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In the name of the people

"Take your soul out, but deliver the grain" - Gorobets.

"Struggle for grain - struggle for socialism" - Lenin.

On October 11, 1930 myself and several other students from my cohort during the last lesson of the day were told that we must go to an important meeting in university's hall after the lesson. When we arrived, the hall was crowded with about two hundred students and many professors and teachers. In the center of the room there was a table, and several high standing communist party officials were sitting at the table. There was the secretary of Communist Party union, rector of our university and the instructor of Communist Party city committee.

The rector has declared that all of us present will be mobilized to collect grain, and no one was excused from this duty. The only ones who were released from this task were the individuals with serious illness. Someone asked how long it will take us? The rector answered that the length of the assignment depends on us and success of grain-collections. Most students were members of the Communist Party and have been in the village since January. Then the instructor of the city committee has exacted promise - "There is not a single Communist among the students here today. All of them are in the country for a long time and nobody dares to complain. More than that, many of them are left for villages for a special task to be a chairman of collective farms and secretaries of local communist party committee. Up until now, we haven't touched the non-communists. The situation with grain-collections was so critical, that if we didn't send additional reinforcement to the villages to help with collection, we would not have anything to eat and we couldn't feed the working class of our cities.

Therefore, according to instructions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party we are the additional forces who would help with grain-collection. Central Committee was confident, that with new forces we will manage to steer clear from food shortage emergency. Central Committee of Communist Party made sure that we knew that by completing this important task, we will help the State and ourselves. We were to become teachers. And as the teachers, one should be politically mature and politically active in order to teach and recruit others to become builders of socialism. In spirit of communism, in spirit of irreconcilable hatred to class enemies internal and external, to a different sort "Fists" (**Fist - reach farmer**), priests and their Gods. There is no place for the apolitical teacher; the communist party will not let them teach in the school. Unfortunately, among teachers there were a lot of an "old rotten" intellectuals, and many of newly recruited teachers have grown up under the influence of the old way of life, and instead of convincing peasants to join to collective farms, and help with collectivization they prevented it. Central Committee of the Communist Party was firing such teachers, Sometimes shortage of "qualified" teachers cause closure of school, but the Party thought that no school is better rather than to have a teacher whom they could not trust.

The Party said that the grain collection business was not easy. There was more than several struggles, the biggest one was the real war to capture grain. This collection task was a political exam for us. This exam was to show, who we were, and whether we entrusted to become the Soviet teacher or not. It did not matter if we were to miss several months of studies at the university we were asked to self-educate. The real-World experience of political struggle and success would empower us and would further our future career.

The Party taught us and reinforced on numerous occasions that the victory itself will not come unless we fight for it. Inertia at this point would be the death of the Party and the better way of life. The peasants will not give us the grain on their own free will, we need to be strong and smart enough to convince them to hand it to the working class on their own or to yank it out of their hands. Compassion towards the peasants would simply be criminal and would sabotage the whole operation for the Party and the greater good they are trying to achieve. We cannot be weak, when we trusted with management of the Party business. Anyone identified who is trying to detain and hide the grain, should be considered an enemy of the Party. One should not care about things like: how many children peasant has, how peasant and their children are dressed, and what they are eating. Our business was to take their grain for the working class and for the Party. Don't think, that it is severe and immoral. Remember, what Lenin taught us about morals: "To be moral, means to subordinate your own needs, actions, and interests in favor of Communism." When we are collecting grain, we struggle for the Communism and our actions are justified and moral, and even - highly moral. Everyone who will not struggle for grain-collection, will not dedicate himself to this struggle, will be expelled from university as the saboteur and enemy of the State. All of us will be included in brigades which already working in country. We will work along the side of half of our professor - teaching structure will be sent. Do not forget also, that your own experience in business of grain-collections is more valuable than university studies. Therefore, the general procedure cannot be established for all cases. Be vigilant: do not enter any kind of relationship, especially a liqueur glass conduct with peasants who should hand over the grain. Do not dare to contact youth and in particularly be careful with girls. Any exceptions from the established procedures will be derivation from work it will lead you to familiarity with the peasant group. In summary remember, that the peasantry is not homogeneous. It is divided on three groups. First, you will you have a support from the poorest and most conscious peasants, majority of them now are part of collective farms. The enemies are the "Fists", priests and different "former people", the hidden members of different Social-democratic class, members of the Socialist-Revolutionary Party or other non-Communist Party, former White Army members, active churchgoers, former shopkeepers and other bastards. Party reassured us that there are a very few such people were left because majority of them have been captured. However, if they are still within the community they will stir up the people in the villages. Our goal is to work with a reliable people among peasantry in the village to seek out, and expose, and crush these enemies, to paralyze their influence on other peasants, who would stand in a way of successful grain-collections".

