

Croations' history neglected

By SHEILA HIRD

The Croations are a people concerned with their past and their future. A three-day Croatian Heritage Conference, at York last week-end, provided proof of how deeply this concern is felt by Toronto's Croatian population as more than 600 people were in attendance.

The Conference was co-sponsored by the Office of the Master, Atkinson College and the Croatian Heritage Conference Committee. Lecturers from the U.S., Germany, Britain and Canada all agreed that Croatian history is a "history of struggle."

Stjepan Kresic, Professor Emeritus from the University of Ottawa, officially opened the Conference with a plea to young Croations to delve into Croatian heritage research. North American textbooks are filled with untruths about Croatia, said Kresic.

On the second day of the Conference, most speakers echoed a sentiment first voiced by Kresic: "Croations have always been a persecuted people and therefore must fight for their freedom at home and abroad."

George Preic, a history professor from John Carroll University in Cleveland, argued that although Croations have been contributing to the American nation since they first arrived as explorers and missionaries in the sixteenth century, their efforts have not been recognized by the American people.

A.W. Rasporich, a history professor from the University of Calgary, said Canasaid Croations are also not recognized for their

valuable contributions to Canada.

These Croations were described, in Jesuit records, as cunning, stealthy, and ferocious as the Iroquois. During World War I, Croations were forced to register with the police and were then thrown into detention camps where they were neglected or tortured.

Zoran Pejovic, a York graduate student, dealt with more contemporary issues in a paper he authored titled "Educational Aspirations: A View of Croats in Toronto." Pejovic tried to explain why only four percent of Croatian high school students go on to university compared to 20 percent of Anglo-Canadian students. He argued that socialization processes, such as secondary schools, do not give sufficient encouragement to Croatian students and that "on the contrary these processes aid in lowering aspirations."

Sunday's speakers presented conflicting opinions of how Croations should justify themselves at home and abroad. Ivon Omrcanin, a Croatian author living in the U.S., was applauded when he urged fellow Croations to use diplomatic, rather than revolutionary, methods in their fight for justification and independence.

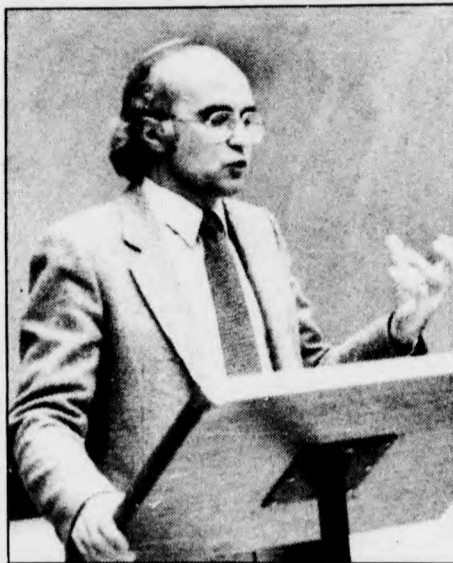
Hans Peter Rullman, a German journalist, denounced the intellectual and ideological optimism of the Conference and advocated more revolutionary action. He expressed fear that "time was running out" and that if action was not soon taken the Croatian economy would collapse and "hopes of an independent Croatia would be lost forever."

Week-long seminar shows how man-made Ukrainian famine paralleled Jewish Holocaust

By LILY CONTENTO
and ADRIAN IWACHIW

A series of events have been presented this week to familiarize the York student body with "a tragedy that is parallel only to the Jewish Holocaust": the Ukraine famine.

The famine of 1932-33 is considered to have been Joseph Stalin's deliberate attempt to extinguish the Ukrainian population. In a lecture Tuesday night, Bohdan Krawchenko, Professor and Assistant Director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, outlined the causes and consequences of the famine.



Bohdan Krawchenko

According to Krawchenko, Stalin's regime perpetuated the famine by forbidding access to food and money collected abroad. Also, 2 million tons of grain were exported to the West while Ukrainians were dying of starvation. It is believed that approximately 7 million people died as a result of the famine.

Krawchenko said the West remained apathetic to the Ukrainian dilemma while it occurred, and that a similar attitude persists today. "Evidence points out that Western governments had a lot of information concerning the famine but they ignored it," he said, adding "but then who shed a tear for Cambodia?"

The common consensus among organizers of the commemorative events was that publicity is vital to the understanding of the brutalities that occur throughout history. Krawchenko ruled out the possibility of an international tribune undertaking the task of rendering justice to the millions who died. However, he emphasized the importance of publicizing the "historical horror."

