

Russian UN Ambassador On Nazi Collaboration

Russia's UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin made these remarks at the United Nations on March 6:

First of all, I'd like to make some comments in connection with a rather startling statement which was made by Ambassador Yuri Sergeyev of Ukraine on March 4. Responding to a question, he said, and I quote: "Russia, at the time of the Soviet Union, tried to press Western allies to recognize what you call Banderists and others as killers. Why did the Nuremberg process not recognize that? Because it was falsified. Because the position of the Soviet Union was not fair at that time."

What I'd like to say is the following. Massive documentary evidence proves that the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) collaborated with the Nazis. They took part in mass killings of civilians, and punitive operations against partisans in Belarus, Ukraine, and Poland. On June 30, 1941, with the invasion of Ukraine by Nazi troops, Stepan Bandera issued the Act of Proclamation of Ukrainian Statehood, which declared that, and I quote:

"The newly formed Ukrainian state will work closely with the National Socialists of Greater Germany, which, under the leadership of Adolf Hitler, is forming a new order in Europe and the world."

In 1941, Ukrainian Nazi collaborators provided the majority of the executioners who murdered over 150,000 Jews in Babi Yar in Kiev. Gypsies and Soviet prisoners of war were also executed there. In 1942, OUN was involved in a campaign of ethnic cleansing in Malkinia, Poland. Over 100,000 women, children, and men were slaughtered. Polish historians calculated that 135 different sadistic methods were



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used to kill innocent people. In 1942, the OUN's campaign of mass extermination of Poles and Jews continued.

On Jan 28, 2010, the Simon Wiesenthal Center expressed, and I quote: "deepest revulsion at the decision by the then-President of Ukraine to honor OUN's leader Bandera, who," and I quote: "collaborated with the Nazis in the early stages of World War II, and whose followers were linked to the murders of thousands of Jews and others."

On Feb. 25, 2010, the European Parliament adopted a resolution in which it expressed deep regret for the decision posthumously to award Bandera—the leader of the OUN, which collaborated with Nazi Germany—the title of national hero of Ukraine. The European Parliament called on the Ukrainian leadership to reconsider such decision, and maintain its commitment to European values. Polish President Jaroslaw Kaczynski stated on Feb. 7, 2010, that OUN and UPA, and I quote: "were engaged in mass-murders of Polish civilians in the eastern territories of the Second Republic, killing 100,000 people. Poles were being killed for being Poles."

It is deeply disturbing that the followers of Bandera are openly marching these days in Ukraine, displaying his portraits and fascist insignia, and are wielding considerable political power in Kiev. Attempts to white-wash the OUN and UPA are not only morally repulsive; they amount to encouraging nationalist ideology, extremism, and intolerance.