

In Israel

Say Sheptytsky should be recognized for saving Jews' lives

(The Ukrainian Weekly, January 25, 1981)

Jersey City, N.J. — The Public Committee for Jewish-Ukrainian Cooperation in Jerusalem, currently headed by Jakov Suslensky, has drawn up a statement regarding posthumous recognition of the role played by Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky of the Ukrainian Catholic Church during the Holocaust in saving the lives of hundreds — possibly thousands — of Jewish people, among them some 400 children who were sheltered in monasteries.

On many occasions the metropolitan also appealed to Ukrainians in pastoral letters calling on them to aid Jews in escaping Nazi persecution and mass murder.

"The public committee's statement carries a proposal that a tree be planted in honor of Metropolitan Sheptytsky in the Aisle of the Righteous, a memorial park in Tel Aviv, Israel, dedicated to those individuals who saved Jewish lives during the Nazi Holocaust. News of the proposal appeared in *Novyj Amerikanetz* (The New American), the Jewish Russian-language weekly published here on the Svoboda Press premises. It was part of an interview with Russian writer former Soviet political prisoner Mikhail Heifetz, who recently emigrated to Israel from the USSR.

Mr. Heifetz, a member of the public committee, is one of the signatories to the proposal.

Metropolitan Sheptytsky was born July 29, 1865, in western Ukraine. He joined the Order of St. Basil the Great in 1888, and was ordained in 1892. He became bishop of Stanislaviv in 1899 and metropolitan of Galicia in 1900.

In 1914 he was arrested and exiled to Russia where he spent three years. He died on November 1, 1944, in Lviv, Ukraine. Procedures leading toward the possible beatification of Metropolitan Sheptytsky were initiated on December 5, 1958.