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Editorial

UKRAINE AS FACTOR IN STRUGGLE AGAINST SOVIETS

A FACT that bears no dispute is that the primary aim of the Soviets from the very outset has been social revolution and the setting up of puppet communist regimes throughout the world. In pursuit of this aim the Soviets foment civil strife and civil wars wherever possible, including among the colonial peoples.

As a countermeasure against these Red subversive and disruptive tactics the democracies for a long time confined themselves to the propagation of democratic ideals and slogans.

Of late, of course, they have resorted to more practical and sterner measures. America's Marshall Plan as well as military aid to Greece and Turkey are cases in point.

However, there are two other factors which can be successfully exploited in the struggle against Soviet Russia. The first is of a social-political nature and the second is of national-political nature.

It would be an utter fallacy to suppose that through social slogans alone the Russian people can be stirred to rebellion against their communist regime. Bolshevism, as a social phenomenon, is deeply rooted in the mentality, social structure and the national traditions of the Russian people. Therefore, it is not surprising that within the span of the thirty years of Soviet rule there were no mass resistance of the Russians against their despotic government.

Such rebellions, however, have occurred among non-Russian people, notably among the Ukrainians, White Ruthenians, Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians, as well as among the Caucasian and Turkestan peoples. The social and economic system imposed upon these freedom-loving people is naturally totally alien and abhorrent to them. Moreover, these people rightly see Bolshevism for what it actually is, just another facet of traditional Russian imperialism, which they opposed with determination no less than that of today. For them freedom from Moscow and freedom from Communism are synonymous.

The fact remains that today the nationalist movements among the people dominated by the Soviets constitute the most dynamic force and the slogan of national liberation is the most powerful weapon in the hands of the opponents of Soviet Russia.

As a counter-measure against this threat and also to distract the attention of the masses from their social and economic woes, the Soviets have been for quite some time cultivating among them a spirit of "Soviet patriotism." Their policy, however, has hewed closely to the line of the old Russian imperialism, despite the fact that they have made certain cultural and political concessions to the non-Russian people. In this latter respect they differ from the White Russian emigres who in their archaic thinking continue to refuse to recognize the separate national identity and rights of such people as the Ukrainians. "Soviet patriotism" is more subtle, and therefore all the more dangerous, for it strengthens the Soviet Union internally.

Because of its strategic position, natural resources and great population, Ukraine has to be considered as a most important element in the struggle against the Soviets.

The following circumstances can provide weapons which could be advantageously used in combating the Soviets:

1. Down through the centuries the Ukrainian people have been

subjected to unparalleled persecution, oppression and denationalization by both Tsarist and Soviet Russia. Under Soviet rule, the recurrent so-called five-year plans have despoiled Ukraine and abated her relative weight in the USSR. Moreover, Soviet rule by terror and intimidation manifests itself most markedly in Ukraine. Traditionally individualistic by nature, and consequently opposed to communism, the Ukrainian has fought the collectivization of agriculture with all his might and power. To break him in his inborn opposition to collectivization, the Soviets in 1933 deliberately organized famines, whose toll ran into many millions. While Ukrainians were dying like flies from hunger, the Soviets were dumping millions of bushels of Ukrainian grain into world markets. Another weapon used by the Soviets to break the opposition of the Ukrainian to the Soviet regime was to banish him and scores of thousands like him to forced labor camps in Siberia and elsewhere.

All these abuses and crimes inflicted upon the Ukrainian people have burned into their soul a hatred of the Bolsheviks and have made them irreconcilable enemies of Soviet Russia.

2. To placate the dissatisfaction with their regime, the Soviets from time to time have allowed their non-Russian subjects some minor rights and privileges. Thus, Article 17 of the Soviet Constitution, as amended in 1936, grants "the right of the people to self-determination to the extent of separation." Yet this clause means naught, for no one would ever be allowed to take advantage of it. The very mention of separation of Ukraine from the Soviet Union would be regarded as treasonable to the state and treated accordingly. For instance, the trial of the members of the "Union For the Liberation of Ukraine" in 1930 brought severe punishment for the defendants because they contended that Ukraine has even a constitutional right to secede from the Soviet Union.

This deceptive "solution" of the nationalities problem of the Soviets has only inflamed the anti-Russian feeling among the Ukrainians.

3. On January 22, 1918 the Ukrainian people proclaimed through their duly elected representatives the establishment of the democratic Ukrainian National Republic. Immediately the young republic was attacked by Soviet Russia, and in three years it succumbed, mainly due to the superior might of the Soviet Russian armies.