I was in the group with the same individual from January until April, I have heard the speech about collectivization several times and understood instructions. City Communist Committee assigned areas for “grain-collectivization”. I was put in a group with 35 other individuals and assigned to area T.

At 2 AM in the morning we have arrived at the area T. The secretary of district Communist Committee and the representative of Central Committee of Ukraine - Galaj were awake and present at the district committee hall ready to greet us with another meeting. District representative gave one and a half hour speech followed the speech delivered by the representative from Central Committee of Ukraine who repeated what was already delivered by the first speaker. The second speaker was very abrupt with his concerns in the communication with the “enemies” during the “grain collection” process and threatened students that failure of grain-collections and especially communications with “enemy” will lead to immediate arrest, not possibly expelling from university. As for the professors and none students the threat would be removal from work and exclusion from the Communist Party. He used words such as "no regret", "no mercy", "no complain" and endlessly repeated these phrases. He added that we should be proud that the Party choose us for such honorable business. To raise our drive he informed us, that the former secretary of district Communist Party and chairman of a district executive committee were “spinelessness, shortsightedness, unable to successfully organize struggle for grain collectivization.” He added that they were fired from their jobs and excluded from the Party. He informed us of our assignments, I was paired with two other students from a different university, out group was led by professor Zelman who was a candidate to become a member of the Party. We were assigned to the village of Stepanovka, which was twenty kilometers from the city.

Our grain-collectivization plan for Stepanovka consisted of 125 thousand poods (**one pood = 40 lbs**) of grain from which it has been already collected 85 thousand and we were to collect the remainder 40 thousand. Due date for the collection effort was Holiday of October Revolution, which is November, 7. These 40 thousand poods had to be collected in five-day collection periods. Five-day period would go from October 10 till October 15 and within this time frame we had to collect 20 thousand poods.

We arrived to Stepanovka in the morning existed from long road, lack of sleep and food. Upon arrival we were introduced to the Stepanovka Soviet Council chairman comrade Tereshchenko and the vice-chairman comrade Markov. Comrade Markov was a longtime member of Communist Party and worked as a director of manufacturing plant in the district center. His brigade consisted of five members all members of the Communists Party. With our arrival brigade grew to nine members. I do want to call out that Markov met us without any enthusiasm when he learned that three of the new arrivals were not members of the Party. The village Communist Party covered 400 homesteads from which 200 belonged to Stepanovka and others divided among four small farm villages around Stepanovka. In each village except Stepanovka there was a collective farm. All the grain from collective farms have been already collected. Stepanovka’s homesteads already gave to state more grain then four collective farms, in spite of the fact, they have less land. However, Markov said that Stepanovka’s peasants are still hiding a lot of grain

which we needed to collect. There were some small villages around Stepanovka and Markov directed all the newcomers to them. He also has warned us that we should not be friends with hosts of peasant's homes we are going to stay with, friendships can develop easily since we will be living and eating with them. Certainly, it is necessary to live somewhere but your goal is to convince your host to give all the grain to state.

I arrived to a small village, named the Pit. It was really the pit surrounded with the hills with about 50 home around it. There were no trees around the village. There were even no trees in a whole village. The village looked extremely poor, there was not a single house which could be considered well to do household. I was hungry, tired, and didn't know where to go and what to do. At this point I was ready to give us the business assigned to me and go home; however, I did remember what that would mean. Clearly I would be immediately expelled from university which would have great consequences on my future. As I was sitting on a log near one poor home a woman came out of the house and invited me as a tired traveler. I felt very uncomfortable, so I thanked her and told her, that I'm not a traveler, but a grain-collector. Nevertheless the woman insisted, that I came in. "Are you a member of the party or Comsomolets? (**comsomolets – the member of young communist league**). I explained to her, who I was and what I was here to do. Suddenly I found myself having a conversation with her and told her almost everything on what I was tasked to do here. I asked the woman to tell no one of what I just told her. She assured me, she will keep silent.

