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To the Editor  
The New York Times  
229 West 43 Street  
New York, NY 10036

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2003 2005

Dear Sir,

On February 6 this year you published an article by Ralph Blumenthal which repeated a string of distorted and unsubstantiated allegations against me that first appeared in the Village Voice. Dr. Taras Hunczak, professor of history at Rutgers University and a leading authority on Ukraine during World War II, has informed me that he sent you a letter dated February 10 refuting these allegations with the request that you publish it in your newspaper. So far it has not appeared. Dr. Hunczak also proposed to Mr. Blumenthal in a telephone conversation that he might conduct an interview with me. Mr. Blumenthal was agreeable but has given no other response so far. Therefore, in the name of truth and in defense of my name I ask that your readers be given the following information:

I was never a Nazi nor did I collaborate with the Germans. I was never trained in any German police school nor was I engaged in persecuting Jews or any other nationals. After the head of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) Stepan Bandera and his deputy Yaroslav Stetsko had been placed under house arrest in July 1941, subsequently to be incarcerated at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp from Sept 1941 to September 1944, I headed the underground anti-Nazi resistance of the OUN (mid-July 1941 to May 1943). The above is a matter of record and can be proven on the basis of German and other documents. From May 1943 until I left Ukraine in July 1944, I was responsible for the efforts of the underground to establish contacts with the Western Allies in order to gain support for the struggle of the Ukrainian people for independence, a fact confirmed by the German intelligence reports. In the West, I have continued in this endeavor.

From the days of my youth, the independence of Ukraine has been and remains the main objective of my political activity. I share this aim with all the members of the Ukrainian liberation movement. Our struggle has never been directed against any other people; we opposed only those foreign powers which enslaved and aided the enslavement of Ukraine.

During the Polish occupation of Western Ukraine, I was imprisoned for six years (1934-39) following a trial at which I was convicted for alleged participation in the plot to assassinate the Polish Minister of

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the Interior, Bronislaw Pieracki. My wife and other relatives were arrested by the Gestapo in September 1941, and in 1944, together with my 15-months old baby daughter, they were imprisoned in the Ravensbrueck concentration camp. My brother, also an activist in the anti-Nazi underground perished in the struggle with the Soviet Communists, and my father spent almost nine years in a Soviet concentration camp. On October 4, 1941 the Gestapo and Sicherheitsdienst (SD) issued a warrant for my arrest and launched an active manhunt for me. I enclose a copy of the warrant in English translation for your attention as well as a copy of the Statement from the External Representation of the Supreme Ukrainian Liberation Council.

Furthermore, I would like to call your attention to the fact that during the German occupation of Ukraine, German propaganda accused Ukrainian nationalists of serving the Soviets. Later the Soviets used the same tactic and accused Ukrainian nationalists of being Nazi collaborators. As far as the Soviets are concerned, their propaganda campaign continues to the present day, and indeed, has grown stronger. These same accusations are now being spread by the western mass media.

In a communist dictatorship or under any other kind of totalitarian regime, individuals or groups have no opportunity to defend themselves against false accusations. I hope that in our free society you will consider it a legitimate request for me to exercise a right of reply, thus providing your readers with the facts as I have described them to correct the misleading information in Mr. Blumenthal's article.

Sincerely yours,

Mykola Lebed

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