

Dear participants of symposium "Holod Ukraïny 1932-1933"

To you addresses witness of this tragic past Ivzhenko
Ivan Avksentiïovych.
Veteran of war and labor.

During the Holodomor our family lived in the village of Neshcheriv, Kyivs'ka Oblast', Obukhivs'ky Rayon. I was 10 years old and remember everything perfectly. Our family consisted of 5 members – my mother, 2 brothers, 1 sister and I. Everyone, except me, worked at the local collective farm and were very close. At that time, the collective farm gave out rations or cooked food. Everyone brought their rations home and my mother was able to feed us and that's how we all survived.

My mother and older brothers would walk to Kyiv where they could purchase commercial bread. Many people at that time would walk to Kyiv to get bread, however, not many were able to make it back with the bread as they would be robbed in the forests along the way, their bread taken away, and sometimes the people themselves would be killed. I saw signs of these robberies and killings with my own eyes as the road to Kyiv led right past our village.

A lot was said about human death and cannibalism at the symposium, but nothing was mentioned about what was going on along the borders of our country in an effort to help a starving Ukraine.

In 1945, I took part in the battles where our army captured the cities of eastern Prussia – Danzig, Gdynia, Sopot, Oliva (neighbouring cities along the coast). During this time I accidentally learned a little historical information pertaining to what was actually going on in Ukraine during Holodomor.

At that time our regiment was stationed in the forests around these cities. I became acquainted with a native Prussian - German who was a captain on one of the boats in the port of Danzig before the war. When he found out that I was Ukrainian, he said to me with great astonishment that you Ukrainians were so persecuted and yet you fight so well for the Soviet government.

He described how during those years [1932, 1933] in the harbor of Danzig there were many international ships every day carrying food aid for starving Ukraine, - all waiting for clearance to enter the Soviet waters.

Permission was never given, they were all told that there was no need for food and that there was no hunger in Ukraine. The ships were forced to unload their cargo at the docks in Danzig or dump it right into the sea.

So, it was obvious that Europe, North America and other continents knew about the Holodomor in Ukraine but because of Soviet government directives, the aid never made it into Ukraine.

I join with the speakers of this symposium and demand the condemnation of the actions of the Soviet government and the individuals who were responsible for these criminal deeds - and some of them are still alive.

I also join with the declaration of the participants of this symposium about bringing to justice one of the main perpetrators of instigating collectivization and famine in Ukraine - L.M. Kaganovich – a pensioner with special state privileges, who currently resides in a state residence outside of Moscow.

I also demand that all active participants who were involved in facilitating the collectivization process be brought to justice as they were the creators of all the infamous horrible deeds which were perpetrated in Ukrainian villages.

With respect to participants of symposium

I. A. Ivzhenko.

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