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MRS. YAROSLAV R. STETZKO

Unrest Rising In Soviet Bloc, Refugee Says

On the last day of June 1941, as the Nazi army was beginning its advance into the Soviet Union, the people of the Ukraine took advantage of the disarray of war to reclaim the independence they had lost to Russia 20 years earlier.

But those Ukrainians who looked upon the Nazis as "liberators" soon found they had been mistaken. The leaders of the infant Ukraine government, including prime minister Yaroslav Stetzko, were thrown into prison by the German Gestapo.

Today Stetzko and his wife, Blava, head the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations, Inc., an international anti-Communist organization. Mrs. Stetzko, who spoke here yesterday on the 25th anniversary of the founding of the bloc, recounted some of her country's history for *The Star*.

Underground Active

The nationalistic underground had been active in the Ukraine since Soviet Russia had annexed the country in 1921, she said. The nationalists were waiting for a chance to make their break, and "such an occasion, we understood, was the war between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia."

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"Before the Germans came in we proclaimed independence," she recalled in her speech. "In a few hours, the army of the Soviet Union entered the city."

The capital of the Soviet Union was Leningrad, not the ancient capital, Kiev.

The months of independence were short-lived. "The Gestapo informed Hitler that here on Ukrainian territory, is something peculiar which is not in a word to be tolerated," Mrs. Stetko said.

Husband Arrested

Her husband, along with the rest of his government, was arrested. Stetko was sent to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in Germany, where he remained until 1944. Mrs. Stetko spent 13 months in a Ukrainian prison.

Soon after releasing her husband, Mrs. Stetko said, the Nazis thought better of it and tried to recapture him. He was included in the bargain and was unable to return to the Ukraine.

In 1945, after the end of the war, she joined her husband in Germany. Ukrainian nationalists continued their fight after the war, she said, but were finally put down in 1948.

The Stetkos have since moved to Munich, from where they travel all over the world speaking and enlisting aid in their anti-Russian campaign.

Today, nationalism is on the rise throughout the nations of the Soviet Union, in movements Mrs. Stetko likens to that which brought about the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia last summer.

In an article in the Sunday Star of Feb. 22, Victor Zorza noted, "The rising tide of nationalism among the peoples who make up the Soviet Union is causing concern in Moscow."

Persons of the 40 million Ukrainians are in the vanguard of this national movement, Zorza wrote. "Feds, young Ukrainians in prison for demanding freedom, the leaders of the young Ukrainians imprisoned in Moscow—have become nationalists here."

Mrs. Stetko, in her speech, will discuss the possibilities of cooperation within the Soviet bloc. She will speak tomorrow at 1 p.m. in the Pennsylvania Suite of the Mayflower Hotel, Connecticut Avenue and DeSales Street, N.W., before the Washington chapter of the Anti-Communist Bloc of Nations.

Stetko []