there is one in which the language of instruction is Russian.

The delegation considers it worthy of note that free choice being made by parents indicates a trend. We were advised that whereas Ukrainians constitute 77% of the population, 82% of all the pupils attending school are enrolled in schools in which all tuition is in the Ukrainian language. Furthermore the minister emphasized that the Ukrainian language, history, and literature, are each compulsory subjects in all schools in Ukraine regardless of what is the language of their general tuition. Furthermore, he emphasized, a student who fails to pass in these subjects has slight chance of graduating to a higher educational institution.

Much of this information, direct from the minister of education, was different from the impression that is widespread in Canada; so different in fact that the delegation was impelled to probe critically beneath the facts expressed in statistics and school curricula.

The delegation asked the minister, "what is the main language of instruction in technical schools?" The minister replied "The main language is Ukrainian. If we invite a professor or a specialist from another part of the Soviet Union to lecture, he does so in Russian. Most of those who stay here for some time learn to lecture in Ukrainian."

The delegation asked further: "Do you say that Ukrainian is the main language in the technical institutes?" The minister explained the necessity to distinguish between technical schools and technical institutes. First of all the institutes utilize the outstanding scientists and specialists in their field from all over the Soviet Union, just as technical institutes in other Republics utilize the outstanding scientists and specialists of Ukraine. Secondly, it must be kept in mind that a number of the Ukrainian technical institutes are the institutes for the entire Soviet Union in their field. In those institutes, such as the "Institute for the Study of Oil and Gas," "the majority of the students are from other republics and expect to return to them. Furthermore, the nature of the industries such as those of the techniques of the extrusion of metals, electric welding, the art and techniques of the design and construction of ships, of cybernetics, of town planning and construction, and other modern specialization, are such that graduates want to be able to advance in their profession and play their role in the advance to communism anywhere in the Soviet Union. In those institutes which are All-Union in character although situated in the Ukraine, it is natural that Russian should be the language in which studies are carried on."

The delegation drew attention to an article in a Ukrainian periodical, written by a teacher in Zaporozhe. The writer complained that teachers in Ukraine "don't know the Ukrainian language properly, don't read Ukrainian literature . . ." etc. The minister replied: "But, we have 34,000 schools with 480,000 teachers. One teacher's opinion about his or her fellow teachers does not

contradict that, though he or she may have written with very good intentions." Members of the delegation agreed afterwards that such critical articles by teachers is itself a very positive development.

The responsible head of the literature department of the ministry interjected at this point with a remark that the ministry is printing for school use between 40 and 50 million books every year and 95% of them are in Ukrainian. Forty of the titles printed last year were reprints of Ukrainian literature.

The delegation asked: "If there is so much emphasis on the Ukrainian language why did Ukrainian writer's union secretary Oles Honchar tell the delegates at the Congress of Ukrainian writers that the teaching of the Ukrainian language in secondary and high schools sometimes finds itself in a worse position than foreign languages in the Ukraine?" The minister replied: "There is some sort of misunderstanding of what Honchar meant. I am sure that you will be able to meet him personally and discuss this matter with him. He may clarify his point. On behalf of the ministry of education I must state emphatically that the teaching of Ukrainian is our first front."

The delegation pointed out that a Decree had released pupils in Ukrainian schools from the obligation to study in Ukrainian. The minister called upon the head of the legal department of the ministry to reply who pointed out that "the decree provides the right to study in a language other than Ukrainian, which is not the same thing as freedom from the obligation to study the Ukrainian language. Section 9 of the decree guarantees the legal right of parents to choose the language in which their children shall study. It does not give parents the right to decide that their children shall not study the Ukrainian language." The minister added: "I think it is good that such a decision is up to the parents, that they have the democratic right to decide. "And," he added, "this principle was discussed widely, especially by teachers, before the decree was enacted."

The delegation asked why there are no Ukrainian schools in Mos-

cow or in Kazakstan, and why in Kiev for example, one could hear a great deal of Russian spoken on the streets, so much indeed as to make it appear that it was the favored language. The minister replied: "Every person who goes to another part of the Soviet Union to work does so because he or she chooses to on the basis of the existing situation. In the main they go for a period.* Those who stay there want their children to be equipped to work there and rise in the trade or profession of their choice. In Moscow there is no demand from the Ukrainians there for separate schools. In Lviv there is a demand from Russians for Russian schools. The comrade who referred to the large number of people who speak Russian on the street says that it gave him the impression that Russian is the favored language. I must urge you comrades to keep in mind the fact that Kiev has a mixed population, perhaps half of the people are of other than Ukrainian birth. All these questions help to illustrate the fact that the National Question is very, very, complex. Leninism dictates that we solve the National question by enriching the national culture of the Ukrainian people, without restricting the development of socialist internationalism. This is the criterion by which our policies and our practice are tested in life. Judged by this or any other valid criterion, nobody can say that the Ukrainian people are second class citizens in our Union. We are equal brothers with all other member nations of our Union in every respect."

In Ukraine there is a separate ministry of higher education so your delegation visited that ministry also.

The minister of Higher Education, Y. M. Dadenkov, opened his introductory statement with a reminder to us, that, before the October Revolution, Russian was the State language of Ukraine. Before October 1917 there was not one state school in Ukraine in which

*The head of the statistics department of the State Planning Commission informed us when we were there, about the proportion of those who stay and who return. Those who stay there more than two years, usually settle permanently in the new home. On the whole, 90% of all who go to other parts of the Soviet Union settle in their new homes.

the language of instruction was Ukrainian. "Even in the Russian language," he added, "higher education was only for the children of the rich. In all of Ukraine there were only 27 educational establishments above the primary school level. Today there are 134 technical institutes, eight universities and other establishments of higher education; that is to say above secondary school level, with 740,000 students enrolled. For every 10,000 people in Ukraine we have 162 students in institutes of higher education; a much higher figure than any capitalist country in Europe. Admission to institutions of higher education is by examination and students receive stipends. Students who win honors in certain subjects receive additional assistance in the form of scholarships named after Lenin, Shevchenko, Gogol, etc. The enrollment in the institutions of higher education in the first half of 1967 is 61 percent Ukrainian, in round figures 451,000, 32 percent Russian, in round figures 236,000; 3.8 percent Jewish, in round figures, 28,000; 3.2 percent others, 25,000. Thirty percent of all the students are from other parts of the Soviet Union."

In addition to the 740,000 students enrolled in various institutions a large number of workers are engaged in higher studies while employed in industry. There are 72 faculties for such spare time study. Each such faculty is connected directly with the institute which is the main centre for study of its subject. The All-Union Institute for the Study of Oil and Gas, which is situated at Ivano - Frankivsk, evolved out of such a centre there for spare time study.

Technical and scientific books and journals are printed in Ukrainian on 212 subjects. A smaller number are printed in Russian. This year, 1967, 37 new textbooks are being printed in Ukrainian, seven in Russian.

