

Institute of National Remembrance

<https://ipn.gov.pl/en/news/469,IPN-visits-Toronto-2128-November-2010.html>

25.04.2024, 21:07

16.11.2010

IPN visits Toronto, 21-28 November 2010

Minister
of Citizenship
and Immigration



Ministre
de la Citoyenneté
et de l'Immigration

Ottawa, Canada K1A 1L1

Greetings from the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to all those attending the Polish Institute of National Remembrance (PINR) Reception. On behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, I would like to thank the PINR, His Excellency Marek Ciesielczuk, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto, and His Excellency Oleksandr Danyleiko, Consul General of Ukraine in Toronto, for your untiring efforts to strengthen Canada's cooperation with Poland and Ukraine.

Holodomor was not only an immense human tragedy; it was an orchestrated genocide of the people of Ukraine by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin. Through the process of forced collectivisation, the communist regime caused the death of millions of innocent Ukrainians.

Canada has designated the fourth Saturday in November as "Ukrainian Famine and Genocide ('Holodomor') Memorial Day" in recognition of the devastating suffering caused by this forced starvation. Many survivors of this unspeakable massacre have come to Canada, contributing to the building of the democracy we all love – a place where everyone is welcome and encouraged to reach their full potential. As Prime Minister Harper noted: "We in Canada are bonded to this dark chapter in human history by more than a million Canadians of Ukrainian descent, many of whom lost loved ones in the Holodomor."

As Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, I would like to thank the Polish and Ukrainian Canadian communities for coming together to commemorate Holodomor. Both are active participants in our society and they both have made remarkable contributions to our country, throughout our history. Such collaboration between two important pieces of our multicultural mosaic is a source of inspiration for all Canadians.

Canada enjoys excellent relations with both Poland and Ukraine and we are always seeking new ways of broadening our cooperation. This event will no doubt contribute to bringing our three nations closer together, by condemning the atrocities of the past, and building together a future of freedom, peace and prosperity for all our citizens.

My very best wishes for a wonderful reception.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Jason Kenney, PC, MP
Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism



Canada



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

November 27, 2010

Statement by the Prime Minister on the 77th Anniversary of the Holodomor

I am honoured to join Canadians in the solemn commemoration of the 77th anniversary of the Holodomor. On this day, we remember the millions of Ukrainians who suffered and perished during one of the most terrible crimes in history. Millions of men, women and children – predominantly Ukrainian – died of starvation under Joseph Stalin's oppressive regime.

Canada's heritage is forever connected to this unimaginable tragedy through the more than one million Canadians of Ukrainian descent, many of whom lost loved ones in that time of horror. The Holodomor is a part of the past that we as Canadians must never forget. Two years ago, our Government was proud to lead an effort in Parliament to officially recognize the Holodomor as a genocide and establish an annual day of commemoration on the fourth Saturday of each November.

I was deeply moved by the vivid depictions and sad memories of this humanitarian catastrophe preserved at the National Holodomor Memorial, when I visited Kyiv this October. I was reminded of the Ukrainian communities back home that honour the memory of victims of the Holodomor with monuments in parks and public squares.

During my visit to Ukraine, I was impressed by the profound friendship our two countries share. Canada stood against the oppression of Ukraine during the two World Wars and the Cold War, and was the first western country to formally recognize its independence from Soviet communism.

As our friendship grows, Canada will continue to support Ukraine in its journey toward strengthening freedom, democracy, justice and human rights. As Canadians, we admire and respect Ukrainians' pursuit of liberty and freedom, their spirit of independence, and their courage and determination.

