

Nadia's finally free but her grief goes on



Nadia Svitlychna spent four years in Soviet labor camp

By Helen Bullock Toronto Star

Nadia Svitlychna is a few minutes late for a meeting but she's not going to rush. She's had four years of regimented life — of 6 a.m. rising and breakfasts of thin porridge; of sleeping in crowded, dirty barracks with other women; of weekly baths in a dirty bathroom; of keeping her thoughts hidden and her mouth shut tight in case "they" increase the punishment.

Now, she takes time in her Sheraton Centre hotel room to finish her lunch of coffee and sandwiches, to carefully wipe her fingers on the pink cloth napkin and to settle a little more comfortably into the well-upholstered cheserfield.

Her eyes flit around the room, resting on the green-and-white patterned bedspreads, the flower prints above the bed, the silver samovar (a touch of home) on the white, cloth-covered table.

Now she will explain, through an interpreter, in her rapid-fire, passionate native Ukrainian, what it was like to be forcibly separated from her 2-year-old son, imprisoned for a year without trial and finally sent for four years to a labor colony in the Soviet Mordovian republic.

"I see the U.S.S.R. as a huge labor camp just as it was under Stalin," she says. "Outwardly, people there are like people everywhere. They are concerned with daily problems. They go to concerts, get

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married, they are normal. And there has been a reduction in the number of prisoners sent to camps.

"But if even one prisoner is left in a Soviet prison or camp it would be necessary to shout it to the world. Those who have not seen or lived it, cannot understand."

Svitlychna was arrested by the KGB in 1972 and found guilty, a year later, of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda."

Recently divorced, she was powerless to stop the KGB putting her son Yarema in a state orphanage. Later, the little boy was given to relatives and in her four long years behind high fences and barbed wire, Svitlychna saw him only three times.

Today, Yarema and his nine-month-old brother, Ivan, are with her in Philadelphia, where she fled with her sons in November of last year. Her second husband, and Ivan's father, is still in Kiev trying to get a permit to visit them.

Svitlychna and her sons live with a Ukrainian family. She doesn't speak English so she can't work — except at her passion — spreading the stories of life inside the Soviet camps, trying to drum up pub-

lic outrage and sympathy for their shattered inmates.

In Canada, she is the guest of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee and there is the hope that funds will be raised to help the financially imperilled Svitlychna family.

She has hung on for so long, she cannot let go now.

The camp Svitlychna went to was for women political prisoners, and it was these women who helped her survive.

"The older women or the women who have been in the longest help the new arrivals," she says, her dark, deep eyes misting at the memory. "Regardless of personal dislikes or political and national differences, they always come forward to a new arrival. It was complete solidarity."

"And at nights, when women cried out in their despair or loneliness or fear, we held each other and comforted each other. Without this mutual support, we would never have survived."

The labor colony authorities made no concessions to the sex of their prisoners. The slightly embarrassed interpreter explains that "no consideration is given to the special, monthly hygienic needs of women." As a result, Svitlychna says, many women suffered from "female ailments." As the colony had no medical staff, they went untreated.

During the days the hours were filled

sewing work gloves: each woman had a quota of 120 a day. Failure to meet that quota resulted in punishment.

Svitlychna had one prize possession while in the colony — a photograph of her son. It, along with the comfort of the other women, many of them mothers crushed by the anguish of their children's unknown fate, kept her strong.

Although she and her sons are safe, Svitlychna is still testing the iron in her soul with worry and grief over her husband, left behind because "the prime consideration was to get me out and when Soviet authorities relented after two years of pleading, we jumped," and her brother, Ivan, who is languishing, maybe dying, in a hospital in "internal exile" after serving seven years in a labor colony.

She is grateful to be free, but she lives in a country that is strange to her and her understanding. Her friends are Ukrainian and she hasn't yet felt the necessity to learn English although Yarema, now in Grade 3, is struggling to speak to his schoolmates in their language.

But Svitlychna is uprooted, upturned and adrift from what she knows.