We are devoting a relatively large proportion of this report to the subject of education and the language of tuition because the delegation considered these to be key questions. Just as the people as a whole can enrich their national culture only as they raise the level of its material base by all-sided development of their socialist

economy, so the raising of their own cultural level goes hand in hand with the rising level of education.

A People's Culture, National in Form

The minister of culture, R. V. Babichuk, started his information report with the words: "Our Ukrainian Culture is National in Form, Socialist in Content." It must be said at the outset that the facts with which he presented us bore out his opening statement.

"During the past 15 years," the minister continued, "the cultural level has been raised in a revolutionary way in Ukraine. In addition to the libraries in most of the schools, we have 29,000 public libraries, and 22,000 of them are in villages. We have 26,500 workers' clubs and 23,200 of them are in villages. The number of lectures delivered in workers' clubs last year, average 881 evenings for every one of the 26,500. In 1965 we published 2,500 books in the Ukrainian language with a total printing of 76 million copies. In 1966 the total was 78 million, this year it will be more."

"In the villages 53 people of every 1,000 are participating in folk art activities in one form or another. We have 120,000 organized amateur groups. This year we have a festival of folk arts starting with competitions in every village to conclude with the national competition in all fields of folk art. The village competitions are completed now and the winners are preparing for the Oblast competitions. Then the national finals will be held."

"We have 250 folk theatres which also participate in the festival. The badge which identifies its wearer as a participant in one form or another in the national Ukrainian festival of folk arts, has been purchased by 2,000,000 people. Some songs have been written and melodies for them composed especially for the festival and the ministry has purchased a number of them for widespread distribution."

"The festival competition includes competition in embroidery and the best from every area will be entered in the national competition and used to the full extent

possible to enrich the designs of manufactured embroidery."

"Those who produce embroidery and other folk art work for sale, pay no taxes on the money they receive for their product."

"We have 61 full-time professional theatres. Fifty-two of them are Ukrainian. In Kiev, Kharkiv and Odessa there are four Ukrainian theatres in each, and one Russian theatre in each. We have 36 orchestras. Nine of them are full symphony orchestras, the other 27 include five Bandura orchestras etc. Altogether 8,000 regular full-time members are involved in these musical ensembles. They are subsidized by the state to the extent of eight million rubles per year."

"We have 22 dramatic theatres each of which has not less than 50 full-time professional artists in its cast, these also are subsidized by the state."

"There is a four-year course at college level for studies in the various sectors of the theatre. There are nine colleges under the direction of this ministry, with 8,000 students enrolled. One of the colleges is a boarding school. In addition we have an Institute for the Study of the Arts, and an Institute of Training for Leadership of Cultural Work. We have two schools for music teachers. We are going to have a special "School of Music" in every school district, also "Schools of Art."

"We have new operas and new ballets on Ukrainian themes and a number of miniature ballets. They are playing to crowded houses, not only in Ukraine but in other parts of the Soviet Union also."

"This ministry accepts a large measure of responsibility for assuring material encouragement to artists, composers, authors, and playwrights. We frequently purchase work which has artistic value, often when it shows only promise of artistic development, when it is of a type which does not meet with the immediate popular demand."

In this interview, as at the State Planning Commission and several of the other ministries and other institutions that we visited, the delegation asked: "In what language do you correspond with the

other members of your ministry and with other departments of the government?" The minister called for the minutes of the regular meetings of his Collegium and for files of correspondence both current and old. The minutes of the meetings and the carbon copies of letters were in the Ukrainian language. The same had been the case in the State Planning Commission, and other ministries in which we had asked that question.

As the delegation concluded the discussion with warm thanks, the Minister said: "Those who believe that there is Russification of Ukraine are either badly misinformed or they are denying the reality."

An Insatiable Demand for Books

Before our visit to the State Publishing House the delegation had received information about books for use in schools and books published by the ministry of culture. At the publishing house we learned that the popular demand for fiction, poetry, the classics, indeed for literature of every type is insatiable. The director told us: "Virtually the only limit upon the number of books that we publish is imposed by the supply of book paper."

He explained the functions and the work of the organization as follows: "We coordinate the publishing programs of the various publishing establishments of our Republic. Last year we coordinated the publication of an aggregate printing of a hundred and ten million books. That was 95% of all books published in Ukraine."

"In addition to coordinating the publication of books, this institution coordinates the publication of periodicals. There are 288 periodical magazines and other journals in Ukraine, with an aggregate circulation of a million per issue."

"There are publications in languages other than Ukrainian of course. Of the 110 million books that we printed last year, 78 million were in the Ukrainian language, 22 million in other languages. Most of these were in Russian but some were in Hungarian, some

in Moldavian, some in English, French, and other languages."

"Among the books that we put into circulation in 1966 there were 30 million copies of fiction, some reprints of classics, some new books published for the first time. They were all purchased and the demand exceeded the supply."

"Ukrainian books are being translated into the languages of other Republics of the Soviet Union, for example, Kirghiz. We are translating classics of other languages into Ukrainian. We have published the complete works of Sholem Aleichem in Ukrainian. The works of Gorki in Ukrainian are bought in bigger numbers than in the entire Soviet Union before the Second World War."

"We have published this year a beautiful book on the 'History of Ukrainian Art', another on the 'History of Ukrainian Literature' in eight volumes, and 'Who's Who Among Ukrainian Writers' in five volumes. So far these three books are in the Ukrainian language only."

The delegation examined copies of those and numerous other books published last year and this year to-date. The History of Ukrainian Art is indeed a beautiful book. The other two books mentioned above are both major productions. But, impressive as they are, some of the other books published in the Ukrainian language commanded the interest of the delegation because of their subjects. Books on cybernetics, on physics, on electronics, on medicine, psychology, etc., etc., a series of a popular science character and the complete works of William Shakespeare. The director explained that: "In general, the proportion of books and periodicals and newspapers printed in the Ukrainian language is becoming greater. As an example he pointed out that the circulation of magazines printed in Ukrainian has increased by 20 percent since the end of 1965 while the circulation of those printed in Russian has not increased. Children's papers and periodicals printed in Ukrainian have a circulation of over 400 thousand per issue, those in Russian have a circulation of 208,000, only half as much."

The delegation asked why there is an inscription in Russian in every book explaining that the book is

in Ukrainian. The director explained the inscription is the Soviet equivalent of the inscription in books published in the United States recording the fact that it is registered 'in the Library of Congress'. It is for the purpose of statistics, bibliography, coordination, avoiding unnecessary duplication, and information for archives. The difference is that the U.S. is one republic while the Soviet Union is many republics. It is to meet this situation that the inscription is printed in all books published in every republic; in the language in which the book is published, for the reader, and in Russian for those who do not read the language in which it is published."

