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## SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF MYKYTA BURA IN THE AGE OF THE SECOND POLISH REPUBLIC

### Abstract

The article analyzes the social and political activity of the native of Rivne region, First World War veteran, Mykyta Bura, the cultural and educational aspects of his work, kinds of effort to the Ukrainization of the Orthodox Church of Poland. It was proved that in the first half of the 1920's teacher M. Bura was involved in the development of Prosvita and Volyn co-operation, and received the first experience of work in the organs of the municipality and the district self-government. In the 1930's, sharing the idea of Ukrainian-Polish coexistence, he became one of the organizers of the Volyn Ukrainian Association, "Ridna Hata", developed the "Prosvita's Hut" network, worked in the "Metropolitan Petro Mohyla Society", "Ukrainian School", Goryn sports club, was elected to the Polish Sejm three times. Arrested and imprisoned by Soviet extrajudicial bodies in 1939. Was released as a Polish citizen and entered the Anders' Army. After the war, he emigrated to Great Britain, and later to Canada.

**Keywords:** Mykyta Bura, public activity, Ambassador, Volyn Province, Second Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Volyn Ukrainian Association, Anders' Army, emigration

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## DZIAŁALNOŚĆ SPOŁECZNO-POLITYCZNA MYKYTY BURY W WARUNKACH II RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ

### Abstrakt

W artykule przeanalizowano działalność społeczno-polityczną urodzonego w obwodzie rówieńskim uczestnika pierwszej wojny światowej Mykyty Bury, wyjaśniono kulturowe oraz edukacyjne aspekty jego działalności, formy jego walki o ukrainizację Kościoła Prawosławnego w Polsce.

Udowodniono, iż w pierwszej połowie lat dwudziestych pracujący jako nauczyciel M. Bura dołączył do rozwoju organizacji „Proswita” oraz spółdzielczości na Wołyniu, a także pracował w samorządach gminnych i powiatowych. W latach trzydziestych, podzielał ideę ukraińsko-polskiego współistnienia, został jednym z organizatorów Wołyńskiego Związku Ukraińskiego, „Ojczyściej Chaty” („Ridna Chata”), poszerzał sieć „Oświeceniowych Chat” („Proswitiańska Chata”), pracował w Towarzystwie im. Metropolity Petra Mohyły, „Szkołe Ukraińskiej”, klubie sportowym „Horyń”, trzy razy był posłem na Sejm polski. Aresztowany i uwięziony przez radzieckie organy pozasądowe w 1939 r. Jako polski obywatel został wypuszczony z więzienia i dołączył do armii generała Andersa. Po zakończeniu wojny wyemigrował do Wielkiej Brytanii, później do Kanady.

**Słowa kluczowe:** Mykyta Bura, działalność społeczna, ambasador, wołyńskie województwo, Druga Rzeczpospolita, Wołyński Związek Ukraiński, armia Andersa, emigracja

### INTRODUCTION

The process of state-building of Ukraine contributes to the expansion of the boundaries of historical research, the development of such areas as biography studies, biographical historiography, prosopography, etc., that is, those aimed at the personification and embodiment of the world and Ukrainian historical process. Studies devoted to biographies of regional public figures, studying their organizational and political activity, have significant place in this context. It is important to recreate the socio-psychological atmosphere, peculiar and unique microsocium, which formed a personality.

Mykyta Bura was born on March 18, 1896 in the Ukrainian peasant family of Ivan Pavlovykh and Anastasia Vasylyvna in the village of Velykyi Oleksyn of the Rivne district, which was part of the Volyn province of the Russian Empire at that time. The family raised nine children: four boys (Trokhim, Pavel, Mykyta and Vasil) and five girls (Sofia, Maria, Hanna, Alexander, Stepanyda) (Держархів Рівненської обл. м, 11).

Mykyta Bura attained the age of majority at the beginning of the Great War, so he was enlisted to the Royal Army. In the rank of the noncommissioned officer, he served in the First diesel locomotive battalion since 1915, from where he was demobilized (Держархів Рівненської обл. м, 9 зв.). There is information about his service in the Red Army (Stawecki 1997, 207), but we did not find a documentary evidence of this. If that were the case, then after his arrest, M. Bura could use it to alleviate his situation, but there is no such information in the archival-criminal file (Держархів Рівненської обл. м).

