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2. Opposition to Joining Kolkhozy
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1. In 1946, because of drought, the harvest was very poor in the Ukraine. Through the winter of 1946-1947 the rural population was able to get along on meager rations made up chiefly of bread and potatoes. But in the spring of 1947 there was real famine in the Ukraine. Having heard that food conditions were considerably better in the Western Ukraine, people from Kiev and other oblasts of the Soviet Ukraine went there taking along spare clothes to trade for food.

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[redacted] She took along some of her clothes as well as children's clothes which she traded, and she brought back grain and potatoes. By April 1947, however, there was nothing left in our family to trade, and [redacted] I decided to go to the Western Ukraine to work in order to save ourselves from starvation.

2. At Kiev we boarded a freight train going west. Since thousands and thousands of people were going to the Western Ukraine at that time to procure food, the railroad authorities did not demand that they buy tickets. All freight trains going west were filled with half-starved people, traveling on car roofs, running boards, and even on bumpers. Probably the railroad authorities and the militia were unable to prevent this exodus. We were lucky to find space inside a freight car loaded with iron beams, and so we traveled in relative comfort up to Lutsk. The trip from Kiev to Lutsk took approximately 24 hours.

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- 50X1 3. In Lutsk we left the train and went to the rural area, walking in a general direction to the west. As we passed through the villages we asked the farmers whether they needed any farm hands. Finally, one farmer agreed to take me to work on his farm over the summer. After I secured this employment,
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4. In 1947 the collectivization reform had not yet been carried out in the Western Ukraine, at least not in Lutsk Rayon, Volyn' Oblast. The farmer for whom I worked had about five hectares of arable land on which he cultivated wheat, rye, barley, and oats; he had two horses, one cow, and several sheep. In addition, he had a number of poultry, including chickens, ducks, and geese. I had to work hard in the fields from early morning until late in the evening, but at least I had enough to eat.
5. At that time the Communist Party organizations were already set up in the Western Ukraine, and one was quite active in the village of Tseparov. A number of MVD men, some in uniform, were conducting a propaganda campaign to organize kolkhozy. Meetings were organized several times a week for all the inhabitants of Tseparov during which people from the USSR agitated for the kolkhozy. Some of the natives of Tseparov also took an active part in these meetings. In order to soften opposition towards the kolkhozy, the Party authorities had all rich farmers whom they classified as kulaks arrested and sent to Siberia. Other uncompromising opponents to the kolkhozy were also arrested on various pretexts and sent to corrective labor camps. All of this, however, could not break the opposition of the inhabitants toward kolkhozy; and, as far as I remember, only a few of those who joined the Party expressed an intention to join kolkhozy if they were organized. I remember that the opposition to this project was so strong and the farmers were so embittered that after one farmer in the adjoining village Lutsk Rayon, expressed his intention to join the kolkhoz and raised his arm to this effect at the village meeting, his house was attacked the following night and his arm cut off by the attackers with an axe. There were many rumors at the time about the Ukrainian nationalist movement and the Ukrainian partisans in the Western Ukraine (to whom people referred as "Benderovtsy"). There were several cases of local Party members (indigenous farmers), especially presidents and secretaries of Sel'Soviets, being kidnapped or murdered in cold blood by unknown attackers. Everybody knew, of course, that this was always done by Benderovtsy.
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6. I remained in the village kolkhozy had not yet been organized. by which the population had a high standard of living, plenty of food, and they were able to sell their products on the free market at competitive prices.
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