

Press Conference held in Ottawa on Monday, June 7th, 1971  
following meeting of representatives of Ukrainian-Canadian  
Committee and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

- Press: (to Mr. Jaremovych) "Did you receive any satisfaction from the Prime Minister to the requests contained in your brief?"
- Jaremovych: "I think we can say that we did."
- Press: "In what regard?"
- Jaremovych: "I think we had a very sympathetic discussion."
- Press: "I wonder after giving the brief to the Prime Minister, and hearing his discussion about it, are you still satisfied with his explanation that if he did talk about the Ukraine in discussions with the Russians, that he would be meddling in another countries affairs?"
- Jaremovych: "Now (hesitating) would you repeat that question? (laughter) That's a very long one."
- Press: "Let's try it another way. Could you tell us what commitment or explanation the Prime Minister did give you?"
- Jaremovych: "Well, he explained the circumstances and perhaps some of his statement was distorted."
- Press: "Are you convinced that he, with his explanation, that if he did talk about the Ukraine to the Russians during his last visit, that he would have been meddling in another countries internal affairs?"
- Jaremovych: "I don't know what you can call by meddling, but I think that the statements he made, were not as what was strictly interpreted here."
- Press: "How do you interpret them, then?"
- Jaremovych: "Pardon?"
- Press: "How do you interpret the statements made after having discussed with him today?"
- Jaremovych: "Well I think his statement was quite clear. He was talking about the differences but he was not making a direct comparison."
- Press: "Does he still compare Quebec with Ukraine?"
- Jaremovych: "Pardon?"
- Press: "Does he still compare Quebec as the same status?" (Interrupted by Jaremovych)
- Jaremovych: "No, I don't believe he ever did."

Press: "Were you able to enlighten him on anything?"

Jaremowych: "Pardon?"

Press: "Were you able to enlighten him on any things?"

Jaremowych: "I think he's very interested in learning things."

Press: "What about this other the other aspect of your brief where you where you want the Canadian government to assert more pressure to grant the Ukraine freedom? Did that matter come up for discussion?"

Jaremowych: (hesitating) Now uh, uh we did not demand from him that he press for Ukrainian freedom as directly as such."

Press: "Well it's in your brief."

Jaremowych: "Pardon."

Press: "That's in your brief."

Jaremowych: (stuttering) "Our our our brief is primarily concerned (hesitating) or the Government would take action as far as from the point of view of universal declaration of human rights, and at the same time take action from the standpoint of humanitarian grounds s."

Press: "You asked him to press for a Canadian Embassy to be established in Kiev, what was his response to that?"

Jaremowych: "Well that's a matter that has been discussed going on for, a discussion has been going on for for quite a long time."

Press: "Did you bring up Ukrainian language right in Canada in the meeting this morning?"

Jaremowych: "Pardon?"

Press: "Did you bring up Ukrainian language rights as you put out in your brief?"

Jaremowych: "Well we just submitted the brief. We did not have time enough to discuss those."

Press: "So what are you going to go back and tell the Ukrainian-Canadian Community now?"

Jaremowych: "I think we have established a rapport with the Prime Minister and I think we are going to have other meetings besides."

Press: "In other words, you weren't very angry when you went in there and you're not very angry when you come out?"

Jaremowych: "No, none whatever." (laughter)

Press: "Do you still think that he should have brought this question up in the Ukraine, that he should have talked with Ukrainian officials about the matter of jailed Ukrainian intellectuals, for example?"



Jaremowych: (hesitating) "Well I think that some of those matters perhaps were discussed."

Press: "Does he know who Valentin Moroz is?"

Jaremowych: "He definitely does."

Press: "Does he know why he was imprisoned?"

Jaremowych: "Yes."

Press: "And has he promised to work to get him out?"

Jaremowych: "Pardon?"

Question unanswered

Press: "Did he express any sympathy for Mr. Moroz?"

Jaremowych: "I think I think he's sympathetic to all who are imprisoned."

Press: "Sir, you talked about some of the statements of the Prime Minister being distorted, were they distorted by the news media from what you can tell?"

Jaremowych: "Well (pause) when a person makes a statement sometimes he can get various interpretations from it."

Press: "Do you think maybe the interpretations were misinterpreted by the Ukrainians themselves and not just the news media?"

Jaremowych: "No (mumbling) I'd say, they appeared in press."

Press: "Was there a misinterpretation of the Prime Minister's statement equating Ukrainian Nationalists with the F.L.Q.?"

Jaremowych: (hesitating) "I think there was, unless (hesitating) (finally interrupted)

Press: "What was that misinterpreted?"

Jaremowych: "Pardon?"

Press: "What was that misinterpreted?"

Jaremowych: "Well he said 'if they were like F.L.Q.' but he did not say the Ukrainians are the same as F.L.Q."

Press: "Are there any areas upon which you still strongly disagree?"

Jaremowych: "I wouldn't think so."

Interview with Walter Deacon, MPP

Press: (undecipherable) "told the Ukrainians what they told him?"

Deacon: "Oh I think the Ukrainians had a valid reason for coming down, they they thought the Prime Minister had made a certain statement which apparently he he stated by explaining it to him that it was misinterpreted by the press and the various members of the community."

Press: "Well do you think he was misinterpreted?"

Deacon: "Yes I do I always said he was and I happen to know the situation as it arises in the Ukraine."

Press: "But surely the main criticism arose from his equating Ukrainian Nationalists with the F.L.Q., and that was a direct quote played on the radio, those were the Prime Minister's own words."