- A lot of people are suffering now, - she said, - may be somebody like you are oppressing your parents, the same way, you are oppress us. What the terrible time now! And all this happened, because we have forgotten the God.

Inside the house there were two children about 4 and 5 years of age. She left and came back with a piece of rye bread, like what my mother once baked for pigs. Having seen the bread, children start crying – "Mom, bread, bread"! I saw tears in her eyes, which she has hasty wiped by apron. I felt, I could hardly breathe. It was clear, she does not have any other food at home and the bread she borrow from neighbor. The children were crying, she could not to calm them and she sliced bread and gave two pieces to children. They took their slices, carefully supporting it by hands and with the greatest pleasure begun to eat, picking up every crumb falling on a floor. I could not watch it I have turned away to a window as the woman burst into tears.

She told me that authorities forced us to join collective farm and took away all of our grain, people are dying of starvation. They returned our cow back, but we will have to sell her because it is forbidden to give out forages from collective farm. My husband has been working day and night in the field, but everything is useless. Right now, in autumn, he is plowing the land to be sown in the spring, but we do not have anything to eat.

What's next? I think we will die from famine since we have nothing at this point. At this point I was ready run in an attempt to find a place where no one will see me, since I could not see human's grief. I remembered the words of Communist Party instructor:

"It doesn't matter how many children they have and what kind of food they eat."

I accepted from the kind woman a slice of bread and a glass of milk. She refused the two rubles I offered and was even a bit offended by my offer. Feeling down on myself, I went to the village Soviet council, which is located in a small house made from wooden

logs, this was a former house of a "fist". The owner of the house was send to Siberia, in spite of the fact that he never had more than two horses and one cow.

Later, I decided to visit individual farmers, there six of them, in the village. In conversation with them I realized, that everyone has handed to the State almost all their grain. All they have left was for seeds, barely enough not to die from starvation. Their cattle did not have enough forage to last the winter. Nevertheless, each one of them still owed to state more grain that they ever had to begin with. They told me, their lands could not produce more grain, because the soil is poor quality. The lands around Stepanovka were much better and farmers usually had better crop, hence more grain. It may be the only place to collect an extra grain. Following the advice I got from kind women, I decided to stay at her house. In the evening her husband drug himself home half dead from work, exhausted and famished. Only God knows, if this poor man had any kind of food during the day. The next day I gave some money for them to buy a meal for me.

The three days I stayed in that village I could not collect even a pound of grain for the state. At night on October 15 I have been woken up by a loud car's muffler noise. The representative of the Central Communist Party Committee and the secretary of a district Party committee – Galaj and Markov came into our log hut.

- You are sleeping! - screamed the representative so loudly, that children have woken up and began to cry.

- Sabotage, - shouted Galaj, - I should send you to a prison immediately? What are you doing here?

To tell you the truth - I was frightened. But my poor collective farmers have got a fright much more than me. Galaj told me - in the morning, together with my brigade I must go to go to district town and report outcome of my collection. At this point I was scared and really worried about my future.

In a building of the district Soviet Executive Committee gathered about 135 grain-collectors. Besides us there were people form the district authorities, Communist leaders, teachers and even managers from Red Cross.

Galaj has read the figures showing how much of grain was collected by each village Soviet Committee for the last five days. It's appeared that only 20% have been collected. He shouted and screamed at poor representatives - called them - opportunists, friends of "Fists" and sabotages. The thunder of his voice sounded as though in an empty hall. Two hundred people sat as a statue, afraid to move, or even breath, they all drew their heads into their shoulders.

Everywhere - in city and village, at factories, plants and educational institutions - there was the strong party egoism; communists treated colleagues, who weren't members of Party as at the lower "breed" of people. Often, they simply called them - "the non-Party swine ". It did not matter, if that person was a talented engineer, or the outstanding teacher but if they were not member of the Party they were looked down on. In the Party

the non-Party individual were consider to be the " the non-party swine " or defective fighters hence they were less impactful.