### 1. ACTIVITIES IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 20'S

Mykyta Bura formed his public activity and political orientations at the interwar period, when the territory of Western Volyn became part of the Second Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth after the Riga Treaty of 1921.

Being educated in a four-grade higher elementary school and two-year pedagogical courses, from 1921 to 1924 M. Bura was a teacher in the villages of Mylostiv and Velykyi Oleksyn. After he got married, he lived in the village of Gorodok near Rivne and was engaged in agriculture: he had 10 dessiatinas of land (about 12 hectares), a house, two cows, farm buildings, and a cultivator. In addition, he used an apiary from five hives (Держархів Рівненської обл. м, 9-10). Together with his wife, Olga Vikentyiyivna, he raised children: a daughter Clavdia, born 1921, and two sons: Paul, born in 1925, a student of the Rivne private Ukrainian gymnasium, and Nicholas, born in 1923, who at the beginning of the World War II lived in Canada with his uncle Vasil Bura (Держархів Рівненської обл. м, 5).

In the 20's of the twentieth century, the cultural and educational movement of the Ukrainian people of Western Volyn was consolidated around Prosvita unions, which revived and developed all branches of national life. Prosvita in Rivne originated in 1917 at the initiative of Fedor Sumnevych, a former member of the Ukrainian Tsentralna Rada (UTR), but military conditions made it difficult to establish a sustainable cultural and educational work. In addition, the Polish authorities allowed the registration of the Charter of the Prosvita in Rivne only on April 10, 1920 (Держархів Львівської обл., 1 зв.). It is natural that the young teacher M. Bura joined the region's educational life. On July 24, 1921, the General Meeting elected the Union's board, which included teacher Oleksandr Lomakin (chairman), Stepan Rutsky, Mykhailo Ilonter, Anton Nyvynsky, employee of the cooperative union, Mykyta Bura, Velykyi Oleksyn village teacher (Держархів Рівненської обл. б, 11).

In addition to participating in educational work, since 1922 M. Bura began working in the organs of the municipality and the district self-government, was a municipality councilor, and in 1923 became a wojt of the Rivne municipality. As a member of the Rivne district Sejmik, he was elected to the district school board, was a member of the commissions of public welfare and library. At the Sejmik library commission, he worked with Antony Germashevsky and others. (Справозданя з діяльності Повітового Виділу Рівненського Сеймику 1923, 4).

In the first half of the 1920's, the Ukrainian People's Party (Independent Socialists) (UPP (IS)) launched the activity in the Rivne district, led by Volodymyr Oskilko, former commander of the North group of the Army of Ukrainian People's Republic, who in April 1919 plotted a rebellion against Symon Petliura in Rivne. After V. Oskilko was killed by the Bolshevik agents, whose curator Zinoviy Luniov (Mints), was the employee of the Foreign Department of the Counterintelligence Department of the State Political Administration of USSR, the party and its structures began to degenerate. Among other things, V. Oskilko's party members lost their influence on the policy of "Volynsky Selyansky Korporatyvny Bank"

(“Volyn Peasant Cooperative Bank”) in Rivne. On October 24, 1927, the inspector of the Revision Union of Ukrainian Cooperatives (RSUC) conducted a bank audit and took control of it. A political emigrant Vasyl Sochynsky became the new Chairman of the Board, and Mykyta Bura, along with Mikhailo Gutsulyak, Anton Kenterzhinsky, Ivan Obolonsky, entered the Supervisory Board (Держархів Рівненської обл. ф, 175). Thus, in the first half of the 1920’s, the teacher M. Bura was involved in educational and cooperative work, got the first working experience in self-government bodies.

