

'SECRET DIARY OF SIMON PETLIURA' NEARING COMPLETION

As a co-producer of "The Secret Diary of Simon Petliura", UCCA is pleased to announce that the feature film is almost complete. The film is expected to be released this year – on the 100th anniversary of Ukraine's struggle for independence following the Russian Revolution of 1917 (1918–1921).



A LETTER FROM THE FILM'S DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER, OLES YANCHUK

Dear friends, Dear ladies and gentlemen!

First of all, I would like to acknowledge all those who personally supported our film project by making a financial contribution. I want to sincerely thank you for your careful attitude, because it was this help that was of tremendous value to us!

The production of the "Secret Diary of Simon Petliura" is in its final stages – we are now editing the sound and adding music and I hope to have it released in theaters this April.

This project was a very difficult one for us. Firstly, there were financial issues, due to the fact that the state only supported it by 50%. According to the State Committee of Ukraine, the rest of the funds had to be organized from other, alternative sources. It is here that I would like to emphasize that it was UCCA that was this main source of alternative funding! From the Ukrainian side, besides the state, Dovzhenko's studio itself invested in the production with its fixed assets, including: shooting pavilions, equipment, costumes, transport, weapons, various requisites, and this is not enough to be in general 24,000,000.00 UAH, that is, it is 50% of the budget of the film.

Unfortunately, I was unsuccessful in appealing to Ukrainian businessmen and bankers (who complained that the times in Ukraine today are not patronizing) became my support. Although in the city of Lviv, where we were partly filming last summer, there were good people who could help. Thus, the head of the Lviv Regional Court of Appeal, Mr. Petro Kablak, granted permission and assistance to free-fetch the longest episode of the film "The trial of Petliura's murderer Samuel Schwartzbard" in one of the courtrooms. The owner of the old mill in Zhytomyr, Mr. Vasyl Gerashchenko, also provided support in filming one of the episodes on the territory of this mill.

I am pleased with how we managed to reproduce the epoch of the beginning of the 20th century both in France and in Ukraine. How well the actors acted in the movie, because the actors' performances on those or other roles lasted 6 months. We had 5 candidates for the role of Petliura, but chose the obviously best actor Sergei Frolov.

Now, unfortunately, the only problem that remains urgent is the lack of funds from the non-state party. We need another 1,500,000.00 UAH or \$ 55,555.00.

I appeal to all who can support us financially.

Now we are printing a memorable advertising calendar about our film, which will be relevant for the next two years - 2018 and 2019. We will send a personal copy to each donator, and those who donated \$ 1,000.00 or more will receive personalized thanks in the list of donors on this calendar. Those who can support our film by donating \$5,000 or more will receive a personal credit of gratitude in the film's titles.

So it happened that our common film goes to film rental in the year of the celebration 100th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Revolution. This film will reveal to many in our modern world the truth about the short time of independence of the Ukrainian People's Republic, about the planned, Bolshevik Moscow, the destruction in 1926 in Paris, the Chief Ataman of the Army of the UPR and the Chairman of the Government of the UNR in the exile of Simon Petliura, about our heroic past which is still not over

Thank you all for your cooperation!

Sincerely, Oles Yanchuk, film director, producer,
Director General of the National Film Studio
the name of O. Dovzhenko

2018 UKRAINIAN NATIONAL FUND APPEAL

For 78 years, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) has represented the interests of the Ukrainian American community and worked to ensure that Ukraine becomes an independent, democratic and equal partner within the family of Euro-Atlantic nations.

These past four years, with Moscow's continued illegal occupation of Crimea, its military invasion of/aggression in Donbas, and its rapid rise as a regional aggressor, UCCA is stepping up its efforts to address the continuing national security threats Russia poses not just to Ukraine, but to the stabilizing transnational security framework that emerged following WWII.

IN AN EFFORT ADDRESS THESE AND MANY OTHER ISSUES, 2018 PROMISES TO BE A VERY BUSY YEAR FOR UCCA.

