

The original documents are located in Box D27, folder “50th Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence Day (dinner), Washington, DC, June 1, 1968” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ADDRESS AT DINNER MARKING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY, 8 P.M. SATURDAY,
JUNE 1, 1968, AT WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL.

"TO US IS GIVEN THE HONOR OF
STRIKING A BLOW FOR FREEDOM WHICH WILL LIVE IN
HISTORY, AND IN THE BETTER DAYS THAT LIE AHEAD,
MEN WILL SPEAK WITH PRIDE OF OUR DOINGS."

THESE WORDS ARE MOST APPROPRIATE
TO THIS OCCASION. ALTHOUGH THEY MAY SEEM TO
HAVE BEEN WRITTEN FOR THIS COMMEMORATION, THEY
WERE SPOKEN BY VISCOUNT MONTGOMERY -- "MONTY"
OF WORLD WAR II FAME -- TO THE MEN WHO FOUGHT
UNDER HIM. THE OCCASION WAS THE ALLIED INVASION
OF EUROPE IN 1944.

I HAVE RECALLED MONTY'S WORDS IN
ORDER TO COMMEND YOU FOR STRIKING A BLOW FOR
FREEDOM BY COMMEMORATING A FREEDOM ONCE ENJOYED
AND LONG DENIED -- THE FREEDOM OF UKRAINE. AND
I KNOW, LIKE MARSHAL MONTGOMERY, THAT IN THE



BETTER DAYS THAT LIE AHEAD OTHERS WILL SPEAK WITH PRIDE OF OUR DOINGS. AND THERE WILL BE BETTER DAYS!

JUST AS MONTGOMERY'S WORDS INSPIRED HIS MEN ON THE EVE OF AN HISTORIC INVASION, THIS EVENING LET THEM BE THE RALLYING CALL FOR THE ONSET OF A MORAL INVASION BY YOU UPON THE CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD. LET US RESOLVE THIS EVENING TO IMPRESS UPON THE CONSCIENCE OF AMERICA AND THE WORLD THE IMMUTABLE PRINCIPLE THAT NO MAN IS WHOLLY FREE UNTIL ALL MEN ARE FREE.

THE GROUNDWORK FOR AN IDEOLOGICAL ONSLAUGHT HAS BEEN LAID. OUR EFFORTS IN THE PAST ATTEST TO THIS.

EVERY YEAR ON JANUARY 22nd, MY COLLEAGUES AND I IN THE CONGRESS COMMEMORATE THE UKRAINIAN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. WE DO THIS NOT MERELY TO PAY LIP SERVICE TO OUR CONSTITUENTS OF UKRAINIAN DESCENT BUT BECAUSE

OF A SINCERE APPRECIATION OF THE FACT THAT OUR WORLD STILL BEARS WITNESS TO A SHAMELESS RAPE -- AN IMPERIALISM THAT MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN.

SINCE ITS PROCLAMATION IN 1959, THE CAPTIVE NATIONS RESOLUTION HAS SERVED TO RECALL OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM FOR ALL MEN.

FOR YEARS I HAVE SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE CAPTIVE NATIONS. IT IS MY BELIEF THAT IN THIS WAY, THE ISSUE OF SOVIET RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM WILL BECOME THE FOCAL POINT OF OUR ACTIVE ATTENTION AND CONCERN. THE CAPTIVE PEOPLES OF EUROPE, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA WILL THEN NOT MERELY BE THE TOPIC OF AN ANNUAL COMMEMORATION DURING THE THIRD WEEK OF JULY, BUT WILL RATHER OCCUPY OUR THOUGHTS CONSTANTLY.

THIS IS AS IT MUST BE, FOR SOVIET RUSSIAN COLONIALISM IS NOT A MERE SLOGAN, IT IS A FACT OF LIFE. FOR THIS REASON I WILL CONTINUE

TO CALL FOR A SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO STUDY THE PLIGHT OF THE RUSSIAN-DOMINATED NATIONS.