## 2. AMBASSADOR TO THE SEJM, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE VUA

After the revolution of May 1926 and regaining power by Y. Pilsudski, in the framework of National Policy of State Assimilation, the attitude towards Ukrainians, in particular to political emigrants, Poland’s former allies under the Warsaw Treaty of 1920, has been mitigated. At that time, Ukrainians more often received positions in self-governing bodies, became ambassadors and senators. In 1927-1932 M. Bura was re-elected as wojt of the Rivne municipality, worked in local administration, was a delegate to the Voivodship Council and adviser to the Volyn Rangeland Chamber (Чолові українські кандидати 1938, 2). In 1930, he became one of the six Ukrainian ambassadors of the Non-Party Bloc of Cooperation with the Government (Bezpartyjny Blok Współpracy z Rządem – BBWR) from the Volyn Voivodship. The task of the BBWR, formed in November 1927, was to support the rehabilitation policy and ensure the parliamentary majority. Petro Pevny, Mikhailo Telezhynsky, Stepan Skrypnyk, Yevgen Boguslavsky, Mykola Maslov, and Mykyta Bura entered Volyn Parliament under the list No.1 (BBWR). M. Bura and S. Skrypnyk received a mandate to the Sejm in the district No. 57 (Lutsk, Rivne, Kostopil). In general, 5 people from this district entered the parliament, except for the abovementioned: Ukrainian Mikhailo Pelensky, representative of the Ukrainian-Belarusian bloc No. 11 and two Poles (Держархів Рівненської обл. г, 36 pp.).

After the 1930 elections, a joint Polish-Ukrainian parliamentary representation was formed; it was led by Ignatsyi Pulawski under the patronage of Peter Pevny. The latter, moreover, led the Ukrainian parliamentary group in Volyn, which included six ambassadors and two senators. Ukrainian ambassadors worked as members of the parliamentary commissions; in particular, Mykyta Bura worked for the communication commission and the prices control commission (Посли Волині в комісіях 1931, 2).

In June 1931, M. Bura became one of the organizers of a new political party, the Volyn Ukrainian Association (VUA), formed as a result of the initiative of Ukrainian ambassadors from Volyn with the support of the governor Henrik Yuzevsky. On the one hand, the VUA Declaration emphasized Ukrainian-Polish cooperation, on the other hand, it declared the desire to develop the national

self-consciousness of the people of Volyn (Держархів Волинської обл. а, 1-12). In October 1939, during a questioning after the arrest, Mykyta Bura said: "The VUA did not set the task of fighting for the creation of an independent Ukrainian national state, but, in contact with the Polish government, insisted on the opening of Ukrainian schools, the creation of agricultural clubs, the formation of cooperatives with unification in one Volyn union" (Держархів Рівненської обл. м, 17).

In 1931, M. Bura became a member of the General Directorate of the VUA, and was its secretary (Держархів Волинської обл. б, 2). On January 24, 1932, at the district convention of the party, they elected the governing body of the VUA in Rivne; the leadership was entrusted to Mykyta Ivanovych. He headed the Rivne district Committee of the VUA until 1939, working closely with the political emigrants from Dnepr-Ukraine, such as Stepan Skrypnyk, Ananiy Volynets, Danylo Kovpanenko, and others. In total, according to Bura, there were up to 3,000 members of VUA, among which a significant percentage were Ukrainian political emigrants (Держархів Рівненської обл. м, 14).

Despite loyalty to the authorities, Skrypnyk and Bura "were not really liked in Starostwo, as the former subordinates - the wojt and secretary of the municipality." M. Bura did not always manage to get permissions for cooperative meetings, and the police disrupted Skrypnyk's performance in one of the villages, although he had permission for it. The Dilo newspaper concluded that, apparently, "Starostwo considers Skrypnyk and Bura as dangerous for the Polish character of Volyn" (Північно-західні землі 1931, 2).

However, during the 1930's, the ambassadors of the VUA intensified the work of establishing Ukrainian-Polish co-existence, fully shared the ideas of the "Volyn experiment" by Henrik Yuzevsky. M. Bura initiated public meetings; in particular, on May 21, 1932, in the village of Obariv of Rivne district, a village report was held in the presence of about 200 people. The ambassador spoke about the work of the Sejm, the local self-government, clarified the content of the agricultural regulations, clarified the new school arrangements, and called for cooperation with the government and the Polish state (Держархів Рівненської обл. і, 51 зв.). May 13, 1934 in the village of. Karaevichi of the same district, on an ambassadorial veche with the participation of 300 people, Bura reported on Sejm's activity. In the speech, he expressed sorrow for the lack of interest of rural youth in social life, once again urged the population to cooperate with the Polish state, viewing that as an opportunity for the Ukrainian people to get freedoms (Держархів Рівненської обл. j, 70).