"All I can do is try and lift the screen, with which life in the Soviet Union is covered," she says, both sadly and proudly, taking another hard look at the comfort of the things around her.

Government mandarins get \$100 a week raise, apology

OTTAWA (CP-Special) — About 2,000 top civil servants are to get pay raises of up to \$100 a week, to a top range of \$78,700 a year — more than the Prime Minister's salary and much higher than those of the leader of the Opposition and — the Governor-General.

In justifying the 7 per cent increase, Treasury Board president Judd Buchanan said the disparity between senior civil servants and comparable business executives would in normal times justify increases of up to 9 per cent.

But he hoped "the senior public service will accept further sacrifice."

There would be an improvement in fringe benefits as well, including five weeks vacation after 25 years instead of the present 28.

Buchanan said an outside advisory group had recommended a pay boost of 7½ per cent but the government decided on the 7 per cent increase because "current economic circumstances required continued restraint."

Last year, the government said it expected wage increases in the private sector not to exceed 6 per cent. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau received a pay increase this year of 6.4 per cent — as did all MPs — bringing his salary to \$76,700 annually. Governor-General Ed Sheyler receives \$48,000 while Opposition Leader Joe Clark and cabinet ministers get \$62,500.

Buchanan hoped other employers would "follow the lead of the federal government in restraining salary increases for employees at all levels."

The Trudeau government has repeatedly urged labor unions to hold down wage demands and the federal inflation monitoring agency issued a warning yesterday that a new upward trend in wages threatens to set off another round of inflation.

In addition to the pay-boost recommendations, the advisory group also called for a special bonus program that would reward a limited number of bureaucrat executives who were considered hard workers. "We believe that this will encourage exceptional performance in the executive category," the group said.

The government didn't buy this idea. Buchanan said the new pay scales will mean the lowest level executives in government will receive increases averaging

\$2,700, bringing the average salary to about \$40,700.

Second-level executive bureaucrats will get \$2,900 raises to an average of \$44,200 a year.

Deputy ministers, who are appointed by cabinet, will receive average pay increases of \$3,820 bringing average wage levels to \$58,400.

The top-level deputy ministers get increases of about \$100 a week bringing their maximum pay to \$78,700.

Bank bandits swoop

Continued from page 1

film Break-out in which a helicopter pilot was hired to fly into a Mexican prison to pick up an American prisoner. The film was shown on Montreal television this week.

The bank robbers — a young English-speaking man wearing high-heeled cowboy boots and "an ugly looking woman" who looked about 30 — went to Olympic Helicopters, gave a fictitious Toronto address and rented a helicopter by paying \$630 in cash ostensibly for a tour of the Montreal area and a flight to Quebec City.

"They were carrying bags . . . and both wanted to sit in the seats behind the pilot," said Olympic mechanic Hank Ford. Once airborne, the couple handed the pilot a note: "Find a safe place to land."

When he turned to question them on the note, Nguyen found himself staring down the muzzles of two revolvers.

He landed in a frozen field in Ville D'Anjou where the couple pasted Montreal police decals on the chopper.

Nguyen tried to escape but they fired three shots at him.

"I fell to the ground — I was so scared," he told The Star this morning. "They warned me not to try again."

They said, "We don't want to kill you for nothing."

He surrendered to the bandits and they handcuffed his right hand to the throttle of the helicopter and ordered him to lift off.

For the next hour, Nguyen hovered over the Island of Montreal while the bandits decided which shopping centre bank to rob.

Apparently they had planned to rob more than one bank but later changed their mind, ordering him to land on the parking lot of Place Vertu Shopping Centre, where he narrowly missed some parked cars.

While the man went inside, the woman held Nguyen at gunpoint.

There were eight tellers and 15 customers inside the Royal Bank branch as the bandit entered at 1 p.m.

He pulled out a machine-gun that had some gold plating on it and ordered the cashiers to empty their drawers into a brown bag.

Outside a crowd gathered to watch the helicopter, thinking it belonged to police.

Constables in a patrol car summoned by a silent alarm saw the decals on the chopper and also thought it was the police helicopter.