To understand the Communist power structure you need to understand the history behind individuals rise to power. An overwhelming majority of them became leaders in their respective organizations only due the Party membership. For example - the director of regional middle schools Zinovev just recently finished elementary school and an educational program for Communist leadership. He was not qualified to be a director of a regional middle school, yet he was due to his Party affiliation. It did not matter that he was a former farm laborer taking care of herd of pigs, and just finished elementary education, now was in charge of supervising fifteen teachers and several hundred of students.

This individual was put in charge as a grain-collector manager. In case of failure of grain-collections he would be excluded from the Party and consequently will be removed from a position of the director of regional middle schools. He does not have sufficient skills to be an accountant in a collective farm yet, he was put in this position. His only skill is to be a shepherd of the pigs in collective farms and to starve together with his family. There were a lot of people like him at this meeting, with exception of the few who were workers at factories and had professional skills. The common denominator skill for this individual was collectivization or extortion of grain and money from people. Majority of the people were just simply scared and only few of them are working for the fidelity of communistic ideals.

Among the grain-collectors there were a lot of persons who have been working in the country since January, far away from their families and had no opportunity and rights to take one day off. They were working literally 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the last several months. Their hardest work is conducted during religious holidays. There were a lot of advantages to be a Communist, but it is also hard and dangerous. It was not uncommon for these people to have no opportunity no personal life. They did not have any time to enrich their life with culture, read a book or newspaper they were working all the time. They have hardened their hearts in continuous struggle against peasants and they can easily take the last piece of bread and throw it out on the street the whole family.

Galaj announced the names of 15 representatives who as he said, have become the friends is "Fists" and have put a lot of harm to grain-collection. Following Galaj's offer, the district communist committee applied different punishments for them. Three of them have been excluded from a party. The first was director of the mechanical factory, who used to live in the "Fist" house but didn't take even a pound of grain for a five-day period. The second was the teacher of history in local school. Without permission, he came home for a half of day, for what have been accused of desertion. And the third - the student-communist who has visited a youth party dedicated to religious holiday. He has been accused with infection with bourgeois psychology. Therefore, he was not only fired from the party, but also was expelled from the university.

After that the secretary of a district committee has read the five-day task for each village soviet. For Stepanovka, we should collect for a five-days period – 25,000 poods of grain.

The secretary warned, that any case of a failure of grain-collection would be punished. He hollered at us that no one had rights to sleep or take a rest until the grain was collected. Also, we were not supposed to allow any peasants to sleep and are obliged to visit every peasant house not only during the day, but also at night. It was also recommended to drag the peasants into the Village Soviet during the night. We must depart immediately. Some local representatives asked the secretary of a district committee if they could stop at their homes for some time to change clothes, referring that for two weeks they did not change clothes. On what Galaj has cried: "First execute the grain-collection plan, then change the clothes!" - so those have passed by the apartments, not daring to stop even for a minute.

Having arrived in Stepanovka, nobody from our brigade has been released by Markov to have a meal. It was ordered to chairman of the Village Soviet to collect for the evening meeting all individual farmers from Stepanovka and surrounding areas. He also ordered to call all local activists. In a half an hour, three local communists and 15 non-party activists have been gathered. Markov started to look through and discuss the lists of "peasants under strict orders". There are the peasants to whom individual plan for grain-collection has been established. Usually this plan is much more exceeded the quantity of grain the peasant had. "Strict orders" were not given to the rest, but even from them we could take as much grain as necessary to finish the plan assigned for the Village Soviet.

He gave a paper to all representatives and ordered us to write down to everybody's from "strict order" list the "last warning" with the remaining the quantity of grain required from them. The deadline was established in October 18. The meeting occurred in the former church building transformed into the meeting room. All peasants, entering in, removed the caps, and many of them made the sign of the cross. Markov has made a threaten speech, explaining why the state needs grain for construction of socialist's industry, repulse to enemies internal and external and strengthening of defensibility of the country. Markov threatened that everyone who will not hand over the grain would be the enemy of the soviet state and all the soviet peoples. After that it has been declared, that during a five-day period it is necessary to hand over 40,000 poods (usually for reinsurance the figure of the plan always was exaggerated by local authorities against regional, regional against received of the center). Also, "final warning" notifications were handed out to 75 peasants.

