



City of Pittsburgh

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Text File

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WHEREAS, 75 years ago, under the leadership of Joseph Stalin, the Soviet regime committed an act of genocide against the Ukrainian nation by using food as a weapon and systematically murdering up to 10 million innocent men, women and children. In sheer numbers, this genocidal tragedy ranks among the worst cases of man's inhumanity towards man, and is perhaps the most extreme example of the use of food as a weapon; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of recently released KGB archival documents reveal the Soviet government's ruthless plans to murder millions of Ukrainians as a result of a calculated inhuman policy designed to punish Ukrainians for their resistance and opposition to the Soviet Union's political and economic oppression; and

WHEREAS, even at its height when the Famine Genocide claimed the lives of 17 people per minute, or 25,000 victims per day, the Soviet government denied the existence of this Genocide, rejected all offers of external aid and continued to conceal the evidence of this massacre; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress' Commission the Ukraine Famine confirmed that the government of the former Soviet Union in 1932-1933 consciously used the brutal policy of forced famine to repress the Ukrainian people, and concluded in 1988 that "Joseph Stalin and those around him committed genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-1933 , and

WHEREAS, Ukraine's Parliament on November 28, 2006, adopted a bill recognizing the Soviet - era forced famine-known in Ukraine as Holodomor or Death by Starvation - as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people, resulting in the murder of almost one-third of its population at the time

WHEREAS, government bodies of dozens of countries in their official documents and resolutions have recognized and acknowledged the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 as Genocide; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh condemns all atrocities, crimes against humanity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tuesday, May 27, 2008 is declared 'UKRAINIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY' in the City of Pittsburgh.