We pointed out that people complained about the increase of prices for books from Ukraine. The director answered that the publishing house is completely self-sustaining, and receives no subsidy whatever from the state. It must realize an income from its operations which is as great or greater than all its expenditures. Much of the book paper has to be imported because it is impossible to increase production fast enough and the cost of paper has increased sharply. "Even so", he said, "if Canadian readers would compare our prices with those charged for books printed in Canada or the United States they would agree that our prices are reasonable. That is why we can publish novels in editions of 150,000 or a quarter of a million copies and still not have enough."

It was natural that, after what we had seen at the State Publishing House, the delegation should be keen to meet some of the Ukrainian writers. We went to the headquarters of the Ukrainian Writers' Union for the evening following the visit to the publishing house.

We were met by the secretary of the union, Vasil Kozachenko and other writers, all members of the union executive.

Our meeting was quite informal, more in the nature of conversation than a meeting. But, Kozachenko gave the delegation an outline of the history of the Writers' Union, how it functions, etc. He reminded us that "before the October Revolution the only Ukrainian writings that were published were published abroad, or illegally."

"The flowering of Ukrainian literature", he continued, "even our Writers' Union, are fruit of the October Revolution. The importance of this must not be ignored. Furthermore, four secretaries of the Writers' Union of the U.S.S.R., are Ukrainians. We have a membership in our Writers' Union of 792. About half of our members live and work in Kiev, the others live in various parts of the Republic. We are interested to develop local branches of our union wherever there are three or more members."

"We publish a journal 'Literature of the Ukraine' and we publish six magazines. All of these in Ukrainian, naturally." He then repeated much of what we had learned in the publishing house about the demand for books growing faster than the supply of book paper can be increased. In reply to a question he continued:

"Over and above the royalties paid to authors, the publishing house is compelled by law to contribute an amount equal to 10 percent of what the author receives, to the social services fund of the union. The union uses the social services fund to assist those of its members who need help."

After the secretary's introductory remarks there was discussion about books and new trends and our delegation asked "Why it is that writers have been arrested in Ukraine?"

Alexander Korniychuk replied that "They were arrested because they were engaged in an attempt to distribute anti-Soviet propaganda printed in West Germany, not because of something they had written." Korniychuk emphasized that the searching among young people must be dealt with sympathetically, in a positive way without encouraging "the tendency among some of the young people to assume, quite uncritically, that they could solve all the problems of today quite easily."

The delegation asked why "some Ukrainian authors write in Russian?" One of the writers answered. "I have lived in Kiev since 1935. A number of us came to Ukraine from other parts of our Soviet land. Last year I visited Siberia again. I wanted to see my native village and see what changes are taking place. I am concerned

about the whole Soviet Union. I don't think that to be a good Ukrainian one must be limited to his or her native village." In an earlier discussion, in the State Planning Commission, an academician, a member of the Commission, who is a Ukrainian writer of books on scientific questions, explained in reply to a similar question that he writes in Russian because: "I would like to have my books read as widely as possible. It wouldn't be very satisfying to me to find that they are unknown in other republics. I have had students of 60 different nationalities in my classes and I would like all of them to be able to read my books."

The delegation asked: "What was the significance of the emphasis, at the Writers' Congress upon the need to develop further and enrich still more the Ukrainian language?" Mykola Bazhan, speaking for the first time except in personal conversation, replied: "The emphasis upon the Ukrainian language at our congress was an expression of our understanding of the Leninist policy on the National Question. It is true that there have been arguments to the effect that all the Slavonic languages will merge with Russian in a very short time but that concept has been rejected. Together with the struggle against Ukrainian nationalism it is necessary to press the fight against Russian chauvinism. Our congress expressed the policy of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the October Plenum of its Central Committee. I don't think we shall have any more trouble with that question."

The members of the delegation considered Bazhan's reply very significant. He indicated in a matter-of-fact way but quite definitely that there had been "arguments", that is to say differences of opinion, concerning the future of the Ukrainian language. He stated emphatically that the question was settled by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and that this settlement of the question was underlined in the Writers' Congress.

The Growing Use of Radio and TV

The delegation visited the Kiev centre of radio and TV broadcasting and discussed the work of the

station with the director and the key members of his staff. The director gave us a brief outline of the rapid expansion of broadcasting.

"Today we have 16 stations, 83 relay stations, 16 of them are powerful ones, and we have 3,000 kilometres of our own relay lines. All of this is broadcasting TV programs from nine to 15 hours per day."

"Ninety-five percent of our domestic broadcasting is in Ukrainian. The 5 percent which in non-Ukrainian includes several other languages. We relay news and special items direct from Moscow in Russian during periods which total 10 hours per day. We broadcast in the Ukrainian language for 20 hours per day."

"Our station has a long tradition of helping those who study at home, by correspondence, etc. For example, today, there are a number of lessons and lectures on various subjects including the 14th lecture of a course on the English language. We have talks to guide children in manual work, others to help entire classes in school and so on. We receive letters from 34 countries and a number of them are in connection with our aid to education."

In reply to a question about the number of TV sets the director replied: "We have more than eight million radio sets in Ukraine and three and a half million TV sets. More than 600,000 TV sets were sold during 1966. When Unesco made a survey and reported that there were 23 radio sets for every 100 people in Western Europe, Ukraine had 32 sets for every 100 people."

"Every outstanding artist has been recorded. All of them are broadcast frequently from the video tape. All the main TV stations are being connected so that a program produced anywhere in Ukraine, for that matter in the Soviet Union, will be readily available everywhere in Ukraine."

The delegation complimented Radio Kiev on its broadcasts to Canada and expressed a hope that the time can be doubled before long. One member added, "When will you at last start to produce records in the Ukrainian language. People

in Canada have been waiting for them until they have grey beards." "Very soon now," the director replied, "construction of our plant for making records is almost completed. We expect to start production very soon."

Science in the Service of Socialism

It is impossible in a brief report to do justice to the intense and frequently inspiring experience enjoyed by the delegation during its discussion at the top level of governmental administration and similar institutions, not to mention the extensive information that we received. This is particularly true of our visit to the Academy of Science and one of its affiliates, the Institute of Social Sciences.

The Ukrainian Academy of Science carries on research over a very wide field and the following division of its main activities is of necessity over-simplified. They fall generally into the three following branches:

- a) Physics, mathematics, mechanics, materials, etc.
- b) Chemical and biological sciences.
- c) The social sciences.

The following are the highlights of the report by the president Academician Paton:

"Studies in each of those general fields are extended by institutes established for specialized study: such as the Institute for the Study of Cybernetics, of Oil and Gas, of Radio-Physics, of Metals, of Geology, etc. The Academy has affiliates in seven other centres in Ukraine, each located with due regard to the studies in which it specializes; for example, the Institute of Hydrography is located at Sevastopol."

"The academy's scientific library is one of the ten greatest in the world."

"The academy exchanges its publications with scores of countries. In its central library there are more than six million copies of publications received from other countries. For each copy there, our publication on the same subject went to the country from which we received it."

"There are 96 academicians, mem-

bers of the academy and 128 corresponding members. There are to be elections this year to add 23 more full members to the academy and to elect 36 more corresponding members. The elections will be in the fall of 1967."