Today the rallying cry of the Ukrainians around the ideal of regaining their national independence is proving itself to be one of the most effective means of combating Soviet occupation of Ukraine.

4. The Ukrainian liberation movement has manifested itself most markedly and powerfully during and since the last war. The fact that the Germans were fighting against their Soviet tormentors was the reason why at first the people of Ukraine did not oppose to any appreciable degree the German invasion of the Soviet Union. It was only after

REMAINS OF PVT. ROLAND SLOBOGYN LAID TO REST

Pvt. Roland Slobogin, A.S.N. 33576911, was taken to his final resting place, the St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Fox Chase, Pa., on December 11, passing along the way his Home at 2154 N. 7th St., Philadelphia, from which he departed last off a 3-day pass on Ukrainian Christmas Day, 1944, never to return alive.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. William Slobogin, he graduated Northeast High School in Philadelphia and, after clerking for the U. S. Government for several years, was inducted into the Army in January, 1943.

Roland was a member of Ukrainian National Association Br. 324 in Philadelphia, as well as the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral Choir, and the Philly U.N.A. Basketball Team in its heyday.

With the 4th Armored Division of Gen. Patton overseas, he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal, the latter posthumously. While with the Tank Corps in the grim battle across the Rhine, he was shelled and shortly thereafter died in a French Hospital at Verdun, France on March 23, 1945, exactly 2 1/2 years after his date of birth in Williamstown, N. J.

Services were held Friday evening, December 10, at the Kocubinski Funeral Home, and Requiem Mass was said the following morning at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Three of the Philadelphia Ukrainian American Veterans Posts very appropriately participated in the military funeral attended by several hundred people.

the Germans unmasked their real intention toward Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, that of making them an inferior race to serve the dictates of German economy and culture, that the Ukrainian people arose en masse against the Nazi invaders of their native land, bound upon conquest and booty.

The spearhead of their resistance was the UPA, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, which came into being near the close of 1941 and which during the entire war waged a heroic fight against not only the Germans but the Soviets as well, all in the cause of Ukrainian national freedom. This fight by the UPA is being continued to this very day.

Material and moral help extended by the democracies to the UPA would be a valuable move toward undermining the Soviet power.

5. Soviet Ukraine has been recognized as a separate state and as such it has been admitted to the United Nations. So far only the Soviet Russians have benefited from this, by using the so-called Ukrainian delegates as their puppets in furthering their policies. The time is ripe, however, for the democracies to take advantage of the admittance of Ukraine into the United Nations. The position of Ukraine here is analogous to that of Czechoslovakia and Poland, which though not part of the USSR are politically dominated by it. On the other hand the position of Ukraine is analogous to that of the Baltic states, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, also incorporated in the USSR except that those states are not independently represented in the United Nations.

Yet it is imperative that the United Nations prevail upon the Soviet Union to permit the Ukrainian people to freely set up their own democratic government and to assume their rightful position in the family of free nations.

6. The concept of Soviet totalitarian imperialism could be successfully opposed by a concept of the political unity of Europe. Therefore, the peoples of Eastern Europe, who for centuries have maintained close cultural, political and economic ties with Western Europe, should be included ultimately in whatever political form the Western European organization may take. From the economic viewpoint, Europe would not be able to prosper without the natural resources of Eastern Europe; and from the political point of view, without a union with the Eastern European peoples, Europe would be in no position to withhold the pressure of the Russians. The inclusion of the Eastern European peoples in a projected plan of a United Europe could be accomplished either individually or in the form of regional blocs. For instance, and Eastern Euro-

SEND IT TO STALIN

The January, 1949 number of the Readers' Digest has an item that ought to be eubled to Joe Stalin. It is entitled "The Facts Which Must Prevent War," written by William Bradford Huie. These said facts, as reported by Huie, are as follows:

"That we now have enough improved atomic weapons to immobilize the Russian nation.

"That we can deliver these weapons in quantity.

"That a staggering proportion of the inhabitants of Russia's key cities—millions of persons—can be killed or maimed in the first raids.

"That the targets have been selected, the planes are ready day and night, the crews alerted.

"And that this terrible retaliation will surely come if Russia attacks the United States."

There is more to the article and we hope everyone will read it. But we hope more that "Comrade" Stalin will read it and realize the truth of it.

In the meantime, our country should keep those planes and bombs and crews ready for action.

They are the greatest force for peace in the world today.

