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(Translation)

Letters to Süddeutsche Zeitung

PETLYURA was a fighter for independence

In the article by your columnist Alfred BURMEISTER on the 20th Congress of the CP of the Soviet Union(SZ No.44 of February 21) the names of MAKHNO and PETLYURA are mentioned, in connection with which, in a short remark, the two men are brought to a common denominator, and PETLYURA is labeled as "leader of Ukrainian bands". This judgment is offensive and embarrassing to every Ukrainian, irrespective of his party-membership. It corresponds to the communist propaganda which has used the same expression for years. In fact, however, in 1917 Symon PETLYURA was a member of the government of the Ukrainian Centralna Rada("Central Council"), and since November 1918, as a member of the National Directory of the Ukrainian Republic, he defended our country against the Bolshevik invasion, for a time as an ally of Poland.

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You should have objected to the designation of the Ukrainian national hero PETLYURA as "leader of a gang" in the article on the communist Congress (SZ of February 21). PETLYURA was the leader of the Ukrainian democratic Left in ~~the~~ ^{the} fight against Russian aggressors. His later tragic death caused by an assassin in the emigration, was based on an unjust depiction of his historic rôle. He was made responsible for the excesses which had happened ~~during~~ ~~the fighting~~ against his will during the fighting. MAKHNO might have been leader of a gang. PETLYURA was a fighter for independence.

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