"The academy publishes between five and six thousand signatures every year. A signature equals 24 typewritten pages double spaced. In addition it publishes a number of monographs on various subjects. These publications are in various languages, mainly Ukrainian and Russian."

The delegation expressed the opinion that the history of the academy should be published in English. Paton replied, "It is good that you raise that question, but we consider that our project of publishing the history of the academy, and of every Oblast of Ukraine, in Ukrainian, must take precedence. In addition we must publish the history of and the technical and scientific content of the fruits of our research. Some of these have to be printed in several other languages besides Ukrainian and there is a limit to the volume of material that can be published."

The member of the delegation complained that he had written to the academy's library in Ukrainian and he received a reply written in Russian. The librarian acknowledged that it was wrong to have replied in Russian, particularly when the letter to which the reply was written had been in Ukrainian. He added, "When we correspond with a fellow communist we do sometimes make the mistake of writing in Russian."

The delegation went directly to Institute for Social Studies, where Academician Bilodid, vice-president of the academy and the head of the institute, introduced us to a large group of academicians and professors who met us in the reception room.

Academician Bilodid explained that the institute carries on systematic research in the twelve main spheres of the social sciences, the studies in each sphere are headed by an authority in that branch. He continued: "The people of the Soviet Union have, between them, 130 languages but before the October Revolution only 20 of them were literary. Since the October

Revolution, the Soviet Union has developed 50 of these languages to full library character with consistently national literatures developing. Before the October Revolution, Ukrainian was suppressed by the state, even in Ukraine. Today it is flourishing. Ukraine is the best example of all the republics of our Union of the relation of research to production. We are grappling with new elements in the development of society."

"Today our academy is working on more scientific publications than any other republic of our Union. We are studying a project now, to publish a 'History of Ukraine' in 10 volumes. We have, recently, published a 'Ukrainian-Russian Dictionary' in six volumes and 20 technical dictionaries. We are working now on an Etymological Dictionary in four volumes, and a Dictionary of Shevchenko."

"We are developing the Ukrainian language in relation to new developments in science and techniques. It, the Ukrainian language, is more highly developed today than ever at any previous time in history."

The delegation asked: "What plans do you have for publication of the History of Ukraine, and what is your perspective for the development of Ukrainian culture?"

Another member of the delegation asked: "What about the merging of languages in the Soviet Union?" Another one said: "The Constitution of the Georgian Republic specifies that Georgian is the state language. Why is it that there is not a similar provision in the Ukrainian constitution? The Soviet Embassy in Washington published a statement that Russian is the state language of the USSR. Is that so, if so why?"

Still another member of the delegation pointed out to Academician Bilodid: "This is not a Ukrainian question in Canada, it is a party question. It is necessary that we get a thorough explanation. We understand that under socialism there are objective developments which affect the life of the nation in various ways. For example, there are contradictory processes. We see there is an important development of Ukrainian culture. Yet, when I was on a previous party delegation, a Ukrainian comrade

told us that the Ukrainian language does not lend itself to describing scientific and technological developments. We have seen in life, including our visit to the academy today, that the Ukrainian language is used to describe the most complex scientific developments. At the same time, after the session of the Supreme Soviet we heard many deputies, Ukrainians, speaking Russian in personal conversation. Is this an expression of the status of the Russian language within the party? This is not a question of their right, but it is a question of the status of the Ukrainian language within the family of the Soviet people."

The questions and statements from members of the delegation came so fast that Bilodid and the other professors were unable to reply to any one of them until they were all "on the table" as it were. As a result of that his answer was a composite statement in reply to all of them. He said: "I have been teaching the Ukrainian language and helping its development for 24 years. But, every man speaks according to his taste and the limit is set only by his ability. Concerning the argument that our language has no perspective, or to the effect that some people in Ukraine think it has no perspective, I must point out that the delegate who placed the question did not give any concrete example of any such official attitude to the Ukrainian language and he could not. The truth is that the Ukrainian language is flourishing. All the national languages in the Soviet Union are flourishing."

"The assertion that the Ukrainian language is downgraded is a lie. But when we say that the national languages are flourishing, this does not in any way contradict the fact that there is an increase in the use of Russian, this is a natural spontaneous process of life."

"If any man told anyone from Canada, or a delegation, that the Ukrainian language does not lend itself to scientific subjects, that shows only that the speaker did not know what he was talking about. You need only to look at the books that we have shown you. In those books the most complex problems of science are dealt with in the Ukrainian language."

At this point another professor

interjected that there must be some misunderstanding reflected in the statements about state languages. "Lenin," he said, "urged that we should not have a state language or state languages. We have followed Lenin's advice." Bilodid resumed:

"The Russian language has no privileges. When it is used by a Ukrainian it is because the speaker finds it convenient. Remember that, in addition to the Ukrainian language including many Russian words, Russian also has taken many Ukrainian words. In neither case was it by decision, it was part of the fruit of life. Languages don't develop according to a plan. Stalin's mistake was in imagining that linguistic development can be measured exactly in advance."

While he had been making the above statement a member of our delegation had raised the question of assimilation. Academician Bilodid replied with the categorical statement: "There is no assimilation in the Ukraine. In international conferences, for example the United Nations, the two main languages being used today are English and Russian. It is not such a long span of time when the main languages were French, English and German. This change also is part of the fruit of life. It has to do with the development of languages and their relationship to each other."

When the delegation asked about the level of development of the Ukrainian language, he replied: "Ukrainian is developing no less than is the language in which Ernest Hemingway wrote. It was never before developed as highly as it is now."

"Concerning the fact that some deputies to the Supreme Soviet conversed personally in Russian, I think it is much more significant, and important, that the overwhelming majority of people in Ukraine today are conversing in literate Ukrainian."

"As for the question that one comrade asked as to why so many Russians have come to Ukraine? I urge you to consider who is going where and who holds important positions. In our Union there cannot be a law against moving from one republic to another any more than there can be a law which

compels people to speak in a certain specific language."

Theoretical Clarity

Our discussions with the members of the Writers Union, with the members of the Academy of Science and of the Academy of Social Sciences, were particularly fruitful in obtaining clarity on some of the theoretical aspects of the language question. We consider it valuable to summarize some conclusions on these questions here. In brief they told us the following:

—The problem of language must be treated scientifically.

—The development of language is a historical process, in the course of which languages take words from each other — as explained by the head of the Academy of Social Sciences.

—The party program calls for the flourishing of all national languages, those of the big nations as well as the languages of the small nations and peoples.

—There are no such terms as a state language or state languages — neither Russian nor any other language is the state language in the sense that it is compulsory for all citizens to speak it. In the constitution reference is made to the language of the Republic, to the language of the majority.

—The concept of two native languages is scientifically incorrect. The Russian language is becoming the second language in the Ukraine as in other republics because it is needed for communication between all peoples in the Soviet Union. But the Russian language has no privileges. It is not obligatory upon citizens to speak it.