Publicity is important because it will highlight yet another case of killing and that should raise public consciousness," he said.

"Any man that does what he (Stalin) did is a pathological something or other, said Krawchenko. The question is how does such a demented person gain so much power?"

Roman Cahute, a member of the York Ukrainian Student Association, was pleased with the success of the events. "Students seem interested in the famine issue. Our articles and pamphlets have been appreciated."

A memorial requiem was held last Monday morning. Also, a Ukrainian exhibit of paintings is available for public scrutiny in the Samuel Zacks Art Gallery in Stong College. Tonight at 7:30 p.m., selected readings from literary works related to the issue will be presented at the University of Toronto—this will be the last event of the series. The readings, titled "My Heart is a Gun," will be in Ukrainian with English translation.

The Great Famine of 1932-33 in the Ukraine:

- Was an entirely man-made, deliberate famine.

- Was a result of Joseph Stalin's drive toward total forced collectivisation, to which the Ukrainian peasant population, traditionally individual landowners, offered greater resistance.

- Millions of tons of grain were shipped out of the Ukraine during 1932-33. The borders were closed, Ukraine was declared out-of-bounds to Western reporters. Gradually the population was reduced to an inhuman struggle for survival—eating leaves, weeds, corn-husks, dogs, cats, horse manure and dead human bodies. In some cases, resisting peasants were arrested and shot or exiled to Siberia.

- A former Soviet official, Victor Krawchenko, wrote, "I saw people dying in solitude by slow degrees, dying hideously . . . They had been trapped and left to starve, each in his home, by a political decision made in a far-off capital around conference and banquet tables."

- Reports of the famine leaked west through the eyewitness accounts of British writer Malcolm Muggeridge, Frenchman Pierr Berland and others (and, since then, by the numerous testimonies of its survivors). Unfortunately, a few prominent Westerners (like American journalist Walter Duranty) repeated the official Soviet state denials of the famine, disparaged its victims and ridiculed their testimonies.

- Major Western governments (especially the British government) were well-informed but turned a blind eye towards the famine. The offers of international relief organizations to assist the starving were rejected by Soviet authorities on the grounds that there was no need, since there was "no famine."

- Final toll: about one-fifth of the entire population in the Ukrainian S.S.R.—over six million people, and as a by-product, the crushing of Ukrainian nationalist resistance to Soviet occupation.

U.S. must disarm: professor

By GISELE WINTON

United States unilateralism is needed in order to reduce the chance of nuclear attack from the Soviet Union, according to professor Douglas Lackey of Baruch College, City University of New York.

Lackey was one of five speakers at the *Deterrence, Disarmament, and Nuclear War* conference at York last Thursday.

He said a disarmed U.S. would leave little reason for a nuclear attack from the U.S.S.R. because "there is no chance of a U.S. first strike and because the Soviets have a need for North American wheat."

He said nuclear deterrence does not serve the common good and "regardless of the consequences, what the U.S. is doing right now is not morally acceptable because it increases the chance of a U.S.S.R. attack and secondly, according to statistical debts, nuclear deterrence is akin to killing Russians in order to serve Americans."

Not only did panelist speaker and York philosophy professor Peter Danielson agree with Lackey, but he also advocated Thomas Hobbes' theory of a world government under one leader.

He argued that the U.S. must "lay down its arms" and relinquish sovereignty so that a Soviet "police state" would come into existence. "The purpose of this being to save

the human species from extinction." He said once under this rule people could resist government.

William Epstein, special fellow of the United Nations, said disarmament can occur if people are educated and mobilized in pressuring parliamentary members for disarmament. "The public should not only continue to rally frequently but to write, telephone and telegram members of parliament, especially at election times," he said.

Epstein proposed a UN satellite that would access them to nuclear information. He said it would allow the UN to carry out crisis management, monitor peace arrangements, and help verify control agreements.

He said the role Canada should play is one of a voice of reason, logic, and morality. "Canada has more clout than most Canadians because Canada could have become a nuclear nation, but it is not."

Other conference speakers included Andre Gombay, philosopher professor at Erindale College, U of T, and Joseph Gonda, a philosophy professor at Glendon College.

Gonda said it will take two or three generations before man will fully understand the power and possibility of nuclear weapons and that the worst feat we could do is to instill fear into our children "because a person living with fear is not clear headed."

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