IN THIS VEIN I HAVE SUPPORTED, AND WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT, A PROPOSAL FOR A TOTAL CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION. THE REASONS FOR SUCH A REVIEW I BELIEVE TO BE OBVIOUS.

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE TO SPEND BILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND SACRIFICE THOUSANDS OF LIVES FIGHTING COMMUNISM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SUPPLYING GOODS AND MATERIEL TO THE RED STATES OF EASTERN EUROPE, GOODS THAT EVENTUALLY MAY FIND THEIR WAY TO NORTH VIETNAM?

WE MUST REVIEW THIS WHOLE SAD POLICY -- A REVIEW THAT HAS NEVER BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.S.R.. I PLEDGE MY WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT IN THIS CAUSE.


OUR GOVERNMENT, REGARDLESS OF THE



ADMINISTRATION IN THE WHITE HOUSE, HAS PRESSED TIME AND AGAIN THE ISSUE OF SOVIET RUSSIAN IMPERIO-COLONIALISM IN THE UNITED NATIONS. PERHAPS WE HAVE NOT PERSISTED ENOUGH. WE MUST, THEREFORE, CONTINUE TO CALL FOR CONSIDERATION OF RUSSIA COLONIALISM IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE WORLD MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO FORGET THE MILLIONS LIVING BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN. THE FACT THAT THEY ARE DEPRIVED OF TRUE FREEDOM MAKES OUR LIBERTY SO MUCH LESS REWARDING.


THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER PLEDGES FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE TO ALL PEOPLES. THE LATE ADLAI STEVENSON, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WAS KEENLY AWARE OF THIS WHEN HE ENUMERATED THE DETAILS OF SOVIET RUSSIAN COLONIALISM IN HIS FAMOUS MEMORANDUM OF NOVEMBER 25, 1961. IN IT, HE BARED THE GREAT MOSCOW LIE -- A FICTIONAL "UNION" OF NATIONS



WELDED TOGETHER BY A FACTUAL RECORD OF FEROCITY AND BARBARISM UNMATCHED IN HUMAN HISTORY.

I URGE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO INSIST THAT THE SORDID RECORD OF IMPERIALIST RUSSIAN AGGRANDIZEMENT BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF THE UNITED NATIONS. FOR IT IS THERE, IN THE COURT OF WORLD OPINION, THAT AN INDICTMENT CAN BE BROUGHT AND A VERDICT RENDERED.

THIS AFTERNOON, YOU PAID DUE HOMAGE TO UKRAINE'S GREAT POET LAUREATE, THE INDOMITABLE TARAS SHEVCHENKO (TA-ROSS SHEV-CHENKO). HIS PERSONAL COURAGE, AS WELL AS HIS POETIC GENIUS, IS KNOWN TO US ALL. I AM PARTICULARLY PROUD THAT A STATUE OF THIS GREAT FIGHTER FOR FREEDOM OCCUPIES A PROMINENT PLACE IN THE CAPITAL OF OUR NATION. I AM LIKEWISE PROUD TO HAVE BEEN AMONG THOSE WHO SUPPORTED EARLY THE ERECTING OF A MONUMENT TO SUCH A GALLANT AND TALENTED INDIVIDUAL. HIS STATUE,



AND THE PLEASANT PARK IN WHICH IT STANDS,
SERVES AS A DAILY REMINDER TO ALL WHO PASS THAT
AMERICA IS PROUD OF ALL MEN WHO STAND WITH THE
CAUSE OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE.

LIKEWISE, I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE
CALL FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A MEMORIAL STAMP
COMMEMORATING TARAS SHEVCHENKO (TA-ROSS
SHEV-CHENKO) AND ALL THOSE WHO, LIKE HIM, HOLD
PERSONAL FREEDOM AND DIGNITY AS GOD-GIVEN
RIGHTS WHICH NO GOVERNMENT CAN DENY. SUCH A
STAMP WOULD SERVE TO REMIND ALL AMERICANS THAT
THESE BASIC RIGHTS CANNOT -- MUST NOT -- BE
DENIED TO ANYONE. OUR DUTY AS AMERICANS IS TO
WORK TOWARD THIS GOAL.