When the man returned and the chopper took off, with the rear door swinging in the wind, police gave ground chase and the real police helicopter, which by then had taken off from St. Hubert on the South Shore joined in.

The couple forced the pilot to land outside Saucy subway station.

"I landed there all crooked . . . The back door was swinging . . . I thought the passengers had fallen out or something," a police officer said.

Witnesses told police the couple took a subway train and got off two stations later.

Nguyen said he decided to land the chopper in the middle of an intersection near the subway because "I was afraid if I landed in a field like the first time they would shoot me."

Norman Robichaud, a pilot at Olympic, said he talked to Nguyen after the incident and "he is not hurt at all."

Kosta Mavromichalis, who has a restaurant across from the robbed Royal Bank, said he couldn't believe how quickly the bandit worked.

The robber ran out of the bank pushing past curious crowds "and flew off. I've never seen anything like it in my life," Mavromichalis told The Star in a telephone interview last night.

Hijacker connected in plot to free Hess

NEW YORK, (Reuter) — A 63-year-old man was convicted today of threatening to blow up a TWA 707 airliner in Geneva last August in a bid to free Hitler's former aide, Rudolf Hess, from prison.

Rudi Kretlow, a U.S. citizen who was a German soldier in World War II, faces 25 years in prison on charges of interfering with a flight crew and making a bomb threat aboard a plane.

Hess, now 82, is the sole surviving Nazi war criminal imprisoned in Spandau prison in West Berlin.



'Old man' Herbie Quinones, Jr.

Little Herbie here today

By Dale Brazao Toronto Star

NEW YORK — Herbie Quinones Jr., the "old man" of the neonatal unit of Brooklyn Hospital, is counting on the skill of Dr. Robert Filler to give him a new lease on life.

The 7-month-old baby is arriving in Toronto today to undergo an operation at the Hospital for Sick Children to put an end to choking attacks that have threatened his life almost daily.

Herbie's problem stems from a major artery, which cuts off the flow of air to his lungs after he eats. Filler's technique involves moving the artery away from the windpipe and attaching it to the chest wall to release pressure.

To minimize the chance of Herbie's suffering an attack en route, the baby is

being fed at least an hour before his Air Canada flight.

The baby is being accompanied to Toronto by his parents, Herb and Leticia, and a medical team from Brooklyn Hospital equipped with a portable resuscitor.

Correction

Seniors' centre at 1 Empress Ave.

The address of the North York Seniors' Centre, which offers free income tax advice to senior citizens, was incorrectly listed Feb. 22. It is 1 Empress Ave. (Phone 226-5614).

Pot-growers guilty, 'thought they were weeds'

A Markham man was sentenced to 60 days in jail yesterday for growing marijuana plants on his farm in 1977.

Allan Short, 32, was also placed on probation for one year by County Court Judge Hugh O'Connell. His wife, Diane,

Maggie shatters PM's swinging image

Continued from page 1 she had plenty of fun on state visits abroad.

"On the official trip to Mexico," Ear says, "a kind pal stuffed her purse with peyote" — hallucinogenic cactus. "She had a fine time there."

"The big Trudeau sojourn in Japan was a bummer, though. Heavy . . .

"On one occasion," the story says, "she was shunted into a limo behind Pierre's in the motorcade. Spunky Maggie rebelled, and pounced into the lead-car."

"Pierre began to tease her," and Ear says her response was a screaming "F . . . you," after which she "fled from the limo."

Margaret is also quoted as writing that Fidel Castro is "the sexiest man I've ever met," claiming that he flirted with her outrageously in C. Ja.

In complete contrast, Richard Nixon is said to have confined his byplay with Margaret, during his Canadian visit, to "the sex life of pandas in the national zoo, and why it wasn't happening."

Food prices jump 21% in one year

OTTAWA (CP) — Hefty increases in the price of beef, flour and fresh produce pushed food prices up 3.1 per cent in the four-week period ended Feb. 15, says the anti-inflation board.

The board said yesterday the survey of supermarket prices in 12 cities showed food prices now are 21 per cent higher than a year ago — the highest annual increase since the index was created in 1974.