—The concept that there will be a merging of languages is false. Languages do not merge — cultures do. There is no prospect for assimilation in the Ukraine. The Ukrainian language is now more highly developed than at any previous time in its history. In the second half of the 20th century Ukrainian is becoming a world language. Never in the history of Russia has Ukrainian culture received such acclaim from the peoples of the whole of the Soviet Union as it is receiving now. Uk-

rainian science and literature are growing—with students coming to the Ukraine to study from many countries.

—There is in progress the fullest development and flowering of Ukrainian national culture together with the interchange of cultures between all Soviet peoples. There is a process of Socialist internationalization taking place. There can be no administrative restrictions or preferences in this process. Freedom of choice must be available to all Soviet citizens.

In addition to visiting Ministries of the government and such institutions, our delegation visited a number of localities in different parts of Ukraine. We spent some time in each of the cities of Kaniv, Cherkasy, Poltava, Zolotonosha, Lviv, Ivanov-Frankivsk, Drohobych, Kosiv, and visited places in the neighborhood of each of those centres.

We visited industrial enterprises, some very large ones. The television factory in Lviv is modern, highly mechanized and employs 13,000 workers. We visited plants producing artistic pottery and others producing enormous units of prefabricated reinforced concrete for housing and other construction. We visited electric power plants and the great locomotive works at Poltava which the workers turned over to building armored trains for the Red Army during the civil war. One of the most impressive of all the industrial developments that we visited was at Kaluush in Western Ukraine. There an industrial giant is arising. Mining the rock of which there are billions of tons in the area, the plant will make chemical fertilizers and many metallurgical products, including magnesium. The first section of the plant started operations during 1967, the entire plant will be in full swing in 1970. Then the new city of Kaluush will have a population of 40,000 people.

Our delegation couldn't help but compare that utilization of natural resources in Western Ukraine with the way that Canadian resources are being alienated to foreign ownership. Capitalist governments in Canada pretend that money for such developments is not available

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unless United States or other foreign interests want to invest. But, the project at Kaluush entails an investment of socialist capital equal to seven hundred and sixty million Canadian dollars. It is only one of many many gigantic projects. Not one penny of the money is put up by capitalists. The plants are built by the people. Their products contribute directly to a rapid rise of living standards and to the socialist capital for more expansion.

Capitalist governments tell us that Canadians don't have the "know how" to develop new processes, therefore we must invite foreign corporations to take over our priceless natural resources. But, in Western Ukraine, indeed in the Soviet Union as a whole, they had to start from scratch only a few years ago. That is why they do have the "know how" today.

We visited collective farms. All of them were extremely interesting and each one is contributing to the overall technical revolution in the agriculture of Ukraine. It was natural, however, that our delegation should be particularly interested in the First of May Collective Farm because Comrade Lychuk, its proud chairman, was at one time an immigrant worker in Canada. He was in the turbulent election campaign when Tom McEwen was our party candidate in Spadina riding Toronto, in August 1930. Comrade Lychuk enjoyed talking about the big fight when an organized gang of hoodlums tried to pull Tom off the truck during a campaign meeting on Spadina Avenue. Lychuk beat it back and forth from Ontario to Alberta and back in search of a job, he was deported to Poland in 1933.

Now, in addition to being chairman of a beautiful and very prosperous collective farm in Western Ukraine, comrade Lychuk is an elected deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union and twice decorated with the Order of Hero of Labor. As he remarked while telling us: "Of course this is socialism."

We visited universities, institutes, schools, museums, art galleries and historic places. We visited the birthplace of Ivan Franco and the house in which he lived, in Lviv, through the last fifteen years

of his life. It is now a State Museum.

We enjoyed performances by and talked with the performers of numerous amateur ensembles. We learned with joy that amateur ensembles travel from Ukraine to many other parts of the Soviet Union and to other countries. We spent an evening with one such ensemble, composed entirely of employees working in one factory, which had just returned from a very successful tour in Hungary. We saw handicrafts and other folk arts of almost breathtaking beauty, we met and talked with Ukrainians of all ages, engaged in virtually every sphere of social activity.

Some Conclusions Differences

—It became evident in the course of our discussions that there are real differences in the understanding of and approach to the language question at the various levels of party organization and amongst different leading comrades, even though they all believe themselves to be subscribing to the Leninist national policy. In addition to variations of understanding and attitudes between individuals, we found instances of gaps between declared policy and practice.

—There is first of all the attitude, quite common, that the national question has been solved successfully in the Ukraine on the basis of Lenin's teachings, that there are no problems of a national character, no pressures whatsoever concerning languages, that the Soviet people are all united by the common aim of building Communism and that's what counts. This attitude was expressed by the First Secretary of the Oblast Committee of Cherkas. The response of our delegation to that attitude was, and is, that, if no problem exists, if everything has already been resolved, then obviously there is nothing to be done or said. But, obviously, there was need for discussion and action.

—Secondly, there was the opinion, expressed by the Minister of Education, to the effect that the question of national aspirations doesn't depend on language. A similar position was advanced by A. D. Skaba, secretary for Ideology in the Central Committee who de-

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clared that what is important is that technique develops, not the language in which the text books are published. It didn't bother him, he stated, whether in the hydro station at Burshtyn, there were more signs in Russian or in Ukrainian. And further, a statement in the State Planning Commission to the effect that one of the reasons why so few technical books had been published in the Ukrainian language was that some authors consider it more important that their books be published in Russian. This was re-inforced by one of the professors present who declared that when he prepared a text book he wanted it read as widely as possible throughout the entire Soviet Union and therefore he wrote it in Russian.

This attitude, that language was secondary or unimportant, that it is technique, the building of Communism alone which counts, was one that we found to be widespread. Our delegation can only assume that this reflected a distorted concept of the language question in relation to the nation. This concept was, however, contradicted by the statements of P. Y. Shelest, member of Polit-bureau, CPSU and first secretary, Central Committee, C.P. Ukraine, who declared emphatically that the development of Communist society must permit the fullest and freest economic and cultural development of every nation. "Patriotism," he went on to say, "is developed in the family and its roots are in the family." During our discussion with M. A. Suslov, member of Polit-bureau and Secretary of CPSU in Moscow later, he also spoke very positively about the close relationship between language and culture.

This was in line with Shelest's remarks at the Ukrainian Writers Congress to the effect that "It is necessary that we cherish and respect our beautiful Ukrainian language. It is our treasure, our great heritage which, in the first place you, the writers, must develop."

This sentiment was echoed by the Chairman of the State Planning Commission who told us "I believe that here in the Ukraine we should speak in Ukrainian, that we should advance the Ukrainian language in the field of technical books."