OUR NATION TODAY IS IN THE MIDST OF
TURMOIL AND UPHEAVAL. VALUES AND IDEALS WHICH
ONCE WERE TREASURED ARE NOW CAST ASIDE IN THE
NAME OF "LIBERALIZATION" AND "PROGRESS." OUR
FLAG IS TORN AND SPAT UPON. OUR PRESIDENT IS
BURNED IN EFFIGY. DRAFT CARDS ARE BURNED, AND

OUR UNIVERSITIES OVERRUN BY STUDENT ACTIVISTS.
ALL THIS IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM.

THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE, AS WELL AS
THE PEOPLE OF ESTONIA, LATVIA AND LITHUANIA,
COULD TEACH THESE AMERICANS A LESSON IN THE
MEANING OF FREEDOM! HOW WELL THEY KNOW WHAT
THE LACK OF FREEDOM MEANS IN THEIR DAILY LIVES!

I HAVE ALWAYS RETAINED A SPECIAL
AFFECTION FOR AMERICANS OF FOREIGN EXTRACTION,
FOR THEY, BETTER THAN MOST AMERICANS, REALIZE
THE JOY THAT BEING AN AMERICAN BRINGS. THEY ARE
AMONG AMERICA'S BEST CITIZENS, FOR THEY AND THEIR
FATHERS HAVE EXPERIENCED WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED
"THE AMERICAN DREAM."

BUT THERE IS, IN FACT, NO ONE
AMERICAN DREAM, BUT MILLIONS OF THEM. THESE
DREAMS ARE THE GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS OF ALL
THOSE WHO, HAVING FLED ONE TYRANNY OR ANOTHER,
SEEK TO BUILD A BETTER LIFE IN AMERICA.

YOU, OR YOUR FOREFATHERS, HAVE




KNOWN THIS QUEST. YOU HAVE DARED TO DREAM THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM.

AMERICANISM AND LOVE OF COUNTRY TRANSCEND POLITICAL BOUNDS. AMONG YOU, I AM SURE, ARE REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS, LIBERALS AND CONSERVATIVES. BUT WE ARE ALL UNITED BY THE COMMON CAUSE OF LOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE IDEALS SET FORTH IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

I APPEAL TO ALL AMERICANS OF FOREIGN DISCENT TO ASSERT THEMSELVES THROUGH THE AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCESS AND THEREBY HELP BRING BACK TO AMERICA AN APPRECIATION OF THOSE QUALITIES UPON WHICH THIS DEMOCRACY WAS FOUNDED -- BROTHERHOOD, HARMONY, FREEDOM AND JUSTICE.

THE ROLE OF THE NATIONALITY GROUPS IN AMERICA'S PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN A VITAL AND UNDENIABLE ONE. IN THIS PERIOD OF OUR HISTORY, A RE-AFFIRMATION OF THIS SPIRIT IS



NEEDED MORE THAN EVER.

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO JOIN IN THIS ENDEAVOR, REGARDLESS OF YOUR POLITICAL AFFILIATION, FOR THE FUTURE OF AMERICA MAY WELL HANG IN THE BALANCE.

OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE MUST BECOME A VIABLE DOCUMENT; ITS SPIRIT MUST LIVE AGAIN IN THE MINDS AND HEARTS OF ALL AMERICANS.

FIFTY LONG YEARS HAVE PASSED INTO HISTORY SINCE THAT MOMENTOUS DAY BACK IN JANUARY OF 1918 WHEN YOUR FORBEARS DECLARED THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM THE OPPRESSIVE YOKE OF SOVIET RUSSIA AND HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF RUSSIAN SUBJUGATION.