M. Bura was a participant in all regional congresses of the VUA, in particular at the special regional congress in November 1937 that took place in Rivne, he spoke about economic affairs, focusing on the implementation of the agricultural reform in the voivodship (Кучерепа and Давидюк, 2001, 56-57). Participated in the district VUA congress of the Kovel district in February 1935 (Держархів Волинської обл. d, 53), was one of the organizers of the district VUA congress

of the Rivne municipality in March 1935 (Держархів Рівненської обл. с. 41), showed interest in the work of the cultural and educational centers of the VUA in Zdolbuniv district, joined the annual general meeting of “Prosvita’s Hut” of this district (Archiwum Akt Nowych w Warszawie a, 106).

In addition to political work, M. Bura contributed to the dissemination of Ukrainian national ideas, initiating the holding of Academies in the Rivne district in honor of S. Petliura, the heroes of the Kruty, fallen near Bazar, organizing Shevchenko days, courses for illiterate, etc. In December 1934, Ambassadors Bura and Skrypnyk initiated the formation of the Committee of the Ukrainian Community Hall building in Rivne, where it was planned to place a Ukrainian gymnasium, bursa and other Ukrainian organizations (Держархів Рівненської обл. е, 2-3). However, there was not enough money for the implementation of this idea.

Ambassador Bura was one of the founders of the Volyn Public Committee for the Relief Aid (VGKDG) in Soviet Ukraine, which arose in Lutsk, and one of the organizers of the Rivne Committee for the Relief Aid in Soviet Ukraine that arose as a reaction to the terrible tragedy. The committee was involved in protest, informational, collateral, and aid actions (Давидюк and Жив’юк 2008, 18-19).

According to the State Political Directorate, M. Bura, Y. Bychkivsky, and S. Skrypnyk collaborated with the Rivne intelligence center of the UPR, established contacts with its head Ivan Lytvynenko. They often discussed organizational issues, used defectors from the Soviet side in the Korets-Rivne region for anti-communist agitation in villages (Галузевий державний архів Служби зовнішньої розвідки України, 205).

In the elections to the Sejm and the Senate in September 1935, held in accordance with the order of President Ignatsyi Mostsitsky of July 15 of the same year, five districts with centers in Rivne, Lutsk, Sarny, Kovel and Kremenyanets were formed in the Volyn Voivodship. In each district divided into polling stations, they compiled a list of four candidates, of which the voter had to choose two. In the election campaign, Ukrainians were urged “as the ambassadors to choose people dedicated for fraternity, which would legally create a joint representation of Volyn for the good of the state, region and culture of each of the peoples of Volyn” (Centralne Archiwum Ministerstwa Spraw Wewnętrznych, 26-27). As a result of these elections, Petro Pevny, Sergii Tymoshenko, Stepan Skrypnyk, Martyn Volkov and Mykyta Bura were elected to the Sejm from Volyn Voivodship; Mykola Maslov became the Senator. All of them were members of the VUA and belonged to the Party’s Main Board (Кучерепа and Давидюк 2001, 47).

In 1937 M. Bura was at the epicenter of the scandal related to the police seizure of the pamphlet of Stepan Baran named “For Motherland” - “The People Without Land - Fish Without Water”, published in Lviv in the printing house “Dila” in November 1936. The book passed censorship and was in free circulation. Until March 22, 1937, it was distributed in the territory of Volyn, but the district



Starostwo in Rivne removed access, and the district court enacted the confiscation of the publication. On October 8, 1937, the court in Rivne convicted Vasyl Yarmolyuk, the chairman of the local district committee of the Ukrainian National Democratic Union, for 3 months of arrest and a hundred zlotys for distributing the brochure. According to the Dilo newspaper, the case started up with the help of the VUA ambassador Mykyta Bura. The defender in court was Mykola Bagrinivsky, who filed an appeal (Розправа в городському суді 1938, 3-4). In response to allegations, Mykyta Bura filed a contradiction to the Dilo newspaper, saying that he had learned about the brochure in the district department, where he was engaged in self-government affairs. "The truth is that the police has revealed the distribution and sale of the brochure "For Motherland" itself" (Спростування М. Бури 1938, 4), wrote the ambassador.

