

This text of exchange of comments between E. Luciuk and P. Rudling is from the Globe and Mail at:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/prairies/discord-accusations-taint-human-rights-museum-debate/article1987877/comments/>

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L. Luciuk:

9:04 AM on April 16, 2011

Neither UCCLA nor the UCC have ever objected to the inclusion of the Shoah (Holocaust) in this publicly funded national museum and claiming otherwise is a calumny. Where the two organizations differ is on how the genocidal Great Famine of 1932-33 in Soviet Ukraine (the Holodomor) should be represented. UCCLA wants all 12 of the 12 CMHR galleries to be thematic, comparative & inclusive. A gallery dedicated, for example, to the theme of 'Genocide' would therefore include the Holocaust, the Holodomor, and the many other acts of genocide and crimes against humanity that have befouled human history.

Inclusion in such a gallery does not imply 'equality' (each story is different) nor would each exhibit necessarily be of precisely the same size (and all displays in every gallery will have to be revised, reconsidered and updated routinely in order to enhance the CMHR's pedagogical utility and ensure high visitor return rates).

As Canadians rightly have no say in the contents or governance of national museums in the USA, UK, Russian Federation, Israel, Germany, France or even Ukraine, the opinions of those who do not live nor pay taxes here are of little affect. As for the handful of Canadians who drafted this epistle their spokesperson, Mr Himka, is on record as insisting that the Holodomor was not

a genocide. I accept a contrary position, that of Dr Raphael Lemkin, the 'father of the [UN] Genocide Convention,' who identified this famine as part of 'a classic example of a Soviet genocide' directed against the Ukrainian nation, a view endorsed by the Government of Canada, which officially recognized the Holodomor as a genocide in 2008. I feel no need to apologize for embracing the findings of Dr Lemkin or of the Government of Canada and refuse to accept the anti-democratic yelp that those of us who disagree with Mr Himka and friends "should stay out of the debate." That line exposes his lot for what they are.

P. RUDLING:

1:22 PM on April 16, 2011

Here, it may be important to remind the readers about the reasons for the debate. Lubomyr Luciuk's UCCLA sent out postcards which presented the supporters of the Holocaust exhibit as fat pigs with bullwhips, presenting the Holocaust exhibit in the CMHR as a tool of domination and oppression. The postcard was sent out to several Jewish organizations, caused deep offense and were widely perceived as being anti-Semitic.

Now, had this been an isolated incident, it could perhaps been dismissed as yet another example of bad taste and poor judgment. Therefore, some intellectual background to Luciuk's activism. For decades, Luciuk has been involved in apologetic representations of the wartime activities of the Ukrainian extreme right. On July 4, 1983, in the OUN paper Homin Ukrainy, Luciuk defended the Ukrainian Waffen-SS Division Galizien, a deeply anti-Semitic organization under the command of Heinrich Himmler, whose officers were trained in the Dachau concentration camp, took personal oaths to Adolf Hitler, and units of which partook in war crimes, the most infamous one being the slaughter and burning of the Polish village of Huta Pienacka on February 28, 1944. Luciuk maintains that "membership in the Division has never been regarded as a cause of shame."

The Ukrainian Waffen-SS veterans in Canada are constituent members of the UCC, under the euphemism The First Division of the Ukrainian National Army. They were saluted by the UCC last Remembrance Day. Last January, the UCC proposed recognition of the veterans of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and its armed wing the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (OUN and UPA).

The OUN was the leading Ukrainian fascist movement. It endorsed the Führerprinzip, totalitarianism, anti-Semitism, terrorism, and racism. Its leaders enthusiastically endorsed the Holocaust and its members organized pogroms in Western Ukraine in 1941. In 1943-44, the UPA murdered around 100,000 Polish nationals and thousands of Jews in Volhynia and Galicia. Last year, the UCC wanted the OUN and UPA veterans recognized in Canada.

Whereas Luciuk endorses a narrative of diminishing or denying the crimes of the Ukrainian nationalists, he is very fond of linking communism and Soviet crimes to Jews. As late as April 2, 2011, in the Winnipeg Free Press, Luciuk mused on the overrepresentation of Jews in the Communist party, "and particularly in its secret police and Gulag concentration camp system." As if the people who took part in the Stalinist system of government did so as Jews. The idea of the Jewish communists is a cornerstone in the Ukrainian nationalist tradition. It should be remembered that it was for their alleged association with communism the OUN(b) in 1941 demanded their extermination.

When Luciuk now is trying to down-play the maliciousness of his campaign in the language that appeals to fatuous pluralist inclinations, Canadians need to be reminded of the reasons for the concerns of these now 103 scholars.