The average price for a nutritious diet for a family of four jumped to \$58.84 in mid-February, up \$1.80 from the January level and \$8.30 higher than February, 1978.

Beef prices jumped 9.7 per cent in the month, 62.6 per cent above prices a year earlier.

Chicken prices were up 1.4 per cent because of increased consumer demand in the face of rapidly rising beef prices.

Consumer index lower

The 21 per cent increase in the board's food basket compares with a 14.1 per cent annual increase in food prices shown in the January consumer price index issued by Statistics Canada.

A spokesman at the anti-inflation board said the difference is a result of Statistics Canada changing the weighting of foods in its index last year. The board uses the old index.

Fresh fruit jumped 5.6 per cent in the month and prices of fresh vegetable were up 4.6 per cent, the board said.

"Prices for fresh produce vary sharply as sources or supply shift and as weather conditions change," the board said.

The board said cereal and bakery products prices rose 1.9 per cent during the month and were up 16.4 per cent over a year earlier.

"The increase is largely the result of a 20.3 per cent increase in flour prices following cancellation of the federal subsidy on domestically-used wheat," it said.

Bread prices, which showed a 12 per cent jump in January, showed little change in the latest survey.

The anti-inflation board food index, first begun by the now-defunct food prices review board in 1974, is to be turned over to the agriculture department this summer.

Bronchitis lands Billy in hospital

AMERICUS, Ga. (Special) — Billy Carter, the president's younger and often outspoken brother, has been admitted to hospital for treatment of bronchitis.

Carter, 41, and the father of six, was said to be resting in a private room with only immediate family permitted to visit or call him.

Weather / Rain, sun

Toronto forecast

Some sun should show this afternoon as brisk winds from the northwest drive clouds across Lake Ontario. High today 1C, 34F, according to Environment Canada. Low tonight -6C, 21F. Sunday wet snow or rain, high 0C, 32F.

Toronto calendar

Sunrise 7:05 a.m. Sunset 5:59 p.m. High yesterday 4 at 7 a.m.

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Ontario outlook

Brisk northwesterly winds are expected to bring a few sunny periods today to the southern half of the province, but the same winds will spread snow in the north. Snow will reach the south tomorrow changing to rain in many sections. Accumulations up north may be anywhere from 2 to 10 centimetres, or just under an inch to four inches.

Other provinces

British Columbia cloudy with showers of sleet, Alberta partly cloudy, Saskatchewan sunny, Manitoba sunny in north, snow in south. Quebec becoming cloudy, with rain in the south. Maritimes mainly sunny in west, clearing in the east; Newfoundland sunny in the east, sunny in south and west.

U.S. Weather

Rain is forecast for the south, southeast, the lower Mississippi and

Saudi killer loses head

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, (Reuter) — A convicted murderer was beheaded here yesterday.

The Saudi press agency said that Saad Bin Salem al-Qahani had his head severed by the sword.

U.S. points

Minneapolis -4 2 Chicago -1 3 Buffalo -0 3 New York City -1 3 Washington -2 13 Pittsburgh -3 4 Raleigh -1 13 Atlanta -1 13 Miami -1 22 Orlando -1 26

Resort areas

Acapulco 31, fair; Barbados 28, fair; Bermuda 19, partly cloudy; Havana 29, cloudy; Kingston 32, fair; Mexico City 23, partly cloudy; San Juan 79, fair; St. Kitts 28, fair; Trinidad 31, fair

Overseas

Temperatures in Celsius at noon yesterday: Greenwich Mean Time: London 11, clear; Amsterdam 3, cloudy; Athens 7, cloudy; Birmingham 7, clear; Copenhagen 2, partly cloudy; Dublin 4, clear; Geneva 1, snow; Jerusalem 13, partly cloudy; Lisbon 12, clear; London 7, clear; Moscow 10, clear; Paris 3, partly cloudy; Rome 9, rain; Stockholm -2, cloudy; Vienna 2, partly cloudy; Warsaw -3, clear