

PM John Diefenbaker: A strong voice at the UN for the “Captive Nations” bloc

For more 30 years the profascist Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations (ABN) lionized John Diefenbaker for sharing their hatred of the so-called “Soviet imperium.” ABN praise for Diefenbaker was repeatedly expressed in *ABN Correspondence*, the world’s leading propaganda organ for the Ukrainian cult of Nazi collaborator, Stepan Bandera. At least two dozen of its articles over a 36-year period, hailed Dief as a heroic Cold Warrior.¹ The ABN was especially grateful for his use of Canada’s platform at the UN for an fiery speech in 1960, during his time as Prime Minister (1957-63).

As Global Affairs Canada says when proudly recounting its own history: “At the United Nations, the initiative closest to ... Prime Minister [Diefenbaker’s] heart was ... denouncing Soviet imperialism.”²

Upon his death in 1979, *ABN Correspondence* exalted Diefenbaker on its cover as “The Greatest Champion of Freedom and Independence” and called him the highest-ranking government official in the West to publicly support the independence of Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and other subjugated nations in the USSR and satellite countries... He entered into the history of nations subjugated by Russian Imperialism and Communism as the most outstanding defender of their independence and supporter of their liberation struggle.³

The ABN magazine’s cover used a smiling photo of Diefenbaker which he



John George Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada from June 21 1957 to April 9, 1963, and the highest-ranking government official in the West to publicly support the independence of Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and other subjugated nations in the USSR and satellite countries, and at the age of 63, on August 20, 1979. He entered into the history of nations subjugated by Russian Imperialism and Communism as the most outstanding defender of their independence and supporter of their liberation struggle.

signed for Slava Stetsko, its longtime editor (1957-96). She took on her husband’s role as ABN president (1986-96), presidium member of the World AntiCommunist League and president of the Banderite Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists in 1991.⁴

In 1992 Slava gave the keynote address to the ABN’s global congress, held in Toronto. She boasted that the “ABN had been able to establish working relations with various world leaders.” After citing US presidents Reagan and Nixon, and vice-pres. Bush Sr., she listed a who’s who of notorious US-backed despots and war criminals with whom the ABN had worked. The pathologically anticommunist tyrants cited by Stetsko included Ngo Dinh Diem and Nguy-

The Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations (ABN) exalted Diefenbaker as “**The Greatest Champion of Freedom and Independence.**” The Ukrainian-led ABN evolved from a Nazi network of East European armies into a proNATO alliance of the CIA-backed “Captive Nations” movement. The ABN lionized Dief for denouncing “Soviet Imperialism,” especially in his inflammatory UN speech in 1960. That diatribe cemented Canada’s role as a firm ally of the US, NATO and East European émigré groups with fascist roots.

en Van Tieu (South Vietnam), Ferdinand Marcos (Philippines), Rhee Syngman (South Korea), Francisco Franco (Spain), Chiang Kai-shek (Taiwan), Narong Kittikachorn (Thailand) and Nobusuke Kishi (Japan). To these far-right ABN allies, Stetsko added a few NATO leaders, including Diefenbaker.⁵

Putting the Tory in inflammatory at the UN

A climax in Dief’s “working relations” with the ABN was his UN speech, Sept. 26, 1960. In August, Diefenbaker met leaders of the ABN-linked Baltic Federation of Canada (BFC) who asked him to use the UN to denounce the USSR. The BFC is made up of the Estonian Central Council (ECC) in Canada (pp.32-33), the Latvian National Federation in Canada (pp.38-39) and the Lithuanian-Canadian Community (pp.34-37). Its 1960 delegation included ECC vice pres. Aksel Luitsalu, a former police chief in Nazi Estonia and senior officer of Estonia’s SS.

Diefenbaker saw eye to eye with the antiSoviet BFC and was glad to decry the USSR, especially after its anti-Imperialist declaration at the UN on Sept. 23. When this Soviet resolution on “Granting Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples”⁶ came before the UN in December,⁷ it was supported by the Non-Aligned Movement and 89 UN member states voted in favour. While no countries voted against the USSR’s milestone declaration, nine abstained. All colonial powers⁸ except one, the Dominican Republic, ruled by a US-backed military dictator, Rafael Trujillo, since 1930.

