



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

October 17, 1968

Mr. Mykola Lebed
President, Prolog Research and
Publishing Association, Inc.
875 West End Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10025

Dear Mr. Lebed:

The Secretary has asked me to reply to your letter of September 27 which reports on recent arrests and imprisonments in the Ukraine. The Department appreciates your attention in providing this information.

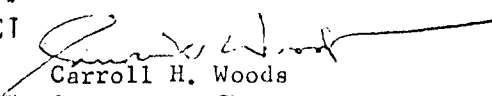
One cannot fail to react with aversion to pressures which are brought to bear against Ukrainians and other minority ethnic groups in the Soviet Union. As you have pointed out in your letter, these pressures in the cases of certain Ukrainian intellectuals are in defiance of basic human rights and liberties.

The possibilities open to the United States Government for giving direct assistance to persons suffering from such anti-ethnic campaigns are extremely limited, since this persecution is the result of domestic policies of the Soviet Union. In the past the Soviet Government has shown that it would interpret official U.S. representations on behalf of specific ethnic or religious groups as evidence of "foreign complicity" and "subversive foreign influence" in the alleged crimes. It would not help Ukrainians if the United States Government took action which could lend credence to such untrue charges.

We do believe, however, that the force of world opinion can be an important factor in efforts to bring about changes in oppressive Soviet policies. Ukrainian as well as non-Ukrainian groups can play a useful role in publicizing events such as your letter describes. The Department does not wish to exaggerate the amount of tangible effects such publicity would have on Soviet anti-ethnic activities. Nonetheless, the Soviet Government does exhibit at least some sensitivity to public criticism abroad of its internal policies and may be affected accordingly.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Sincerely yours,


Carroll H. Woods
Officer in Charge
Political Affairs
Soviet Union Affairs

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State