Personal changes in the structure of the VUA in the mid-1930's, started with the replacement of General Secretary P. Pevny for S. Tymoshenko, also affected M. Bura, who lost the post of Secretary of the Main Board; this post has moved to S. Skrypnyk (Кучерена and Давидюк, 2001, 53). However, M. Bura continued to be one of the prominent activists of the pro-government Volyn party. In 1938 he received an ambassadorial mandate in the district number 59 Zdolbuniv-Rivne. In 1938-1939, he was elected deputy chairman of the Ukrainian parliamentary representation of Volyn.

M. Bura was at the epicenter of the exacerbation of the internal crisis of the VUO in 1938, connected with the withdrawal from the party of the S. Skrypnyk's group. He presided at the party meeting on December 4, 1938, where the contradictions between Skrypnyk and Tymoshenko were clearly identified, as well as contradictions inside the party, and attended the meeting of the Main Board of the VUA on March 20, 1939, which was, in fact, a personal discussion (Бурхливе засідання Гол. Управи ВУО 1939, 5-6). In this struggle, M. Bura supported S. Tymoshenko and remained a member of the VUA until the beginning of World War II.

### 3. CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL WORK

With the efforts of pro-government people in the Volyn Voivodship after the closure of Prosvita, new cultural and educational organizations began to function, which, in addition to the national aspirations of Ukrainians to have their own song, school, and book, propagated the ideology of Polish-Ukrainian coexistence within the framework of Polish statehood. The Ukrainian club "Ridna Hata" in Rivne originated with the efforts of Stepan Skrypnyk, Oleksandr Palienko, Mykyta Bury, Vasyl Prokazyuk, who created its charter (Держархів Рівненської обл. д, 7). The Board of "Ridna Hata" in Rivne in April 1931 was headed by S. Skrypnyk under the patronage of M. Bura (Держархів Рівненської обл. h, 219). The club's Board spread cultural and educational practices, helped the students of the Ukrainian private gymnasium.

Under the control of Ukrainian ambassadors from BBWR, since 1931, the activities of the pro-government “Prosvita’s Huts” have been launched. On November 24, 1935, P. Pevny, M. Bura, S. Skrypnyk, and others arrived in Zdolbuniv at the district congress of delegates of “Prosvita’s Huts”, discussing the issues of organization of Ukrainian-Polish cooperation and economic problems (Держархів Рівненської обл. к, 313 зв.). On November 25, 1935 in Rivne, representatives of 21 cells attended the congress of heads of “Prosvita’s Huts” of Rivne district. M. Bura visited the opening of on September 21, 1932, in the village of Zhavriv of the Koretska Commune (Archiwum Akt Nowych w Warszawie b, 67), in the village of Sukhivtsi of the Rivne district (State Archives of Volyn region c, 18). In general, 42 “Prosvita’s Huts” conducted their activity in the Rivne district with his support and participation (Держархів Рівненської обл. с, 10).

In the context of pro-government ideology, sports clubs were launched. In Rivne, on February 24, 1935, the organizational meeting of the “Horyn” club was held, initiated by S. Skrypnyk, D. Kovpanenko, O. Tymoshenko (Oleksandr, son of Ambassador Sergii Timoshenko). M. Bura, G. Buts, P. Bulba were elected to the Inspection Commission (Держархів Рівненської обл. 1, 3). In 1937, the total number of members of the club was 83; there were such sections as Kopanyi Myach (football), boxing, ping-pong, music and fun. The most popular was the Kopanyi Myach section; its members played 8 friendly games and 2 for “C-class Art”. One of the most interesting was the game with the Ukrainian sports club “Hart” from Zdolbuniv, which took place on May 24, 1936 in Rivne on the 10th anniversary of the death of UPR Ataman Symon Petliura. For the first time in Volyn, the holiday took place in the open air on the square, in the presence of a large number of people. At that time, the head of the club was S. Skrypnyk, and Danylo Kovpanenko, Oleksandr Tymoshenko and Mykyta Bura were the club’s referees (Український Спортовий Клуб “Горинь” у Рівному 1937, 6).