Soviet Desertions to Western Zone Become a Stream

HUNDREDS of Russian deserters per month are crossing into the American and British occupied areas of western Germany and Berlin, the United Press reported last Tuesday.

According to the dispatch, so many seeking asylum have slipped passed the iron curtain in the last six weeks that the problem of handling them has become a major Anglo-American policy headache.

The deserters are enlisted men and officers of the Soviet army, and civilian employees of the Soviet military administration, some of them with their families. Some are officers of such a rank as Col. G. R. Tokajew, who went over to the British 10 days ago. One check point reported that nine field grade officers passed through in one week.

"What a few weeks ago was a trickle of deserters has become a sizeable stream," one reliable source said. "If the Western Powers should state openly that such deserters will be treated as political refugees, it would become a flood."

This startling increase in Soviet desertions, particularly to American-occupied territory, dates from the refusal of U.S. officials in Vienna to surrender to the Russians two Soviet pilots who deserted in October in a stolen Russian plane.

Until then, most if not all, uniformed deserters had been turned back to their commands under an agreement made during the "honeymoon period" of Soviet-Western relations immediately after the war.

"We had several attempted suicides among the Russians we took back," an American officer revealed.

The Vienna action advertised the possibility of getting political refugees status for thousands of Russians who wanted to get out, another American officer said.

"Before that they were held in check by the knowledge of what happened to those who were sent

back—they were shot and their names posted on bulletin boards as a warning to others," this officer said.

How do the deserters come over? Substantially by the same routes taken by 25,000 to 40,000 Germans who flee the Soviet zone each month—by night through the numerous forest areas along the zonal boundaries. In Berlin, it's much simpler. A Russian soldier who wishes to desert simply gets off the Russian-operated subway or elevated line at a station in the American or British sector.

Why do they desert? Bitterness — "My mother and younger brother were arrested. No reason was given. Nothing has been heard of them for eight months." With variations, that is one of the most frequent explanations.

Disillusionment — "They promised us alarm clocks and other goods before the war. Then they said the factories must produce only to destroy the Fascists. Now they say the factories must produce only for defense against the capitalist imperialist warmongers. In 30 years the Russians have got nothing from all their plans and all their sacrifices."

Fear of another war—"The people don't want war—but everywhere in Russia there are preparations for war."

What is the Russian attitude? Publicly, they ignore it. There have been no formal protest. That would provide wonderful propaganda material for use against Russia.

pean bloc could include Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, White Ruthenia, Ukraine and the Kozak areas, with an area of 700,000 sq. miles and a population reaching about 93 million people. It goes without saying that the political and military might of such a bloc would not only keep a balance of political power in Eastern Europe, but it would also bar further aggression of the Russians in Europe and in the Middle East.

The project of such a bloc of Eastern European peoples could be a successful weapon against the attempts by the USSR to conquer the whole of Europe for communism.

These ideas and facts, analyzing the present condition of Ukraine, should be taken into consideration by the Western world and used as political weapons in the struggle against the Soviet Union.

Editorial

Religion Found an Important Force Among Youth

There are many today of the opinion that Christmas is hardly a religious holiday nowadays. They claim that religion is on the wane, that people don't attend church as they used in the past, and that, as one commentator points out, the Church is diminishing because young people are not "influenced by the teaching of the Church in the manner their elders were."

The current number of the "Fortune" magazine features a survey which recently tested this contention and found out that quite the contrary is true. Both young people and their parents report that they attend church in large numbers and we found a consistent trend of greater idealism among youthful churchgoers.

The "Fortune" study on youth asked a series of questions of a cross-section of people between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five.

The two cross-sections were asked:

Do you go to church (And if "Yes") About how often do you go to church as a usual thing?

In the 18 to 25 group 36.5% go to church weekly or more often; 22.1% two or three times a month; 10.0% monthly; 15.2% less often than monthly; 15.8% do not go to church; 4% did not answer. In brief, 83.8% of them go to church, and 15.8% do not.

In the 40 to 55 age group, 32.8% go to church weekly or more often; than monthly.

Although large majorities of both groups say they go to church occasionally, a closer look at the figures reveals that young people are more inclined to go to church regularly than their elders.

Although six out of every ten young people report that they go to church more than once a month, as compared with just over five out of ten of their parents, it will probably surprise no one to note that both the younger and older age groups women attended church more regularly than men, and those who live in smaller cities go more often than those in large metropolitan areas.

Of course, merely attending church does not automatically make a person religious. The real test of the Church in our country is the impact it has on thinking of the people, especially the youth.