American historian Mary Heiss cites declassified US government telegrams to show that its officials conspired to undercut Khrushchev’s declaration, [by] depicting the Soviet Union itself as a colonial power. “Inasmuch as there will be [a] clear majority in [the UN] for any statement condemning colonialism,” Sec.

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her father’s far-right legacy through work as a US diplomat and policy maker in the administrations of five presidents and in key roles with the National Security Council, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission, Atlantic Council, Freedom House, Thomson Reuters, American University in Afghanistan and the National Endowment for Democracy.

References and notes

1. See this search of *ABN Correspondence* bit.ly/ABN-captive
2. *WACL Bulletin*, Sum. 1973. bit.ly/WACL73-2
3. “The National Committee for Free Europe, 1949,” May 29, 2007. bit.ly/CIA-NCFE
4. John Prados, *Safe for Democracy: The Secret Wars of the CIA*, 2006. bit.ly/CIAsaws
5. Christopher Simpson, *Blowback: America’s Recruitment of Nazis and its Destructive Impact on our Domestic and Foreign Policy*, 1988. p.126.
6. *Ibid.*, p.268.
7. Public Law 86-90 “Captive Nations Week” bit.ly/PL86-90
8. Edward Lozansky, “Some Notes on the Discussion of the Captive Nations Resolution at the Russian Academy of Sciences,” July 15, 2008. bit.ly/FictiveCNS

9. Simpson, *op. cit.*, pp.274-75.
10. *Ibid.*
11. *ABN Correspondence*, Sept-Oct. 1960, p.2. bit.ly/NCNCgoal
12. *ABN Correspondence*, Jan.-Feb. 1969, p.2. bit.ly/WACL-69
13. Moss Robeson, “Is Paula Dobriansky a Neo-Banderite?” *Covert Action*, July 4, 2018. bit.ly/CA-Dobriansky
14. *Ukrainian Observer*, Jan.-Feb. 1952, p.15. bit.ly/Dobriansky-1952
15. *Ukrainian Review*, 1954, p.72. bit.ly/Dob54
16. *ABN Correspondence*, Mar.-April 1982, p.33-35. bit.ly/Dobriansky-1982
17. *Ukrainian Observer* (Jan-Feb 1952, p.15); *Ukrainian Review* (Winter 1954, p.72; Fall 1959, pp.94-95; Spring 1964, pp.14-16); *ABN Correspondence* (Mar-Apr 1957, p.14; Sep-Oct 1960, p.2; Jan-Feb 1960, p.16; Mar-Apr 1962, p.3; May-Jun 1962, p.32; Mar-Apr 1966, p.37; Nov-Dec 1966, p.5; Jul-Aug 1968, p.13; Jan-Feb 1969, pp.2,4,27; May-Jun 1970, pp.12-16; Jan-Feb 1979, p.43; Mar-Apr 1982, p.40; Jul-Oct 1982, pp.33, 58-62, 87-90; Sep-Oct 1990, p.19.) bit.ly/ABNcor
18. George W. Bush, “Remarks at the Victims of Communism Memorial Dedication,” June 12, 2007. bit.ly/GWBanticom



Since 2012, Ukraine, Canada and the US were the only countries that voted **“NO”** to a UN resolution to oppose the **Glorification of Nazism**.

The Russian-led motion opposes pro-Nazi monuments, place names and events that help to fuel **“racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.”**

of State Christian Herter advised the US delegation to the UN, “[the] best course we can follow is to seek [to] turn [the] declaration against [the] Soviets themselves by portraying them in true colonialist colors.”⁹

“It [was] important,” said the US

State Department, to “secure as much support as possible...for [the] proposition that [the] USSR remain[ed] a major colonial power.” To do this, the US supplied UN delegations with propaganda materials, particularly on the Baltics and Central Asia.¹⁰

In his speech, Diefenbaker said Soviet opposition to colonialism had turned the UN into a “circus.” With its “gigantic propaganda drama of destructive misrepresentation,” he said, the USSR had “launched a major offensive in the cold war.” Denying what he called Soviet “propaganda that the United States has aggressive designs,” he called the US “restrained,” “wise” and “conciliatory.” The US, Dief claimed, offered “a constructive programme” to attain a “world community of peace,” “international conciliation and world fellowship.” In contrast, he alleged that “the Soviet Union now seems bent on destroying the United Nations.”¹¹