To counter Russia's trend of dismantling the post-war order, and to support Ukraine's efforts to secure its independence and defend its territorial integrity, the UCCA is planning many events, including:

- A series of "Ukrainian Days" advocacy events on Capitol Hill;
- Co-sponsoring various timely conferences and forums;
- Holding a variety of community events with visitors from Ukraine; and
- Continue strengthening our coalition of support, by building alliances with various ethnic groups to advance issues of common concern.

To mark important events within the life of our vibrant Ukrainian community and the Ukrainian nation, the UCCA has designs to:

- Honorably commemorate the culmination of the 85th anniversary year of the Holodomor;
- Support the 100th anniversary of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus.

To unify and revitalize our community, UCCA would like to:

- Visit various communities throughout the United States to coordinate activities and inform them of UCCA's work;
- Support the efforts of various member-organizations in their vital work;
- Implement a user-friendly website where community members can obtain up-to-date information on timely issues;
- Conduct regional seminars on effective advocacy; and,
- Strengthen our strategic communications and advocacy by using social media to spread our message and gain support for UCCA's initiatives.

The work of the UCCA is almost entirely dependent on the generosity of its members. None of the above-mentioned plans can be accomplished, without the necessary moral and financial support of those who contribute annually to the Ukrainian National Fund (UNF). Therefore, UCCA is turning to its members and friends to donate generously to the UNF. The success of this organization, and thereby, the success of the Ukrainian American community to protect its interests and voice its opinions has always been and will continue to be in the hands of its dedicated and patriotic membership and friends. Thank you!

All donations to the UCCA and its Ukrainian National Fund are tax deductible, and may be submitted through your local UCCA Branch or directly to the UCCA National Office at:

UCCA, 203 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10003

UCCA PRESIDENT HOLDS MEETINGS IN KYIV, UKRAINE

During the week of February 19th, UCCA President, Andriy Futey, held a series of meetings in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv.

Meeting with the President's Foreign Policy Advisor, Kostyantyn Yeliseiev, Futey discussed various issues including the most recent US-Ukraine developments, the President's meetings while at the Munich Security Conference with a Senate delegation and with Sec. of State Tillerson, the \$1 billion, 7 year deal between the US company General Electric and Ukrazaliznytsia to provide for the purchase of over 200 locomotives, further discussions with the US Government regarding a US-Ukraine Security Agreement and the upcoming UCCA - UNIS Ukrainian Days in early March.

With the Minister of Education, Liliya Hrynewycz, he discussed the need for Ukrainian textbooks and for a closer cooperation with the UCCA Shkilna Rada. The Ministry offered online versions several textbooks and is currently working on an implementation of a new curriculum for the fall of 2018. Futey agreed that he would make the proper introductions between Shkilna Rada and the staff at the Ministry of Education. The Minister also expressed an interest in visiting our communities and our schools.

During his meeting with Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko, he spoke about need to bring to justice those responsible for tragic deaths of the Heavenly Hundred and voiced the concerns of the families of those who perished. A few days later, Lutsenko and his staff meet with representatives of the families.

In meeting with MP Yulia Tymoshenko, Futey discussed the current social, economic and political situation in Ukraine, her visits with members of Congress and the Administration a week prior, and US - Ukraine relations. Of significant importance was the continued illegal annexation of Crimea and the ongoing war in Donbas. Talks also included the ongoing efforts to fight corruption and the possible formation of an anti-corruption court. MP Tymoshenko thanked UCCA in particular for its united efforts with members of the US Congress, Senate and Administration.

Acting Minister of Health Dr. Ulana Suprun discussed the current implementation of the medical reforms passed by the Parliament of Ukraine and the seriousness of efforts to derail the process. Futey noted that it was troubling to hear that various interested parties are working to derail the reforms and changes being instituted by the Minister.

Futey also appeared on a live broadcast of ukrlife.tv hosted by Luidmila Nemyria and discussed the role of UCCA and the united efforts of the Ukrainian-American community to help support Ukraine; and held a brief meeting with former President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk to get his perspective on the current situation in Ukraine.

Futey also visited and paid respects to the Nebesnia Sotnia memorial during the solemn anniversary of the tragic events.