Sincerely,

*The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada*

Between 21 and 28 November 2010 a delegation from the Institute of National Remembrance visited in Toronto. The delegation consisted of Dr. Rafał Leśkiewicz, the Acting Director of the Office for the Preservation and Dissemination of Archival Records, Marcin Majewski, the Head of Section of Archival Research and the Sources Edition and Dr. Jerzy Bednarek, Deputy Head of the Branch Office for the Preservation and Dissemination of Archival Records in Łódź. The visit was related to the promotion of IPN's English-language publication "Holodomor. The Great Famine in Ukraine 1932-1933" (the series "Poland and Ukraine in the thirties-forties of the twentieth century. Unknown documents from the archives of the special services"). The employees of the Institute were invited by The League of Ukrainian Canadians. During the stay in Toronto, the IPN's delegation met twice with representatives of the Canadian Polish Congress - including Jan Cytowski, the Vice President and the local Polish community. On 22 November Dr. Leśkiewicz gave a lecture in the John Paul II's Cultural Centre in Mississauga on "The files of the secret police. Polish experience with the documents of the communist secret services". Dr. Bednarek, on the other hand, discussed the scientific output of the IPN's Archive department. The next meeting with the authorities of the Canadian Polish Congress took place on 24 November at the headquarters of the Polish Combatants' Associations. The participants discussed how the IPN could help the Canadian Polish Congress in areas such as protection of the Poland's good image in the international arena.

On 23 November at the headquarters of the Ukrainian diaspora

(Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation) in Toronto a promotion was held of the English-language publication on the Great Famine. Dr. Rafał Leśkiewicz talked about cooperation between the Separate State Archives of the Security Service of Ukraine and the IPN's Office for the Preservation and Dissemination of Archival Records, dr. Bednarek spoke on the book's history and Mr. Majewski on the Great Famine and the documents enclosed in the publication. The Ukrainian immigrant media were present at the promotion.

On 24 November in the Munk Centre at the University of Toronto, another presentation of the book took place with the participation of Mr. Marek Ciesielczuk, the Consul General of Poland and Mr. Oleksandr Danylejki, Consul General of Ukraine and also researchers dealing with the Great Famine. The event was organized with the participation of Petro Jacyk's Center Program for the Study of Ukraine, The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Chair of Constantine Reynert Polish Studies and The League of Ukrainian Canadians. Dr. Leśkiewicz and Mr. Majewski gave a lecture on "Archival Cooperation Between the Polish Institute of National Remembrance and the Security Service of Ukraine on the History of the Holodomor."

On 25 November in Jacyk Petro's Center at the University of Toronto, there was another presentation of the English-language publication of the IPN. Head Majewski presented book, and then marked the official transfer of work by the director, Dr. BUiAD Leśkiewiczza Director Robarts Research Library at the University of Toronto. Was present at the presentation include prof. Paul. R. Magocsi. The staff of the IPN

were then briefed on the operation of Jacyk Petro `s Center and watched the exhibition at the Robarts Library.

On 26 November the IPN's delegation took part in a press conference at the Consulate General of Poland with the participation of Polish media. In the evening the IPN's representatives visited the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center (St. Vladimir Institute), where they again presented the publication of "Holodomor. The Great Famine in Ukraine". Mr. Majewski discussed the documents published in this publication, as well as current projects that are carried out in collaboration with the WAP SB of Ukraine. The IPN's delegation was acquainted with the collection of oral stories held at the Centre. IPN presented electronic archive aids regarding the Ukraine on the website of the Institute of National Remembrance.

On 27 November the IPN's delegation took part in an official dinner with Ambassador of Ukraine in Ottawa, dr. Ihor Ostasz, Consul General of Ukraine, Mrs. Chyczij, deputy head of Ukrainian Canadian Congress and Mr. Cytowski, Deputy Chairman of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

During the stay, the delegation laid flowers at the Katyń monument in Toronto and also visited the location of the planned monument of the Great Famine in Ukraine, where they laid flowers the "Holodomor" bell.

During a meeting at the Consulate General of Poland with the participation of Mr. Wrzesnewski, Member of Parliament of Canada and Consul General of Poland and Consul General Ukraine IPN's delegation

received official acknowledgments from Jason Kenney, the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism and a letter from Stephen Harper, Canadian Prime Minister, on the anniversary of the Great Famine in Ukraine.

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