Markov told us, that the main work should be done in Stepanovka. Since nobody had meal from the morning, the representatives pointed to Markov that they have no food and dwelling. Then Marks gave the order to the collective farm manager to release the certain minimum of products for representatives and reminded us that it is forbidden to stay at a peasant's house, except for those who belong to the local activists. The Young Communist League member and teacher of local school - Lisa said that there is a small room for two adjusted to the school. Me and professor Zelman wished to settle down at school and other two students have been taken by local activists. Markov has allowed us to have a meal and take a nap, no more than two hours. At 1AM we all should gather in the Village Soviet.

Gathering in the Village Soviet, each representative received his assignment to visit a certain number of households in a village, demanding surrender of the grain. Each group consisted of one student, local activist and a communist. In our group it was a communist Tsebryna being the secretary local party committee. Echoing Galaj and to the secretary of a district committee, Markov demanded, that we should not allow to sleep peasants.

- Go in a circle through all the homes again and again - till the morning.

We have been going till the morning. Only few of the peasants promised to hand over some grain. The majority declared that they had not enough grain even for seeding. Coming back to my room in the morning I collapsed dead tired and fell asleep. However, an hour later the activist on duty called me back to Village Soviet. Markov strictly reprimanded as that we didn't collect any grain, but have dared to sleep. He sent us back to the village. This time we went without the local communists who have been busy with their other work. For a day I walked through my area twice. In the evening everybody gathered in the Village Soviet. Tsebryna informed us that during the day we have collected only 500 poods of grain. Markov has been frightened. He tried to convince us, that if we will fail to achieve appreciable results, we will be in great trouble.

- Do not forget - he told - there are a lot of "Fists" in Stepanovka. It is not easy to withdraw the grain from them. Everyone looks at us with hostility and is ready to thrust a knife into our backs.

Certainly, Stepanovka did not differ from the other villages. Last winter, everybody, who had several cows or horses incurred of confiscation all their property and were sent to northern Siberia. Markov said it was only in attempt to increase our activity. Without a minute of rest, Markov sent us again to the village. This time it was me, chairman of Village Soviet - Tereshchenko and simpleton guy - the local secretary of Young Communist League – by the name of Dubovoy. The next day as well as previous has entirely dedicated to circulation through the village. And so on - day by day, night to night. Officially we were not authorized to sleep, and everyone did it furtively.

For the whole five-day period of hard work we collected only 3000 poods of grain. On October 20th, we gathered in the regional city where Galay again shouted and threatened us with punishment. Except for anger I've seen a fear on his face, because he and the main regional managers were in danger of being removed from the work, excluded from the communist party, and even devoted to court, as well as all local authorized. From time to time the newspapers published information about penalties imposed on secretaries of district communist committees and chairmen of district Soviet executive committees. This time also some communists have been excluded from a party. Five-day tasks have been given to us and we have left for the "war for grain".

As five-day tasks were not carried out, the figure planned for each subsequent five-day period accrued. Now we had a task to collect 30,000 poods. Again and again we visited peasant's homes. I have noticed that dogs ceased to bark at me because they see me so frequently. But we couldn't collect the grain. For five days we took only 2,000 poods. Each subsequent five-day period, we went to the city for the meeting where we received

threats and the new quotas. With each five-day period the figure of the extorted grain decreased.

The local newspaper published the official report that grain-collection in a nearby district has been successfully executed by the day of October Revolution and even proceed over the plan. A week after October Holiday the "towing brigade" from that district was led by the secretary of the regional party committee. The brigade consisted of "extortion masters", including the communist party workers and collective farm activists. The brigade arrived on 50 motor vehicles. The meeting was called immediately. The newcomers accused our 200 representatives in staying idle and taking the life easy. They promise us to show, how it is necessary to work. The "towing brigade" printed the newspaper, which had the slogans to destroy opportunists and saboteurs in towed areas and laudatory hymns to their local secretary of communist party. To tell the truth, at this meeting nobody was excluded from a party or prosecuted. After the meeting "the towing brigade" divided into the small groups and left for villages. When we have arrived on the horse carts to Stepanovka, we have seen about hundred members of the brigade visiting the peasant's homes. As soon as brigade finished it, they, received a magnificent dinner from their field kitchen in a former church building with doses of vodka. After dinner the brigade quickly left. This day the granaries received only 100 poods of grain. Later, we read in newspapers that the Central Committee dispersed the brigade for vainly spending the state money, and the secretary of the district committee was dismissed and inflicted to strict punishment.