Deacon: "This is precisely where the misrepresentation took place. First of all he felt, this is the intent of the statement made, he felt that by bringing up a direct confrontation on this particular matter no good would be derived for anyone concerned, and he did not equate he was afraid that if he had he done this to that the F.L.Q. issue would have been brought as a counter as a counter charge."

Press: "Sir did you have a letter that you promised the students that you were going to bring up the question, What role was your role in the Ukraine?"

Deacon: "I didn't, I had a bunch of letters sent to me quite a number of letters about 200 I would say not from specifically students from members of the community requesting me to raise the issue of Valentin Moroz which I did."

Press: "Did you write a letter that you promised that the subject would be brought up by the Prime Minister?"

Deacon: "Oh I can't guarantee that the subject would be brought up by the Prime Minister I could bring it to his attention, but I can assure you that I brought it up and that's all I'm concerned about."

Press: "Can you tell us what the Prime Minister's reaction was to those sections of the brief today that applied to Ukrainian cultural and language rights in the Soviet Union, and (interrupted by Deacon)"

Deacon: "Well, he was certainly sympathetic to the language rights, but as he stated on many occasions as far as he was concerned he didn't want to meddle in the internal affairs of another nation just as he would not want any other nation to meddle in in the French issue we have presently here."

Press: "Was the delegation satisfied with that explanation?"

Deacon: "Well you'll have to ask the delegation I think they were, but you would have to ask them."



At this point an unidentified person stated, "This gentleman would like to make a statement." The unidentified person was referring to Robert Maksymec member of the delegation.

**Maksymec:** "I am president of the Ukrainian - Canadian Committee of Toronto and I would like to make a statement on this issue. Firstly, we have come to see the Prime Minister to get his clarification on the stand he took in the Soviet Union and on the subsequent trip back to Canada. Now we have come to the Prime Minister to protest his attitude and secondly to make a number of demands. And thirdly the Prime Minister was good enough to consent to open up and permit us to discuss constitutional issues and issues of multi-culturalism. Now I must say this to you that the Prime Minister apologized to the Ukrainian - Canadian Committee to our Ukrainian Canadians on what he said. And he said that he did not mean what actually came out. So we are very happy that this apology did come from the Prime Minister and I am sorry that the person who discussed this issue with you just prior to this did not mention this so I want to make this clear. As far as other issues are concerned the Prime Minister obtained a brief from us and this is the brief that we gave to the Prime Minister on the question of Ukraine and other matters. This brief is now with the Prime Minister and his assistants and he consented that he will study the issue and that he would like to be in touch with us again to discuss them further. He pointed out that he is not in a position to interfere in the affairs of another state and we appreciate his position, however, we asked him unequivocally, we asked him very very strongly as Ukrainian Canadians, and he is our Prime Minister to intervene on humanitarian grounds and we have told him that there are many intellectuals in Ukraine and in fact in other countries of the Soviet Union who are imprisoned wrongly unconstitutionally in kangaroo courts and we've asked him to intervene, purely on humanitarian grounds."

**Press:** "Did he say he would do that?"

**Maksymec:** "He said that he would as time goes on, participate in intervention on humanitarian grounds but humanitarian grounds only. But it is very difficult for him to do it on any other grounds. So this is the concession that we did take from him and in fact we're happy that this did take place."

Next follows press interview with Prime Minister Pierre

Trudeau.

Press: "They also declared that you were misquoted, they said you were misquoted."

Press: (female <sup>interviewer</sup> interpreter) "Did you say you were misinformed?" "Did you have a misunderstanding of the Ukraine (not very clear) when you went to the Soviet Union?"

Trudeau: <sup>subtleties</sup> "Not misinformed, but certainly I wouldn't claim to know all the subtle subtleties of the Ukrainian nationalism or of any other nationalism for that matter, except perhaps French-Canadian nationalism."

Press: "Do you know it now?"

Trudeau: "Pardon?"

Press: "Do you know it now?"

Trudeau: "No I think we agreed that there before they would be able to enlighten me on their feelings I think, I don't think they all agree themselves on the aims of Ukrainian nationalism, but certainly we agreed that I would have to have further meetings with them if we were going to pursue this subject."

Press: "Sir what did you tell the delegation about this controversial issue of comparing Ukraine the nationals with the F.L.Q.?"

Trudeau: "Well I told them I was sorry if I hurt their feelings but I was rather sure that their feelings had been hurt by people who misrepresented what I said, rather than what I said in fact and I read to them excerpts from my press statements and I think they're quite different from what they thought I said so on this ground I don't like to hurt peoples' feelings but of course I can't be blamed for people who twist my words, what I did explain to them was it is, well I read the quotes that I had said to you people of the press that I wasn't comparing the two countries that democracy in the Ukraine wasn't comparable to the democracy in Canada that any attempt to compare them was misleading and therefore there was attempt to put the F.L.Q. on a parallel with Ukrainian nationalists."

Press: "Do you intend to help out in any way in getting the jailed intellectuals out of jail?"

Trudeau: "What I told them is that unless on this and any other <sup>light</sup> like cases our only chance of making any progress was appealing on humanitarian basis and not demanding as of right or as by the constitution of the U. S. S. R. because the answer that would be that they are able to apply their laws without any help from us and I pointed out to them that this was a normal reaction we could expect from the Soviet Union the same way as we tell other countries who mix into our constitutional and legal problems to stay out of it as we can do it ourselves, therefore if there is any chance of making any progress on this it will be by making an appeal on humanitarian basis and I explained to them that I had made such appeals on on reunification of families which concern a great many