The wives of Volyn ambassadors worked in the pro-government women’s organization “The Union of Women of Ukrainian Public Work in Volyn”, which arose in contrast to the “Union of Ukrainian Women” with the center in Rivne. Along with others, Olga, the wife of Mykyta Bura (Держархів Рівненської обл. а, 36) joined the Rivne branch of the Union of Women of Ukrainian Public Work in Volyn, led by Ivanna Skrypnykova.

“Ukrainian School” Society, whose organizational meetings took place in the premises of “Ridna Hata”, took care of the Ukrainian private gymnasium in Rivne and the school youth. In the “Ukrainian School”, there were economic, propaganda, publishing, library, and scholarship sections. The Board of the “Ukrainian School”, with the support of the public, raised the issue of providing the Ukrainian private gymnasium in Rivne with the status of the state gymnasium. For this purpose, in November 1935, a committee was formed, consisting of S. Skrypnyk, M. Bura, N. Ishchuk, A. Kentrzhinsky, J. Bychkivsky and others. (Держархів Рівненської обл. к, 314). However, all attempts to make the state school out of private one remained unsuccessful.



#### 4. CHURCH AND RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Mykyta Bura was an active advocate of getting rid of the Moscow influence on the Poland Orthodox Church, participated in the work of the “Metropolitan Petro Mohyla Society” in 1931, spoke at the Ambassador Veche on September 10, 1933 in Pochayiv, actively defended the right to minister in Ukrainian language in the Rivne Cathedral, the situation around which aggravated in June 1934. on June 17, 1934, Bishop Polycarp held a liturgy in the cathedral in Ukrainian language, but an unsatisfied part of the Russian parishioners tried to disrupt it. The dramatic events continued on June 19, when the cathedral dean in Rivne, Dm. Saikovych, began to collect petition letters among the parishioners against the Ukrainianization of worship. Ambassador Skrypnyk tried to get acquainted with the content of these letters, for which “a radical group of believers pulled him out of the cathedral” (Події у православному соборі в Рівному 1934, 6). M. Bura wrote an ambassadorial report about events around the Rivne Orthodox Cathedral on June 17-19, 1934, joined the resolution approved by the Ambassadors in the city of Rivne on June 24, 1934 (Держархів Волинської обл. е, 7).

The religious situation required a solution, therefore, a conference of understanding was held on December 22, 1934 between representatives of the Ukrainian and Russian populations (Orthodox parishioners of the Rivne Cathedral). The Ukrainian side was represented by Stepan Skrypnyk, Mykyta Bura, Yakiv Bychkivsky, and the Russian side by Sergii Panchenko, Yevhenii Synytsky, and Inna Prokhorova. The consequence was the reconciliation of the positions of both parties, the cessation of selfish performances to create a benevolent atmosphere in the parish. After the negotiations, it was allowed to minister in native language for students of the Ukrainian gymnasium in the basement of the Svyatomykhailivska Church of Rivne Cathedral (Держархів Рівненської обл. к, 15). However, it was still difficult to implement such a permit practically.

At, 55 priests-delegates elected from each dean's office, 10 district archpriest, dean monasteries, 3 members of the parohial revision commission and 10 secular persons arrived to the Diocesan congress, held on January 29-30, 1935, under the chairmanship of Archbishop Oleksii in Kremyanka. Among the delegates were: P. Pevny, M. Bura, M. Telezhyunsky, E. Boguslavsky, V. Serafymovych, I. Glovatsky, S. Tymoshenko, I. Bychkovsky, M. Khannenکو, and I. Kramarenko. All meetings were conducted in Ukrainian; the secretary of the consistory, I. Vlasovsky, reported on the financial condition. A budget, tax, mission and educational commissions were created at the congress, a number of resolutions were adopted, and hopes for the convening of the Council of the Orthodox Church in Poland as soon as possible were expressed (Волинський Єпархіальний З'їзд 1935, 5). Although the convening of the expected Council did not happen.

