

# Ukrainians indict Reds

UN will hear about Moscow's imperialism, reports DOREEN KING

NEW YORK

PLANS ARE now being made to bring a question of national self-determination before the United Nations this year.

But the colonial power involved will not be the U.S., Britain, France, Portugal or any other nation usually criticized for so-called neo-colonialism.

Soviet Russia, it is planned, will be attacked for her continuing refusal to allow independence for the Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee (UCC), representing 2,000,000 Ukrainian-Americans, hopes to arouse the sympathetic interest and support of the emerging nations of Africa and Asia in the plight of the Ukraine, a nation larger than France and with a population of 43,000,000.

Mr. George Drance of the Ukrainian Congress Committee, said in an interview—held just prior to Ukrainian Independence Day, Jan. 22 — that his organization is eager to dispel the erroneous belief that the Ukraine is a part of Russia.

The Ukrainian people, he stressed, have a distinctively different language and culture, both of which have been and are still being eroded under Russian rule.

He charged that although Russia pays lip service to the Ukraine's national identity, in fact the Ukrainian Catholic Church is persecuted, Ukrainians are not able to advance



**Soviet President Podgorny  
... a Ukrainian quisling?**

in any field unless they speak Russian, and stringent travel restrictions still apply.

Mr. Drance pointed out that Ukrainian history goes back more than a thousand years. In 1709, Czar Peter I occupied the Ukraine and tried to turn the country into a province of Russia. In 1917, when the Russian revolution broke out, the Ukrainian people seized the opportunity to gain their freedom. An in-

dependent Ukrainian National Republic was proclaimed on January 22, 1918. But the fledgling republic was attacked immediately by communist Russia and after three years of bitter fighting Russian overlordship was imposed again.

During the Second World War, Ukrainian partisans fought both the invading Germans and the Red Army. Guerrilla groups continued their struggle into the post-war years. The last organized armed opposition to Russian rule was crushed in 1947.

Today the Ukraine is technically a separate republic of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Mr. Drance explained that a body of opinion among the campaigners for Ukrainian independence holds that if even a greater measure of Ukrainian autonomy within the framework of the U.S.S.R. could be achieved it would be well worthwhile.

Mr. Drance compared the current and traditional status of the Ukraine to Ireland's position in relation to England.

He also felt that Ukrainian identity within Russia is being crushed in the same way Jewish culture and religion are held down by Moscow.

He expressed the hope that the Ukrainian Congress Committee will be able to co-operate with the American Jewish community against what he termed "the common oppressor."

North American Newspaper Alliance

*Edmonton Journal Jan 25, 1966*