Elmer Roper, noted for his surveys of opinion, asked some provocative and negatively-worded questions, each of which was phrased in a manner contrary to the more hopeful sentiments of the day. Some significant differences of opinion resulted, according to him, particularly between youthful churchgoers and youthful non-churchgoers.

"Fortune" asked the younger generation:

Do you agree or disagree with this statement: In spite of all our efforts for peace, nations just can't live together peacefully, so we might as well expect war every few years?

Of the 18 to 25 year group of churchgoers 25.4% agreed, 69.0% disagreed; and 5.6% expressed no opinion. Of the 18 to 25 year group of non-churchgoers 32.1% agreed; 58.4% disagreed; and 9.5% expressed no opinion.

Although a majority of both churchgoers and non-churchgoers disagree with the statement that we should reconcile ourselves to the destructive influences of a war every few years, more of those who attend church appear to be convinced that nations can live peacefully together, Roper concludes.

A similar trend is evident in another question he propounded:

Do you agree or disagree with this statement: Since life is so short we might as well eat, drink and be merry and not worry too much about what happens to the world?

Of the 18 to 25 year group 11.0% agreed; 85.3% disagreed; and 3.7% expressed no opinion. Of the non-churchgoers in this group 19.7% agreed; 72.4% disagreed; and 7.9% expressed no opinion.

The mood among the youthful churchgoers seems to be more serious about assuming responsibility for what happens to the world than it is with their non-churchgoing contemporaries.

The cross-section of youth was also asked:

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? The world is in such a muddle that no one really knows what the people should do—so why try?

The Roper survey got the following answers: Of the above mentioned age group, 7.2% agreed, 87.1% disagreed, and 5.7% were non-committal. Of the non-churchgoers, 10.8% agreed, 18.7% disagreed, and 10.5% expressed no opinion.

From this survey Roper concludes that once again, although thumping majorities among both the churchgoers and non-churchgoers say they have not given up trying to find a solution to the world's ills, there seem to be fewer cynics among those who attend church than among those who do not.

These results point up a greater seriousness on the part of youthful churchgoers in their approach to some of the broader aspects of life today. Either the more serious minded and more hopeful youth tend to go to church or the influence of the church in their lives has made them feel a greater responsibility in working toward the eventual brotherhood of man.

Soviet Prices Sky High in Work Hours

Der Pfall—The Arrow—a Swiss economic journal published in Basle, claims that while a skilled worker in the United States on the average can buy a dress for his wife on the proceeds of twelve hours and fifty minutes work, a Russian artisan in the Communist Utopia would have to labor for 252 hrs. to make a similar gift, reports Gault McGowan, staff correspondent of the New York Sun in a recent dispatch from Basle.

Der Pfall claims that this is the correct method of comparing standards of living, as wage scales are misleading unless you know what you can buy with your pay. The journal says a Swiss worker needs twenty-eight hours and fifty minutes work to buy a dress for his wife and a Swedish worker thirty-five hours and forty-five minutes.

Sweden appears in a comparative table of purchasing power because, as a wartime neutral, its standards are closer to those of Switzerland. The Soviet Union and the United States are compared as the two largest powers in the world.

The paper claims that the table is the result of close study of official wage and scale prices in all the four countries analyzed. The figures below, as drafted

by the Swiss journal, compare the time required in the specified countries for a worker to earn enough to buy the designated article.

Thus to earn the price of a kilogram (about 2 1/2 lbs.) of bread a Swiss worker has to work 12 min., a Swedish worker—19 min., an American worker—15 min., while a Russian worker—1 hr. 8 min.

1 kg. of sugar: Swiss—31 min., Swedish—23 min., American—12 min., Russian—5 hrs. 40 min.

1 kg. flour: Swiss—40 min., Swedish—17 min., American 18 min., and Russian 2 hr. 54 min.

1 kg. veal: Swiss—3 hrs. 46 min., Swedish—2 hrs. 43 min., American—1 hr. 4 min., Russian—11 hrs. 25 min.

1 kg. butter: Swiss—4 hrs. 4 min., Swedish—2 hrs. 26 min., American—1 hr. 47 min., Russian—23 hrs. 36 min.

1 qt. milk: Swiss—12 min., Swedish—10 min., American—11 min., Russian—2 hrs. 45 min.

1 dozen eggs: Swiss—1 hr. 45 min., Swedish—1 hr. 27 min., American—38 min., Russian—4 hrs. 57 min.

1 kg. coffee: Swiss—2 hrs. 30 min., Swedish—(unlisted), American—50 min., Russian—31 hrs. 2 min.