A FEW BRIEF YEARS LATER, IN 1923, THAT BLACK CLOUD ONCE AGAIN SETTLED OVER UKRAINE, THERE TO REMAIN UNTIL THE PRESENT DAY. AND THAT IS THE REASON FOR OUR JOINING TOGETHER EACH YEAR -- TO KEEP ALIVE THE FLAME OF HOPE

THAT WE KNOW WILL SOMEDAY PROVE A REALITY -- A
RESTORED FREEDOM TO AN INDEPENDENT UKRAINE.

AS WE TONIGHT REMEMBER THOSE LESS
FORTUNATE THAN OURSELVES, LET US RE-DEDICATE
OURSELVES TO THE CONCEPT OF "ONE NATION, UNDER
GOD, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL."

LET US FURTHER DEDICATE OURSELVES
TOWARD WORKING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION
OF OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE SO THAT OUR
WORLD WILL BE ONE WORLD, GUIDED BY DIVINE
PROVIDENCE, WITH ALL PEOPLES SHARING IN THE
REWARDS THAT UNIVERSAL FREEDOM AND JUSTICE CAN
BRING.

THEN CAN WE SAY WE HAVE "FOUGHT THE
GOOD FIGHT;" WE HAVE SERVED THE CAUSE OF ALL
GOOD MEN.

- END -



ADDRESS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.
MINORITY LEADER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AT A DINNER MARKING THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF
UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

8 p.m. Saturday, June 1, 1968
Washington Hilton Hotel

"To us is given the honor of striking a blow for freedom which will live in history, and in the better days that lie ahead men will speak with pride of our doings."

These words are most appropriate to this occasion. Although they may seem to have been written for this commemoration, they were spoken by Viscount Montgomery-- "Monty" of World War II fame--to the men who fought under him. The occasion was the Allied invasion of Europe in 1944.

I have recalled Monty's words in order to commend you for striking a blow for freedom by commemorating a freedom once enjoyed and long denied--the freedom of Ukraine. And I know, like Marshal Montgomery, that in the better days that lie ahead others will speak with pride of our doings. And there will be better days!

Just as Montgomery's words inspired his men on the eve of an historic invasion, this evening let them be the rallying call for the onset of a moral invasion by you upon the conscience of the world. Let us resolve this evening to impress upon the conscience of America and the world the immutable principle that no man is wholly free until all men are free.

The groundwork for an ideological onslaught has been laid. Our efforts in the past attest to this.

Every year on January 22nd, my colleagues and I in the Congress commemorate the Ukrainian Declaration of Independence. We do this not merely to pay lip service to our constituents of Ukrainian descent but because of a sincere appreciation of the fact that our world still bears witness to a shameless rape--an imperialism that must not be forgotten.

Since its proclamation in 1959, the Captive Nations Resolution has served to recall our commitment to the cause of freedom for all men.

For years I have supported the proposal for a special House Committee on the Captive Nations. It is my belief that in this way, the issue of Soviet Russian imperialism will become the focal point of our active attention and concern. The captive peoples of Europe, Asia and Latin America will then not merely be the

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topic of an annual commemoration during the third week of July, but will rather occupy our thoughts constantly.

This is as it must be, for Soviet Russian colonialism is not a mere slogan, it is a fact of life. For this reason I will continue to call for a special committee in the House of Representatives to study the plight of the Russian-dominated nations.

In this vein I have supported, and will continue to support, a proposal for a total Congressional review of United States policy toward the Soviet Union. The reasons for such a review I believe to be obvious.

How is it possible to spend billions of dollars and sacrifice thousands of lives fighting communism in Southeast Asia while at the same time supplying goods and materiel to the Red states of Eastern Europe, goods that eventually may find their way to North Vietnam?

We must review this whole sad policy--a review that has never been undertaken in the entire history of our relations with the U.S.S.R. I pledge my whole-hearted support in this cause.

Our government, regardless of the Administration in the White House, has pressed time and again the issue of Soviet Russian imperio-colonialism in the United Nations. Perhaps we have not persisted enough. We must, therefore, continue to call for consideration of Russian colonialism in the Security Council of the United Nations.

