



SUPREME UKRAINIAN LIBERATION COUNCIL

SECRETARIATE-GENERAL FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MIKOLA LEBED
SECRETARY GENERAL FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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NEW YORK 33, N. Y.

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PRESS RELEASE

NEW YORK — Mikola Lebed, Secretary General for Foreign Affairs of the Supreme Ukrainian Liberation Council (UHVR) has appealed to the Secretary General of the United Nations to employ "all the available means and resources of the United Nations" to relieve the present undernourishment of the people of Ukraine.

In his letter sent Jan. 29 to U Thant, Mr. Lebed wrote:

"Contrary to the assurances of the Soviet Government to the effect that the entire Soviet population, including the Ukrainian people have been taken care of...the majority of the Ukrainian people...suffer shortages of bread, potatoes, and cabbage, which constitute the basic food of the bare subsistence in the Soviet Union.

"Above all we are deeply concerned about the plight of children and youth, who are bound to be the main victims of the present food crisis," he added.

Mr. Lebed asked U Thant to establish a special relief committee to appraise the most urgent needs of the Ukrainian people and to supervise on-the-spot help in Ukraine; to appropriate necessary funds for the purchase of food supplies; to induce the Soviet Government to abolish or reduce the current high customs duty on food parcels to the Soviet Union; to appeal to all people of good will in the world to send food parcels to the people of Ukraine.

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(Complete text of Mr. Lebed's memorandum is enclosed).

TEXT OF THE MEMORANDUM SENT JANUARY 29, 1964 TO U THANT, SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS BY MIKOLA LEBED, SECRETARY GENERAL
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SUPREME UKRAINIAN LIBERATION COUNCIL (UHVR).

Your Excellency:

In connection with the critical food shortage in the U.S.S.R. and particularly in the Ukrainian S.S.R., as made known even by the Soviet Government itself, and confirmed by many reliable sources, I would like to call to your kind attention, on behalf of the Supreme Ukrainian Liberation Council (UHVR), the most deplorable aspects of this situation and suggest that you might try to seek the means for relieving, at least to some extent, our people of their present undernourishment and other deprivations. Above all we are deeply concerned about the plight of children, youth, and elderly people who are bound to be the main victims of the present food crisis in the Soviet Union.

The simple fact is that contrary to the assurances of the Soviet Government to the effect that the entire Soviet population, including the Ukrainian people, have been taken care of, and in spite of recent purchases of wheat and other grains in the West, a majority of the Ukrainian population, both in the cities and in the countryside, suffer shortages of bread, potatoes, and cabbage, which constitute the basic food of the bare subsistence in the Soviet Union.

In view of this critical situation I beg you to permit the use of all the available means and resources of the United Nations to mitigate the present misery of our compatriots in Ukraine (and also in other republics of the Soviet Union). To this end may I suggest that you initiate certain organizational and humanitarian actions of the United Nations and induce the Soviet Government and the Government of the Ukrainian S.S.R. to agree to them. In particular I would like to propose the following:

A. To arrange for the establishment of a Special Relief Committee of the United Nations for the appraisal of most urgent needs of the population and implementation under its supervision of direct help on the spot in Ukraine, with particular emphasis on the distribution of foodstuff for infants, schoolchildren, and elderly people.

B. To appropriate the necessary funds for the purchase and distribution of the indispensable supplies of food in the Ukrainian SSR.

C. To induce the Soviet Government to abolish or reduce the customs duty on shipments of food and other consumer goods to Ukraine which at the present time is abnormally high. Thus, for instance, the customs duty (including postal inspection fee), per 1 pound of bacon, lard, boiled lard, margarine, meat or fish products is \$0.40.

D. To appeal to all people of good will in the world to send food parcels to the people of Ukraine and other republics of the U.S.S.R., on the basis of "person to person", "school to school-", "organization to organization - help", and to encourage CARE and other national and international charity organizations to participate in this campaign.

I am confident that you will understand all the urgency and seriousness of the present situation of the Ukrainian people, and I would appreciate very much your kind efforts to help them.