One day at a regional meeting the member of communistic academy and the former secretary of regional party committee - Kapustin had a speech. Being the person skilled and scientific, he gave such a speech as none from two hundred people present has not heard yet. In his two-hour lecture, he started from the beginning of communism. Using the colorful expressions, Kapustin has explained that all root of a failure of grain-collections (there were still outstanding 30,000 poods) consists in political weakness, spinelessness, shortsightedness, and sometimes in sabotage and regeneration, of representatives taking place here.

- If we do not amputate one organ, the whole organism will be infected – he said.
- How many of us has been excluded from a party and put into the prison during grain-collections? - he asked. And answered:
- Only 25 people were excluded from the party, and only six saboteurs were prosecuted. This shows the hopeless opportunism of a district party committee, which babysitting with criminals who impudently ruining grain-collections! If we will expel from the party 50% of communists, put half of them into the prison, and some of them shot, it will improve the situation. Then the rest 100 people will make miracles, they will prepare not 30, but 50 thousand poods of grain!

Two hundred people sitting in a hall felt like as though already sentenced. I felt, my heart beaten fast and, even knees shaken. Kapustin's requirement wasn't completely executed. But 9 persons have been excluded from the party immediately. Markov has received strict reprimand, and one of the communists of our brigade has been excluded. I think, it was a decision to exclude one person from each group. Markov has been asked which of five

communists working in Stepanovka is the saboteur? Markov could not answer immediately because everybody worked equally. However when Kapustin has shouted: - Who? - and threateningly looked at Markov, he hastened to name the first come into the memory to sacrifice for intimidation of others. He named Pavlov, the engineer of a flour-grinding factory.

After the meeting everybody being in a great fear and trembling left for villages. A manager of a regional agricultural department jointed us in Stepanovka. Certainly, he could not bring any new methods in a battle for grain. But instead of visiting the peasant's homes he started to call them to Village Soviet, persuaded, threatening and demanding them to give the grain. We rest of representatives continued to visit homes, not giving people to have rest in the evening or at night. The unfortunate peasantry was in a condition of permanent siege - since autumn of 1929. It was real attacks, following one by one and the end of it was not visible. Some of the peasants, having despaired with this unbearable condition, sold everything for nothing and left to work as miners or construction workers.

Grain from Stepanovka continued, "to drip" as we expressed at the time, but did not flow. The huge dose of fear, injected to "fighters for the grain" at last meeting forced us only to move faster from one peasant's home to another, but it didn't improve our situation. . Frequently the secretary of a district committee would visit with Galaj and Kapustin did not help our business, and their shout and threats caused us to reduce our rest time.

On November 30th meeting the public prosecutor informed us about judicial inquiry on the "Fists", "saboteurs" and some representatives, which have been given to the court. Appeared, that inquiry on "saboteurs" goes slowly. In some cases, the public prosecutor could not find a legal substantiation, not knowing under what clause of the criminal code it is possible to bring their "crime". Indignant of so slow inquiry, Kapustin asked the public prosecutor - how much grain he personally collected? The public prosecutor answered, that he's helping the grain-collection by preparing the cases for the court. Kapustin has suggested sending both, the public prosecutor and the judge for grain-collection where they will be more useful. The public prosecutor answered, that he can't work as the representative.

- I have a lot of deals here - the public prosecutor spoke. - Anywhere I shall not go.
- The party teaching us that the main business now is a grain-collection - said Galaj - and you did nothing for it. Now you will go to the village!

- I shall not go - the public prosecutor has answered. According to the offer of the secretary of party committee, the prosecutor here has been excluded from a party and removed from the post of the public prosecutor. The judge appeared to be wiser and has silently left for the village, having postponed all the judicial actions.