—Differences exist also in regard

to the estimation of the discussion at the Ukrainian Writers' Congress. Every person we discussed it with claimed that the Congress was the true expression of the Leninist national policy, and reflected the correct approach of the Party to the Ukrainian language. However, in discussion with some of the writers the opinion was expressed that the action of the Congress was part of the general categorical rejection of potentially harmful concepts about the Ukrainian language — that it emphasized the fact that in the last two years the situation with regard to the Ukrainian language has improved drastically. While the Secretary for Ideology stated that the reason why the question of the Ukrainian language came up at the Writers Congress was not because of any conflict of policy but because certain individuals wanted to make policy for the Writers Union, other comrades, like the Minister of Education, claimed that Honchar, the chairman of the Writers Union, was not acquainted with the real situation in the school system when he declared at the Congress that the teaching of Ukrainian in the secondary and high schools sometimes found itself in a lower category than a foreign language.

Correction of Distortions

There are many indications that in the recent period there has been some change in the direction of official policy in the Ukraine—a correction of previous distortions of national policy—distortions both of national nihilism as well as expressions of great nation chauvinism. But this is not spoken about by most of the comrades, who continue to refer to the progressive development of the Leninist national policy in the Ukraine since the October Revolution.

The firm and categorical emphasis at the Writers Congress on the role of the Ukrainian language as well as the repudiation of false theoretical concepts about development of languages in the Soviet Union; the evidence of increasing numbers of Ukrainian texts in the technical schools and institutes; the impressive growth of Ukrainian literary works; the production of Ukrainian encyclopedias, dictionaries, histories of the language, and the culture, accompany increasing empha-

sis on the language in the secondary and higher educational institutes.

Ukrainian books have been published in 41 languages. Three million copies of Shevchenko's works have been published in the other Republics of the Soviet Union. Ample evidence was provided the delegation that Ukrainian is the language of official documents and of correspondence between governmental and party bodies, ministries and Party committees. Amateur cultural groups are flourishing in all fields of the folk arts, involving broad masses of young people. These are all positive evidence that, as was proclaimed on one of the posters that we saw: "The Language of Taras Will Forever Be the Language of Ukraine!"

However, these positive developments do not proceed uniformly and more is required in the opinion of our delegation. We see a need for stronger direction from government and party bodies and more consistent ideological work in combating remnants of harmful concepts and practices. For example, we were told of cases of bourgeois nationalism among writers and students but in no instance could we get the specifics of the charges. Bourgeois nationalism was not defined. There has been a tendency in some quarters to brand as bourgeois nationalism or some kind of deviation, demands for the greater use of the Ukrainian language in public institutions. Such carry-overs from the Stalin era do not help in correctly resolving the language problem.

Similarly, with cases of violation of Socialist democracy and denial of civil rights. When enquiries were made about the sentencing of Ukrainian writers and others, we were told that they were not recognized writers, that they were not imprisoned for their writings, that they were convicted as enemies of the state. But the specific charges against them were not revealed. Although we do not claim to know what considerations of state security led to the trials of these writers being conducted in secret, we must make the point that such in camera trials never serve to dispel doubts and questioning.

On the other hand, the unified Socialist economy of the entire Soviet Union gives rise to certain problems which are not always resolved with due consideration of and sensitivity to national feelings. For instance, certain sectors of the economy come under the jurisdiction of all-union ministries in Moscow—e.g. transportation, communications, tourism, etc. For purposes of communication, it is understandable that the common language employed in these sectors throughout the entire Soviet Union should be Russian. But that cannot excuse the practice until recently of signs in Ukrainian railway stations being only in Russian; of menus in Ukrainian railway restaurants being in Russian, French, English, German, etc., but not in Ukrainian; of Intourist guides addressing tourists in the Ukraine in Russian; etc. The use of both languages—Russian as well as Ukrainian or the language of the specific republic—should in our view be the general practice insofar as signs, menus, telegrams, etc. are concerned, with emphasis on Ukrainian as the spoken language in the various public institutions in the republic. It must be emphasized that this is increasingly becoming the case.

Internationalism

We found a strong emphasis by the Ukrainian comrades on Socialist internationalism, on the fraternal relations between the Ukrainian and Russian peoples, on the assistance received by Ukraine from the other Soviet republics. This is all to the good and serves to avoid the pitfalls of Ukrainian nationalism. But with some of the Ukrainian comrades a wholly one-sided emphasis on this aspect has served to obscure or even negate the other aspect of the problem; namely, that true internationalism can develop only on the basis of the freest development of each nation. When the secretary for Culture declares: "We have Russian theatres, schools, papers. There is nothing wrong with that. We have lived 300 years with the Russian people. We have lived 50 years under Soviet power with the Russians. They have never betrayed us. The principle is not to search out what

divides us, but what unites us," we can certainly agree with such sentiments. But that is not the problem. It's not a question of the right of Russian citizens in Ukraine to use their language, press, schools, etc., but that of the parallel rights of Ukrainian citizens living in concentrated population areas in other Republics, along with fullest encouragement for the use of the Ukrainian language in the Ukraine.

When the same comrade told us that they can't issue directives telling people what language to speak, we can only agree with such an approach—provided it is not a reflection of the concept that it is immaterial what language is spoken in Ukraine so long as Communism is being constructed. The Ukrainian language has to be encouraged, promoted, and developed, in all areas of life in Ukraine. It is not to be forced upon the people, whether of Ukrainian, Russian or other origins, but the climate has to be created for its freest flourishing and interdevelopment with other languages and cultures. Only then will the spirit of true internationalism prevail. Life itself will determine the future of the Ukrainian language, as of all the languages.

Internationalism must express the fullest and freest development of the creative forces in each nation; anything less would fall short of Marxism-Leninism.

The Ukrainian Language

In Ukraine as in the other Soviet republics the law permits the parents to choose the language of instruction in the schools. That is why we find schools there in which the language of tuition is Russian, Polish, Hungarian, or Moldavian. We were told however by the Minister of Education that in all of these schools a non-satisfactory mark in the Ukrainian language prevents a student from obtaining a pass. There is no demand in these schools to free the students from studying Ukrainian. As a matter of fact we were told in the Ministry of Culture that several hundreds of thousands of Russians living in Ukraine now state that Ukrainian is their language.

However, when asked how it is that there are no schools in the Ukrainian language in Moscow or other cities with large concentrations of Ukrainian workers, the

reply received from the Minister of Education was that there are no demands from these workers for the Ukrainian language, newspapers, or schools. No one, he said, forced these Ukrainians in Moscow to go there.

Our delegation is not satisfied with such replies. In what way are Ukrainian workers in other republics different from Russian, Polish and others who desire to continue with their native languages in Ukraine. Are national feelings among Ukrainians weaker than among other Soviet nationalities? Or is it possible that Ukrainians living in Moscow or elsewhere outside of Ukraine, hesitate to request schools in the Ukrainian language lest they be branded as "nationalists?" Is this a case where the remnants of Russian chauvinism, mistakes made during the Stalin era, still linger? The answer that there is no demand for the Ukrainian language outside of Ukraine is similar to the answer given years ago that there was no demand among Soviet Jews for the study of and publication in the Yiddish language. Yet the past few years have seen the flourishing of literary creativity among Jewish writers, the emergence of new cultural forces, etc. Not that all problems have been resolved in this area, but these recent developments have contradicted the past answers of years ago that there is no demand among the Soviet Jewish citizens for the greater use of the Yiddish language.