## 5. ARREST AND AFTERLIFE

In September 1939, Western Ukraine, with its population of more than seven million, was included in the USSR, a new administrative and territorial division was established on the annexed lands, and a party, Soviet and punitive and repressive apparatus was formed. According to the order of the People's Commissar of Internal Affairs of the USSR Lavrentiy Beria of November 6, 1939, "On the organization of the organs of the NKVD of Western Ukraine" and "On the organization of the territorial and railway police of Western Ukraine and its staffing", the NKVD leadership was created in the western regions. The jurisdiction of extrajudicial authorities, military tribunals, and the network of prisons expanded to the region. Arrests of leaders and activists of Western Ukrainian legal political parties, public activists began.

On October 17, 1939, Mykyta Bura was arrested and accused of art. 54-4 CC of URSR. In the indictment, it was recorded, "As an ambassador to the Polish Sejm, the organizer and head of the Volyn Ukrainian Association, he was actively fighting with the Soviet authorities" (Держархів Рівненської обл. м, 35). The investigators stated that Bura had hired workers who helped his family to cultivate land, with up to 12 people working for him throughout the year. It is clear that hired workers received money for their work, but for the Bolsheviks this fact alone determined the arrested person as an "exploiter". The former ambassador was detained in the Rivne prison, and was subsequently transferred to the prison of Kyiv. A Special Council of the NKVD of the USSR on December 23, 1940 imprisoned Mykyta Bura at the Corrective Labour Colony for 8 years "as a socially dangerous element" (Держархів Рівненської обл. м, 54).

The beginning of the German-Soviet war changed the foreign policy situation: on July 30, 1941, an agreement was signed in London on the restoration of Soviet-Polish diplomatic relations; on August 12, 1941, a decree on the amnesty of Polish citizens was adopted and a Polish-Soviet military treaty was concluded on August 14, 1941. As a result of these arrangements, all Polish citizens were to be relieved of Soviet camps, including a part of Ukrainians who were considered Polish citizens. Despite the prolongation of this process and the prohibition on the Soviet side on the release of former Ukrainian activists, the Bolsheviks released from prison the head of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian National-Democratic Association Dmitry Levytzky and the ambassador from Volyn Mykyta Bura (Пилипович 2016, 61). Subsequently, M. Bura entered the Anders' Army, established contacts with the Polish emigration government in London. In 1945, he was elected chairman of the temporary board of the Union of Ukrainian Soldiers in the Polish armed forces. After the war, Mykyta Ivanovych was forced to emigrate to the United Kingdom, where in 1946 he became the first chairman of the Union of Ukrainians in this country. Two years later, in 1948, he traveled to Canada, in Toronto, where he died on May 30, 1985 (Яськевич 2012, 65-66). By the decision of the Prosecutor's

Office of the Rivne Region of May 6, 1991, he was rehabilitated on the basis of Art. 1 of the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR dated January 16, 1989 (Держархів Рівненської обл. м, 55).

#### CONCLUSIONS

During the interwar period, the teacher, public and political figure, Mykyta Bura defended the position of loyal attitude towards the Polish state, hoped for the establishment of Ukrainian-Polish cooperation, worked closely with a group of Ukrainian political emigrants who, after the defeat of the 1917-1921 revolution, settled in the Volyn Voivodship. He worked in the organs of the municipality and the district self-government, was one of the founders of the VUA, a member of the "Ukrainian School" and "Ridna Hata" societies, sports club "Goryn" in Rivne, was elected ambassador to the Polish Sejm of the three convocations (1930-1939). The priority of the public activity of M. Bura was cultural and educational work, the struggle for the Ukrainization of the Orthodox Church in Poland. Since the beginning of the World War II, he was arrested by the NKVD bodies and convicted. Being released as a Polish citizen, have entered the Anders' Army, had contacts with the Polish emigration government in London. After the war, he emigrated to England, and later to Canada.

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- ДАРО g. Ф. 33. Оп. 4. Спр. 49.  
ДАРО h. Ф. 33. Оп. 4. Спр. 56.  
ДАРО i. Ф. 33. Оп. 4. Спр. 61.  
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