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April 10, 1952

YAROSLAV STETSKO, HEAD OF THE ABW, IN CANADA

Echo of Ukraine of April 5, 1952 reported that Yaroslav Stetsko, head of the Central Committee of the ABW and top-notch leader of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), arrived in Canada on March 23, 1952 from Great Britain. He was greeted at the Montreal Airport by Dr. R. Malaschak and I. Klish, representing the Central Committee of the League for the Liberation of Ukraine, and Dr. I. Dochev, representing the Central Committee of the ABW in Canada. Stetsko went to Toronto where on Sunday, April 13, 1952 he was the principal speaker at a mass Ukrainian anti-Soviet Rally at Massey Hall.

Mr. Stetsko is an outstanding leader of the OUN ever since the inception of this organization. As a member of the illegal national Executive Committee of the OUN in Western Ukraine, he was in charge of the ideological education of the OUN. In 1934 he was arrested by the Polish police and condemned to a five-year prison term. As a result of amnesty, he was released from the prison in 1936. At the end of 1937, upon orders of Colonel Eugene Konovaletz, then head of the OUN, Stetsko was given the tasks of elaborating upon the program and ideology of the OUN and of preparing the second congress of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists.

On June 30, 1941, upon the invasion of the USSR by the German armies, a provisional Ukrainian national assembly, called by the OUN, proclaimed the restoration of the Ukrainian independent state and appointed Stetsko head of the Ukrainian government.

But very soon the provisional government ran into conflict with the Nazi administration. The latter issued an ultimatum demanding that the Stetsko government rescind its proclamation regarding the

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restoration of the Ukrainian independent state, and dissolve itself. When Stetsko refused to comply with this ultimatum, he was promptly arrested, together with other members of his government, by the Gestapo, and sent to the concentration camp in Sachsenhausen.

Shortly before the collapse of Germany, Stetsko was released from the concentration camp, and the Nazis did everything possible to convince him to join their cause but to no avail.

After World War II Stetsko remained in Germany, devoting himself to the organization of the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations, a group of political organizations of the non-Russian peoples which was organized in Ukraine in 1943, when Stetsko was in Sachsenhausen. Through his initiative, two ABN congresses were held: one in Munich in 1948 and the other in Edinburgh in 1950. At the latter, representatives of some 23 peoples enslaved by Russia took part, and the congress itself had considerable repercussions the world over.

The purpose of Mr. Stetsko's visit to Canada is to "strengthen and expand the activities of the ABN on the anti-communist and anti-Russian front," according to Echo of Ukraine. He plans to visit major Ukrainian-Canadian communities where mass meetings are being planned for him by the League for the Liberation of Ukraine (Bandera's group) and the ABN itself.

May Try to Visit  
the United States

That Mr. Stetsko would try to visit the United States became apparent a few days ago when Mr. Alfred Berzins, former Latvian minister on the staff of the National Committee for a Free Europe, approached some of the Americans in Free Europe as to the possibility of sponsoring Stetsko to the United States by Free Europe. Berzins is also a prominent member of the ABN's Executive Committee, and

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before coming to the United States, he was in charge of the nationality department within the Central Committee of the ARN. He also shared the concentration camp days in Sachsenhausen with Stetako, and has remained on very cordial personal terms with him ever since.

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