Whether the obstacles to changing this situation regarding the Ukrainian language outside of Ukraine rests with the authorities in the Ukraine or with the all-union government in Moscow, or with both, is unclear to us but in our view it definitely requires a different approach by all concerned.

Lessons for Canada

There are some pertinent lessons for our party in the development of the national question in Ukraine. How do we see the struggle for national self-determination in French-Canada up to and after the establishment of Socialism in Canada?

This is a democratic struggle supported by our party which may or may not be victorious before Socialism is achieved. Experience

in the Socialist countries has shown that national feelings do not disappear under Socialist relationships.

Any concept that in a Socialist Canada it would be immaterial to us what language is spoken in Quebec; that once we have Socialism then the national question doesn't matter or concern us any more, is not only false, but would hamper the struggle to win support for our party in Quebec.

Nor can we fail to continually uphold the principle that the French Canadian minorities outside Quebec enjoy the same rights to the use of their language, and to the instruction of their children in it as is enjoyed by the English speaking minority in Quebec.

It was correct to send the delegation, in our opinion it should have gone before it did. We found great interest both in official and unofficial circles around the delegation.

On the whole the results of the visit of the delegation are definitely positive. The trend is in the right direction. A more consistent effort and time itself will bring more and more beneficial results.

The party and Communists working in the Ukrainian national group

field in Canada have to go over to the offensive in describing the processes at work in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and reassert ourselves more forthrightly as champions of the true national rights of the Ukrainian people and of Socialist internationalism.

The Ukrainian nation has, after centuries of oppression, finally achieved its unity and sovereignty and all the opportunities to develop a viable and flourishing culture. This was made possible by the October Revolution and the Socialist cooperation between all the republics of the Soviet Union. It is under Socialism and through working class internationalism that the Ukrainian nation is able to realize fully its national aspirations.

We have to combat tendencies in our ranks which express themselves in such remarks as—"Unless this question of the Ukrainian language is resolved in the Soviet Union, there is no future for our organizations in Canada." Without underestimating the concern of many Canadians of Ukrainian origin about the development of the Ukrainian language in the Soviet Union, and without ignoring the concern of the progressive organizations for the national rights of

the Ukrainian people in the Soviet Union, the fact remains that the vast majority of Ukrainians in Canada are Canadian born, speak mainly English, and are more and more becoming concerned about the Canadian problems. The future of the Ukrainian organizations working in this national group field lies in reaching out into the broad community of Ukrainian Canadians.

Many party and non-party people, many in the Ukrainian organizations, of varied political sympathies, have been anxiously looking forward to hear the results of our Delegation's visit. As soon as possible our report must be made public through meetings, press articles, interviews, etc. It cannot be treated as an inner-party question.

We close with an expression of the Delegation's warm hope that the report on its work will not be limited to our party members alone. The experiences of our Delegation and the lessons that they convey should be publicized as widely as possible through meetings, articles in the press, interviews, all forms of publicity and enlightenment.

Fraternally submitted
by the Delegation.

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

TORONTO, ONT.

Issue of FEB. 1, 1968.

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Member of delegation comments on:

Report Of Delegation To

By WILLIAM HARASYM

Ukraine

THIS REPORT OF THE (COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION) TO UKRAINE LAST YEAR IS PRESENTED HERE IN CONDENSED FORM. THE COMPLETE REPORT IS AVAILABLE IN THE VOL. 5, NO. 1, JANUARY, 1968, ISSUE OF THE CPC DISCUSSION BULLETIN, "VIEWPOINT". DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS TO THE AUTHOR ARE WELCOMED.

DURING the month of April, 1967, I had the opportunity of visiting Ukraine as a member of a delegation from the Communist Party of Canada. Our group — Tim Buck, Anthony Bilecki, Peter Krawchuk, William Rose, George Solomon and myself — elected by the January, 1967, plenum of the CPC, was instructed to inquire into and discuss questions relating to the politics and experiences of the Communist Party and Government of Ukraine on the national question as it pertains to that country. Our delegation presented its findings to the September, 1967, plenum of the CPC recommending that the full report be published and popularized as widely as possible. It was so decided.

Since that time the complete report has been published in the discussion bulletin of the Central Committee, CPC, "Viewpoint", (Vol. 5, No. 1, January, 1968) and a Ukrainian language translation in the January 1st issue of "Life and Word". Because I wholeheartedly agree that the experiences of our mission to Ukraine should be shared with all Canadians willing to listen, I wish to express my appreciation to the editorial staff of "The Ukrainian Canadian" for this opportunity to address its readers.

One more, perhaps obvious, but I feel, not-to-be-taken-for-granted point: Our delegation, notwithstanding the fact that we had some critical points of view to raise, prepared for and conducted its visit only in an atmosphere of the highest respect and the warmest fraternal friendship for the Ukrainian people, their political and social institutions and their achievements. It is our earnest desire that, as a result of our communications with Canadians, this atmosphere shall be strengthened and enlarged.

While on paper our terms of reference were very brief, in life they proved to be just the opposite because the "national question", as understood in the communist movement, covers the whole

of a nation's development. While the form and content of cultural expression are the most visible indicators of this development, the health and viability of culture are closely interwoven with, and dependant upon, economic stability and progress. In other words, one must consider the whole "way of life" of any given country or nation for a serious estimation of the national question therein.

INTERVIEWS AND VISITS

DURING our 22-day stay in Ukraine our hosts afforded us extensive opportunities to fulfill our responsibilities. Our mission took on a two-fold character: we had interviews with various government, cultural and party bodies and we visited many enterprises and centers outside of Kiev.

On the state government level we met with the State Planning Commission, Ministries of Culture, Education and Higher Education and the State Publishing House; the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and its Institute of Social Sciences. On the Communist Party of Ukraine state level we had several interviews with members of its Central Committee, including one with First Secretary, Peter Shelest, and a visit to the Institute of Party History. While in Kiev we also visited the Dovzhenko Film Studios, Kiev Radio and TV and met with executive members of the Ukrainian Writer's Union. On an Oblast (provincial) level, extensive interviews were conducted with Oblast Committees of Cherkas, Poltava, Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk.

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was glory; here we thrilled to a performance of the Ukrainian classic folk opera, "Natalka Poltavka". In Cherkas we toured a new consumer product giant — a synthetic fiber plant. In both provinces we were present at several excellent amateur concerts, visited new libraries, rest homes, apartments, and stopped at a number of "rayoni" (district) offices. Invariably, at every stop — an interview or informal talk and a big meal.

