



UKRAINIAN WRITERS' ASSOCIATION IN EXILE
"SLOVO"

ОБ'ЄДНАННЯ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ПИСЬМЕННИКІВ В ЕМІГРАЦІЇ
«СЛОВО»

2 East 79th Street
New York 21, N. Y.

April 14, 1966

International P. E. N.
A World Association of Writers
% Mr. David Carver
General Secretary
Glebe House
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VAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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Dear Sir:

The Executive Board of the Ukrainian Writers' Association in Exile would like to bring to your attention the following: For some time now, we have been receiving news about the renewed wave of terror and repression directed against the leaders of literature and art in the USSR. The now generally known trial of the two Russian writers Andrey Synyavsky and Yuli Daniel gave documental substance to this news.

But this trial did not uncover the entire picture of repressions, now being conducted by the Soviet government, especially in the non-Russian Union republics.

New facts have reached us, which have been substantiated by news reports in various newspapers (Neue Züricher Zeitung of April 1, 1966, the New York Times of April 7, 1966), to the effect that during the second half of 1965 mass arrests took place within the literary and artistic associations in Ukraine. Moreover, we have learned that a group of Ukrainian writers, scholars, and artists from Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, have been sentenced. Without an open trial, without defense arguments, but using the time-tried police methods long practiced in the USSR, they were sentenced and transported to concentration camps.

According to reports in the Western press, among those arrested were two well-known and talented Ukrainian literary critics: Ivan Dzyuba and Ivan Svitlychny, both members of the Union of Writers of Ukraine, and both associates of the Institute of Literature of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. According to information available to us, Ivan Dzyuba was released, because of his very ill health, but remains under constant surveillance. Ivan Svitlychny and the others have been sent to the concentration camps.

In bringing this to your attention, we also remember the terrible Stalin era, during which Ukrainian literature suffered probably its worst fate. Of the 250 writers, who had been active at the beginning of 1933, 216 were liquidated in concentration camps, or by execution in just six years, between 1933 and 1938. Only 34 managed to stay alive.

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This horrible genocide, which forced many of the members of our Association to leave our native land, left a heavy mark on Ukrainian cultural life. This is why, now, when bludgeoned by terror, Ukrainian literature has been renovated by young, and truly talented writers, who have raised it to a new level, the recent repressions against them are disturbing us very much, indeed.

On behalf of the 112 members of the Ukrainian Writers' Association in Exile, we respectfully request that using means available to you, you demand of the proper authorities of the Ukrainian S. S. R. an explanation of these arrests and do whatever is possible to secure the release of the arrested persons, but above all to have the reasons for their arrests made known.

The criminal terror against freedom of thought and work of the leaders of culture, which had been practiced for years by the Hitlerites and the Stalinists, should have no place in our time.

In the name of the elementary human rights — to live and think freely — we respectfully request you to help us save the unjustly sentenced leaders of Ukrainian culture and art.

Very truly yours,

Executive Board of "SLOVO"

Hryhory Kostyuk
President

Ostap Tarnawsky
secretary