The world must not be allowed to forget the millions living behind the Iron Curtain. The fact that they are deprived of true freedom makes our liberty so much less rewarding.

The United Nations charter pledges freedom and independence to all peoples. The late Adlai Stevenson, former Ambassador to the United Nations, was keenly aware of this when he enumerated the details of Soviet Russian colonialism in his famous memorandum of November 25, 1961. In it, he bared the great Moscow lie--a fictional "union" of nations welded together by a factual record of ferocity and barbarism unmatched in human history.

I urge the President of the United States to insist that the sordid record of imperialist Russian aggrandizement be placed on the agenda of the United Nations. For it is there, in the court of world opinion, that an indictment can be brought and a verdict rendered.

This afternoon, you paid due homage to Ukraine's great poet laureate, the indomitable Taras Shevchenko. His personal courage, as well as his poetic genius,

(more)



is known to us all. I am particularly proud that a statue of this great fighter for freedom occupies a prominent place in the capital of our nation. I am likewise proud to have been among those who supported early the erecting of a monument to such a gallant and talented individual. His statue, and the pleasant park in which it stands, serves as a daily reminder to all who pass that America is proud of all men who stand with the cause of freedom and justice.

Likewise, I strongly support the call for the issuance of a memorial stamp commemorating Taras Shevchenko and all those who like him, hold personal freedom and dignity as God-given rights which no government can deny. Such a stamp would serve to remind all Americans that these basic rights cannot--must not--be denied to anyone. Our duty as Americans is to work toward this goal.

Our nation today is in the midst of turmoil and upheaval. Values and ideals which once were treasured are now cast aside in the name of "liberalization" and "progress." Our flag is torn and spat upon. Our president is burned in effigy. Draft cards are burned, and our universities overrun by student activists. All this in the name of freedom.

The people of Ukraine, as well as the people of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, could teach these Americans a lesson in the meaning of freedom! How well they know what the lack of freedom means in their daily lives!

I have always retained a special affection for Americans of foreign extraction, for they, better than most Americans, realize the joy that being an American brings. They are among America's best citizens, for they and their fathers have experienced what has been called "the American Dream."

But there is, in fact, no one American Dream, but millions of them. these dreams are the goals and aspirations of all those who, having fled one tyranny or another, seek to build a better life in America.

You, or your forefathers, have known this quest. You have dared to dream the impossible dream.

Americanism and love of country transcend political bounds. Among you, I am sure, are Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives. But we are all united by the common cause of loyalty to the United States and the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence.

I appeal to all Americans of foreign descent to assert themselves through the American political process and thereby help bring back to America an appreciation of those qualities upon which this democracy was founded--brotherhood, harmony, freedom and justice.

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The role of the nationality groups in America's progress and development has been a vital and undeniable one. In this period of our history, a re-affirmation of this spirit is needed more than ever.

I would like you to join in this endeavor, regardless of your political affiliation, for the future of America may well hang in the balance.

Our Declaration of Independence must become a viable document; its spirit must live again in the minds and hearts of all Americans.

Fifty long years have passed into history since that momentous day back in January of 1918 when your forbears declared their independence from the oppressive yoke of Soviet Russia and hundreds of years of Russian subjugation.

A few brief years later, in 1923, the black cloud once again settled over Ukraine, there to remain until the present day. And that is the reason for our joining together each year--to keep alive the flame of hope that we know will someday prove a reality--a restored freedom to an independent Ukraine.

As we tonight remember those less fortunate than ourselves, let us re-dedicate ourselves to the concept of "one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all."

Let us further dedicate ourselves toward working for the international application of our Declaration of Independence so that our world will be one world, guided by Divine Providence, with all peoples sharing in the rewards that universal freedom and justice can bring.

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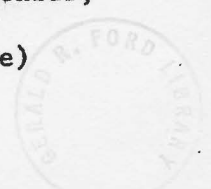
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