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PIERCING THE WALL OF INDIFFERENCE  
(ACCOUNT OF YA. STETS'KO'S TRIP TO AUSTRALIA)

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PIERCING THE WALL OF INDIFFERENCE  
(ACCOUNT OF YA. STETS'KO'S TRIP TO AUSTRALIA)

Shlakh peremohy  
The Road of Victory  
11 August 1957, Munich

I. Savich

During his visit to Australia, which lasted from 12 April through 19 June, Mr. YA. Stets'ko visited the main centers of the Ukrainian Emigration as, for instance, in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, where he was greeted extremely affectionately at the airports and in Ukrainian homes by hundreds of Ukrainians scattered throughout the great expanse of Australia. The head of the AEN Anti-Bolshevytsky Blok Narodiv — Anti-Bolshevik Block of People delivered 18 major speeches before mass gatherings, at meetings, congregations, and receptions for Ukrainians, Australians, and Representatives of Emigre's from various Eastern European countries, totaling more than 8,000 persons. Aside from that, Mr. Stets'ko held approximately 100 important talks with Australian Statesmen, Ministers, the highest members of the Clergy, Senators, Envoys, leaders of political parties, and journalists. He held press conferences with representatives from the Australian and emigre' press in five state centers. An interesting fact is that the Australian press in the largest cities like Sidney and Melbourne assumed a reserved attitude toward the AEN action, whereas in the smaller cities, on the contrary, the action received a very favorable comment from the press. It follows therefore, that hostile elements to the Ukrainian cause thus far prevail in the press of Australia's largest cities.

After every speech of the head of the AEN, during every meeting with the citizenry, many of our people approached the popular guest to ask him an endless number of questions, and to renew in him the faith in our ultimate victory which prevailed in all his speeches. The best reaction was displayed by our youth, women, and workers; only a few Party die-hards were not able to discard their worn-out Party dogmas, and sought spots on the sun. Their prejudiced stand during the discussions, however, only prompted a general condemnation and embarrassed them completely, even in the eyes of those who shared their views.

Support of the revolutionary liberation struggle in the Ukraine and the foreign action of the AEN — this has the uniting

platform for all Ukrainians of good will, which had won over the hearts of the overwhelming majority of the Ukrainians in Australia. And the proof of that were numerous declarations and touching gifts from the natives of all parts of the Ukraine.

These were some of the great unifying moments that cemented our ranks in far-off foreign lands and guided them onto the right road. There was not a single Ukrainian in Australia during those two months who had not re-examined his attitude toward the Fighting Fatherland; who had not asked himself the question, "And what have I done for our holy cause of liberating the Fatherland?"

In connection with the trip of the head of the AEW, contributions for AEW's cause, especially for the AEW mission on Formosa, had grown considerably.

The most significant result of Mr. Stets'ko's stay in Australia, however, was his piercing of the "Chinese Wall" of indifference among Australians to the Ukrainian cause, to the fight against Russian imperialism and Communism, which seriously threatens Australia, which, although completely defenseless against the Communist threat from the north, does not take seriously the warnings of the immigrants from behind the Iron Curtain.

In Melbourne alone, the following facts should be noted: On 25 May a group of Ukrainians were invited to the Parliament of Victoria where, following the debate, a reception attended by Premier of Victoria Bolts and other delegates took place. On 22 June the Liberal and Labour parties arranged in the Ukrainian House in Melbourne a reception for Ukrainians, which featured a speech by Senator Gortou, who is the head of the foreign-affairs-commission in the Federal Parliament of Australia. Other outstanding Australians also participated.

Following that evening many Ukrainians received invitations to join the Liberal Party, which is now in power, and takes an anti-Communist stand. The leader of the Liberal Party, the present premier of Australia, made a statement at the conference of the Premier of the British Commonwealth, that the conference ought to issue a common declaration condemning Russia, which is now the sole colonial empire. Senator McManus of the anti-Communist Labour Party took a stand in the senate against the policy of coexistence, and called for the support of the struggle of the peoples enslaved by Moscow. In addition, he demanded a governmental declaration against the Moscow imperialist system. Senator Gorton supported Senator McManus's demands.



The examples cited above prove that the trip of the AEN head achieved considerable success in Australian political circles.

In conclusion it is necessary to affirm objectively that the trip was a great triumph for AEN ideas, not only among Ukrainians, but among other emigre's from states and nations enslaved by Moscow, as well as in the ranks of the Australian political elite. There now stands before the Ukrainian emigration in Australia the important task of consolidating these great achievements of the head of the AEN's central committee, Mr. YA. Stets'ko, in the interior as well as exterior sectors.