

**SENATOR PAUL YUZYK PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
IN UKRAINIAN SSR (1963-1986)**

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Senator Paul Yuzyk (1913-1986) belongs to the most famous Canadian statesmen of Ukrainian descent in the XX century. He was born in Pinto (Saskatchewan) on the Canadian prairies. Paul's father, a coal miner who came to Canada during the first wave Ukrainian immigration, eventually moved the family to Saskatoon where his son completed public school and graduated with top marks in 1932. After receiving a teaching certificate from a Saskatoon teacher's training college, P. Yuzyk had his first jarring encounter with anti-East European policies that would later lead him on a crusade for ethnic minority rights in Canada [4, p. 1].

After enlisting in the Canadian army in 1942, he completed a PhD in history at the University of Minnesota. In 1951 P. Yuzyk appointed assistant professor of

Slavic Studies and History at the University of Manitoba, and in 1958 was promoted to associate professor of History and Slavic Studies (in center of his attention was the history of Russia and the Soviet Union) [1, p. 395]. He was founder and first president of the Ukrainian National Youth Federation and a founder of the Canadian Association of Slavists and the Ukrainian Canadian University Students Union. Historian wrote more than a half-dozen books and hundreds articles. The mission of Ukrainian Canadians he saw in the fact that: «[They] have constantly been keeping before the public eye and informing the Canadian government that Soviet Russian communism is engaged in subtly undermining our democratic institutions and freedom... The defence of freedom and democracy must be the cornerstone of Canadian foreign policy, in which because of their background the Ukrainian Canadians should be playing an increasing role» [7, p. 91].

An active public work has not gone unnoticed, and P. Yuzyk was appointed to the Canadian Senate on February 4, 1963 on the recommendation of Premier John Diefenbaker. On March 3, 1964, he presented his maiden speech in Senate «Canada: A Multicultural Nation». The address, which was warmly received by his colleagues, voiced the concerns of several ethnic groups that Canadians must accept the fact that they live in a «multicultural nation» - not a country of two solitudes comprised of the British and French [6, p. 34]. Yuzyk spoke on the value of freedom, pointing to Canada where the principle of multiculturalism provides vast opportunities for the development of various ethnic cultures. He stressed: «The Canadian Government, legislators and people must constantly reassert their faith in the principle of democracy, justice, freedom and independence and at the same time proclaim sympathy and the readiness to give feasible aid to all those nations who are still struggling for the realization of these, the highest principles of humanity» [6, p. 235].

Yuzyk sat as a member of the Progressive Conservative Party, which demonstrates of the restriction of Human Rights and civil liberties in the Soviet Union [2, p. 25]. He raises these matters in the Senate sessions and in the press. The protection of Human Rights has always been a high priority in Canadian Government activity. Canadian Conservators interested in correcting the following problems: 1) The implementation of human rights in the Soviet Ukraine, specifically the arrests of Ukrainian Helsinki Group leaders; 2) The settlement of long-outstanding family reunification cases; 3) Facilitating emigration from the Ukraine to Canada through standard procedures. However, he remained a realist in the Canada-Soviet relations, stressing: «We must be realistic and hope that the expansion of trade between the two state, the broad exchanges in various field and the increasing tourism will bring about an interdependence, which could to liberalization in the Soviet Union and perhaps begin the gradual development of democracy in that country» [6, p. 235].

Soviet Constitution included a catalogue of rights and duties of citizens, but the law on paper did not correspond to the law in practice; the human rights were not respected, indeed violated on a mass scale so that they appeared to be virtually non-existent [5, p. 300]. The Constitution of USSR, which recognizes the theoretic right of the federated republics to separate from the Union, didn't indicate the procedure for exercising this autonomy. These violations were criticized by Western countries, in particular Canada, international and Ukrainian organizations in free world (for example, World Congress of Free Ukrainians). Its activities aimed at the following: 1) to ensure unconditional of Human Rights as defined in the Universal Declaration; 2) to free immediately all Ukrainian intellectuals for having exercised rights recognized by the Universal Declaration; 3) recognizing the right of all peoples to form an independent and sovereign State, as demanded by the representative of the USSR; 4) to permit Ukraine and other federated republics of the Soviet Union to claim the right of secession according to the clauses of Article 17 of the Constitution of the USSR and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples of 1960 [3, p. 2-3].

In particular, the Human Rights Commission of the Ukrainian World Congress conducted a campaign aimed at the release of five women from a Soviet camp (Iryna Kalynets, Stefania Shabaturova, Nina Karavanska, Iryna Senyk, Nadia Shumuk), who are seriously ill and are not receiving medical care. All five women were arrested in a wide crack-down on Ukrainian dissidents in 1972-1973 and sentenced in closed trials on charges of «spreading anti-Soviet propaganda»). In all cases this «propaganda» consisted of protests of their husbands' and other dissidents' arrests [3, p. 11]. Senator P. Yuzyk, chairman of Commission, held a series of meetings with Western politicians, trying to enlist their support in the liberation of the arrested women. «It is important, - he said, - that world community focuses on the tragedy of these and thousands of women suffering in the Soviet camps» [3, p. 12].

Senator Yuzyk has been active in most of the parliamentary associations, but has concentrated in two fields. Since 1975 he has been vice-president of the Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association and has the longest record (more than 10 years) of any Canadian parliamentarian as delegate to the Annual Session of the North Atlantic Assembly. In that body he was reporter of the Sub-Committee on the Free Flow of Information and People for 4 years and the editor of the quarterly publication of the Assembly «The Bulletin»), which monitors the Human Rights provisions of the Helsinki Final Act carried out by the Soviet and Western blocs. Since 1977 P. Yuzyk has been vice-president of the Canadian Helsinki Parliamentary Group. Senator was a Canadian delegate to the Belgrade Review Conference and to the Madrid Review Conference. His work consists of meetings with Canadian Ambassador Lois Rogers, the Foreign Minister, and senior officials of the Department of External Affairs [2, p. 102].

While in the Senate, P. Yuzyk played an active role in the development and implementation human rights policy of Canadian government on the international scene, while participating in various parliamentary committees and in delegations to the United Nations. He was closely associated with various human rights organizations and defended rights and freedoms of Ukrainians in Soviet Union.

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