In Western Ukraine, (Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk Oblasts) the same tenor — only more intensified. While in Lviv, the Ivan Franko Museum and the historic university named after him, the Polytechnical Institute and 13,000-worker TV plant. On the road to Ivano-Frankivsk, we stopped at the town of Drohobych, the locale of much of Ivan Franko's activities and now an educational center. Further on we stopped at that writer's "home town", Nehu-yevychi, now called "Ivan Franko" after its famous son. We spent some time at the fantastically huge Kalush chemical-metallurgical complex, like a small city, now concentrating on the production of fertilizer. We were also overwhelmed by the size and scope of the thermo-electric plant at Burshtyn — not yet complete but, on the drawing boards, one of the world's largest. We dropped in for a noon meal at the famous health resort at Truskavets and spent a night at Yaremcha, a tourist's paradise in the Carpathian Mountains. We were honoured with a mass meeting of thousands in the town of Kossiv, home of the famed folk art wood-carvers in the heart of "Hutsul land".

While we were in the Cherkas and Poltava Oblasts, (the north-east-central section of Ukraine) we also visited the towns of Kanev, the final resting place of Taras Shevchenko, and Zolotonosha, where, "zoloto" (gold) tributes were paid to the Mongolian conquerors. In these provinces, (the historic 'heart' of Ukraine, we also visited the famed and beautiful Poltava Folk Museum and their locomotive repair plant of revolution and civil

As in Cherkas-Poltava, every visit coincided with formal and informal talks, many exciting concerts and cultural evenings and "a bite to eat" (read "banquet") at every stop.

During the course of our travels we also visited a boarding school, three collective farms, five museums and paid our respects at numerous cemeteries and common graves of fallen heroes in

the struggle against fascism and Ukrainian "nationalists". In Kiev we also attended the Ivan Franko Drama Theatre, the Shevchenko State Opera Theatre, a football game, a session of the Ukrainian Parliament, and were honoured with a grand farewell banquet.

IMPRESSIONS

WHILE a detailed description of all the facts and impressions compressed into these very busy days is impossible, a few generalities stand out:

- Having visited Ukraine extensively on a previous occasion, I found a general improvement in the standard of living both in the country-side and the cities. The main remaining consumer shortages appear to be footwear and the better grade of clothing.
- Many evidences of youth in production and management; not only in the relatively new factories and industrial complexes, (in the Lviv TV plant, the average age is 23, similarly in Kalush and the Cherkas synthetic fiber plant), but also in the old Poltava locomotive repair depot.
- Particularly in the Lviv TV plant I was impressed by the number of locally schooled and trained young workers in positions of management.
- In Kalush and Burshtyn we noted the carrying through of a policy which is bringing industrialization to areas not ideally suited to agriculture (yet over-populated in that occupation), vis-a-vis the use of local raw materials and, to a great extent, manpower.

● On the cultural side of our touring experience, I can only say that the whole delegation was impressed to the point of amazement with the high performing caliber of the amateur choirs, choral groups, orchestras, folk dancers and soloists we were fortunate enough to hear and see.

POLICY AND FIGURES

BACK to Kiev and a selected few of the figures and policy interpretations supplied by Government Ministries and other all-state institutions and organizations:

- The productive labour force numbered 6,600,000 in 1940, fell to 4,300,000 as a result of Nazi destruction, had reached 13,960,000 by the end of 1966.
- There are now 34,000 schools, 31 pedagogical colleges, 40 pedagogical schools and a Scientific Institute for the study of pedagogy where the language of instruction is Ukrainian . . . (none in Tsarist times). There are also 4,800 Russian, 73 Hungarian and 2 Polish language schools and one Russian language pedagogical college. In all cases, Ukrainian language is a compulsory subject.
- In higher education there are 161 students for every 10,000 of population; a figure much higher than any European capitalist country.
- Fifty-three people of every 1,000 in the villages are participating in folk arts activities. There are 250 folk theatres. Two million participated in the 1967 national festival of

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arts. There are 61 full-time professional theatres, (52 in the Ukrainian language), 36 orchestras and 22 dramatic theatres.

● Of 110 million books printed last year, 78 million were in the Ukrainian language along with 288 periodicals with an aggregate circulation of one million per issue. Circulation of magazines in the Ukrainian language increased by 20% since 1965.

● There are 8 million radios and 3 1/2 million TV sets in Ukraine serviced by 16 stations.

UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE

DURING our visit to the Institute of Social Sciences and the Ukrainian Writer's Union, the status and future prospects of the Ukrainian language was most specifically raised. Here are the most pertinent observations and statements made:

● The problem of language must be treated scientifically, as a historical process during which languages take words from each other.

Official policy calls for the flourishing of all, large and small, national languages.

There are no such terms as a state language or state languages — neither Russian nor any other language is a state language in the sense that it is compulsory for all citizens to speak it. In the constitution reference is made to the language of the Republic, the language of the majority.

● The concept of two native languages is scientifically incorrect. The Russian language is becoming a second language in Ukraine because it is needed for communication between all peoples of the Soviet Union.

● The concept that there will be a merging of languages is false. There is no prospect for assimilation in the Ukraine.

● The Ukrainian language is now more highly developed than at any time in its history.

● There is in progress the fullest development and flowering of Ukrainian national culture together with an interchange of cultures between all Soviet peoples. There can be no administrative preferences or restrictions in this process — there must be a freedom of choice.

WHILE on the whole, our impressions were very positive. It became evident during the course of the many, many hours of discussion that the development of policy and action on the National Question in Ukraine had not received the full attention that, for example, economic policy had. On several occasions, I was taken aback by the reaction of, "Why are you raising these questions?" In spite of the fact that it is at the heart of a great deal of international unrest, a condition that has found its reflection in Ukraine and the Soviet Union in recent times, witness strong policy statements at the last Ukrainian Writer's Congress and recent secretive and near-secretive legal proceedings in Ukraine which apparently do have a bearing on this question, in spite of some protestations to the contrary.

Our delegation was also struck by obvious differences in interpretation by responsible people. One, quite prevalent view: "Our national question has been solved". Another — that national aspirations do not depend upon language; that language is secondary or unimportant, it is technique that's important, the building of communism.

I must hasten to point out that this was not the view of P. Y. Shelest who declared emphatically that the development of Communist society must permit the fullest and freest economic and cultural development of every nation. At the Ukrainian Writer's Congress he stated: "It is necessary that we cherish and respect our beautiful Ukrainian language. It is our

treasure, our great heritage which, in the first place you, the writers, must develop." During our meeting with the Ukrainian writers, Mykola Bazhan, dean of Ukraine's literary talents, passionately and unequivocally supported this approach.

In spite of the fact that we were left with a few negative impressions and that not all our questions were answered, we departed from Ukraine with a positive feeling. The fact is, whatever shortcomings, limitations and different interpretations do exist, they are being tackled. As P. Shelest put it during our discussion with him on these questions, "We still have problems but we are overcoming them..."



TIM BUCK



WM. HARASYM

Members of a Canadian Communist Party delegation of five to the Ukraine last year for the purpose of studying and evaluating the national question as it is being applied in the Ukrainian SSR. Chairman of the delegation was Tim Buck.

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