After giving the Canadian government’s view that the USSR was the world’s worst imperial power, Diefenbaker gloated that “600 million people” had “attained their freedom” since WWII thanks to the benevolent “approval,” “encouragement” and “guidance” of France and Britain.¹² To glorify these imperial allies, Dief had to ignore the mass murder they caused when suppressing struggles for independence in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. In the Indochina alone (1946-54), where 94,000 French Union forces died, France is thought to have killed 500,000 Viet-Minh independence fighters and 250,000 Vietnamese civilians.¹³



The image above shows the top of a 3-metre tall monument with the symbol of the Nazi’s Waffen SS ‘Galicia’. In July 2020, when painted with the words “Nazi War Monument,” police labelled this graffiti as a hate crime.

Overlooking all this, Diefenbaker asked “how many human beings have been liberated by the USSR?” and “What of Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia? What of the freedom-loving Ukrainians and many other Eastern European peoples...?”¹⁴ Ignoring the Holocaust and the Nazi devastation of the USSR, Dief’s hyperbole discounted the Soviet defeat of Nazism across eastern Europe. Admittedly though, the ethnofascists of these lands, and their pro-Nazi armies, which formed the ABN in 1943, had not wanted freedom from fascism. Having greeted German troops as their liberators in 1941, these “freedom-loving” East Europeans later fled their homelands *en masse* to avoid their “Judeo-Bolshevik” enemies. Finding safe haven in Nazi Germany, some 160,000 East Europeans were soon embraced by Canada, which had its own antisemitic/anticommunist elites.

Diefenbaker’s UN lecture extolled Canada. “[T]here are few that can speak with the authority of Canada on the subject of colonialism,” he declared, “for Canada was once a colony of both France and the United Kingdom.” In bragging about Canada’s “constitutional processes,”¹⁵ Dief’s proud narrative denied the deliberate eradication of First Nations’ cultures, as well as the genocide and land plunder upon which Canada is based.¹⁶ Little did he know that Canada’s Indian residential schools would continue to operate for another 36 years, until 1996.

Diefenbaker’s self-congratulatory speech raised the ire of Soviet nations. For example, Nikolai Podgorny, leader of the

These monuments are among several in Canada glorifying Ukrainian armies that killed Jews, Russians, Poles, Ukrainian Reds, antifascist partisans and Soviet soldiers. Canada’s Liberals gave safe haven to thousands of veterans of these fascist armies, and still fund groups that represent tens of thousands of their loyal supporters.



St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Cemetery, Oakville, Ontario

This cenotaph honours Stepan Bandera’s fascist Ukrainian Insurgent Army and its many veterans who came to Canada.

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, said:

If Mr. Diefenbaker is really anxious to “take care” of the peoples and to “liberate” them from the political domination of other Powers, he need not go very far. His own country could become a good field for precisely such activities.¹⁷

Canadian Duplicity & Hypocrisy

Since WWII, the Western world—led by America’s overtly-racist, apartheid government—had overthrown many progressive, popular leaders around the world. In their place, violent far-right dictatorships were being installed and armed, with Canada’s help.

For example in 1960, UN peacekeepers from Canada were aiding a vicious regime change in Africa. But Diefenbaker’s UN speech painted a rosy picture of the UN mission in the Congo (ONUC). A crisis had been sparked by the secession of Congo’s mineral-rich Katanga region. Just 12 days before Diefenbaker’s UN speech, a US-backed coup ousted Patrice Lumumba, the first elected leader of the formerly enslaved masses of this once-captive Belgian colony.

Larry Devlin, the CIA station chief in Congo, has written that Congo was then “on the front line of the struggle between the US and the USSR.” The CIA was there to “defeat” the “threat of communism,” said Devlin, who also admitted that one of his tasks was to have Lumumba assassinated.¹⁸

After CIA asset, army chief Joseph Mobutu, seized power, he ruled a US-backed kleptocracy until 1997. His regime was supported by the mass media’s use of Cold War hatred to frame Lumumba as a Soviet pawn