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Re : Arrests and Trials in the Ukraine 1965/66

Source : Letter from Ukraine dtd 25 June 1966 sent via Poland to the US

Date : 16 Aug 1966

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. Maria IVASHKIV of 104 Dudley Street, New Britain, Conn. received early July 1966 a letter from her sister residing in, KHODORIV, Lviv obl., Ukr SSR, sent from Jaroslaw, Poland and dtd 25 June 1966, with a request to hand over this letter to Mr L. Only now the letter has reached Mr L.

2. Following is the translation from Ukrainian of the most important excerpts of the letter:

" Last year there were many arrests all over Ukraine, not only in West Ukraine. In Lviv itself 28 persons - writers and lecturers of Higher Educational Institutions - incl. two brothers, successors of Shevchenko and Franko (N.B. reference is made to Bogdan and Mykhailo HORYN) have been arrested and imprisoned. The two brothers were jailed in Lviv and the investigation lasted for 10 months,

In May 1966 a terrible trial took place (in Lviv). The trial was closed to the public, no one was admitted to the courtroom, neither parents nor wife. Only after the sentence, parents and the wife were allowed to see them. The elder son Mykhailo was sentenced to 6 years and the younger- to 4 years, of deportation to the Far North.

The trial of those heroes has shaken up all the Ukraine. I think you must have also heard about it because your radio has broadcast too.

The parents of those two brothers : mother stems from NOVI STRILYCHI and father - from KNISELO. The mother is a relative of Mykola Lebed, there is his sister Olga Winter. I send you her address and please deliver this letter to her. The help for those sentenced is very badly needed.

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When GERYCH visited KNISELO I saw him and also the two sentenced had seen him and talked with him. GERYCH asked them whether they needed any help from Ukrainian Canadian Committee. At that time they refused to accept it, because it was not needed. Now the things have changed. The parents of the two heroes are old, the father works alone, the third son still studies, in Lviv, they live in very miserable conditions, and in additions to ^{the} sentences, they have to pay the costs of trial. Please, deliver this letter to Olga and Mykola because they know very well ~~Horyns~~. Moreover, they should take care of it..."

3. In the enclosed letter for Olga Winter the sender writes the following:

".... We are friends of Horyns and have given much thought to how to let you know about what has happened.... Horyn Mykhailo and Bogdan have been sentenced together with many others... Please talk about it ^{to} your brother (Mr L.) and help those poor parents. Mykhailo (Horyn) left wife and a 2 year old girl. Bohdan was still single. We pity very much those people, they were so good. If anything is unclear to you, please ask your father, I have already talked with him."

" Mrs Horyn asked me to remind you of her son ~~was~~, Mykhailo's speech he had held at the grave of Lonkevich, Director of the school, when he was in the 7th or 8th grade. Similarly, now, when the verdict was read, Mykhailo held last word and spoke for 1 ½ hours. He told them what he wanted and what he was going to achieve."

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