On the evening of December 3rd Kapustin and representative of secret service - Surikov arrived to Stepanovka. They occupied a separate room and called some people from the "strict list". It was audible as Kapustin loudly shouted and threatened them, and Surikov hissed something. They continued to call people until 11PM. At 11 o'clock they gathered

representatives, local communists and activists. Kapustin has cursed us with indecent words and threatened that everybody who will not carry out his task will be handed to Surikov. Then he gave everyone the certain task. 20 households have been given to me. Starting from December 4th, I should extort from them 300 poods of grain daily. For Stepanovka we had a plan to extort more than 30,000 poods, but in reality, for the 5 day period we collected no more than 500 poods.

Gave us such task Kapustin and Surikov have left. Twenty minutes later, I heard a near gunshot. I assumed that shot was made by Surikov, Kapustin or somebody from communists as all of them carried revolvers. Leaving one of the homes at 3AM, I saw people running along the street and speaking loudly. I asked what was going on. They answered, that in two hundred meters past the village center Dubovoy was killed. I remembered that the secretary of Young Communist League - Dubovoy went to nearby small village. In my mind I had a hard feeling of fear and despair. Stopping my useless business, I joined to the people going in that direction.

More and more people gathered. Coming closer to the victim, I could see a thin stream of the blood, which is flowing down, from a forehead where the shot was made. The bundle of papers lay on the ground near him. Markov put the guard around and gave them strict instructions how to protect the crime scene. All representatives returned back to the village and we began revisiting homes. At 11 AM the authorities came in. Kapustin, the secretary of a district party committee, Surikov and Galaj gathered all the representatives, communists and activists in the Village Soviet. Galaj explained that it was "fist's" act of terrorism and we must paralyze intrigues of enemies, organize the collective farm in Stepanovka and force the hand over grain to the state. Markov, together with chairman of the Village Soviet immediately called a meeting in a former church building. Only the poor people from the village gathered. Galaj reported that was an act of class revenge and demanded that the poor answer with brutal pressing on "fists", extort the grain and organize the collective farm in Stepanovka. He finished with the words:

"Death to murderers of Young Communists League member - Dubovoy!".

"Long live Communist Party!"

"Long live the great leader, father, teacher and our friend - comrade Stalin"

Against such reference anybody, certainly would not dare to object. Everybody approved the speech by silently raising the hand. The speech should be printed and distributed among in all villages in a district.

All the peoples in a meeting have been divided into brigades, leading with authorized communists and immediately sent for grain-collection. Surikov and the chief of police criminal investigation department begun arrests of the "fists" suspected of murder. Totally they arrested 40 people, including the former 70 year old priest, the former head of church counsel and any other persons who have shown activity in church before. All arrested persons were united by two words "fists" and "counter-revolutionaries". Actually,

they were the cleverest, advanced and most capable people in Stepanovka's population. All had been presented a condition, that if they will hand over the certain amount of grain, "suspicion" condition will be removed from them. Some people agreed to give everything they had. But nobody promised to carry out the excessive task even on a half. Others kneeling swore, that they have no more grain. Anyway, the grain collecting started again. All village was in movement. The brigades moved there and here in village visiting to death frightened families of arrested persons.

Dubovoy has been prepared to burial and delivered to the Village Soviet where has been put in the big room in a red coffin. The honor guards stood around. The room and a coffin was covered hastily made different banners with political slogans. Surikov and Kapustin indefatigably called arrested persons to the separate room. It was audible as one of the "fists" swore, that the stain on his boots are not bloody and another also swore, that the stain on his jacket is oil, not blood. I do not know how many people found with a "blood stains", but on seen it was more, than at a two.

Next day about the midday it was a funeral of a victim "fist's terror." The columns of poor peoples and collective farmers from six nearest villages, headed by the members of a district party committee came on the funeral. The brass band played funeral melodies and Markov made a rather touching political speech. He and other authorities rendered a great praise to the Dubovoy, whom they did not know at all, cursing "fists- murderers" and endlessly promised and swore to be on duty to the end of grain-collections and collectivization. The next week 18 people arrested were released and 22 were taken to the prison. The property of all the people that were taken to the prison was confiscated.

The NOTE: After some months all the arrested people, except for the local priest and one "fist" who died in prison have appeared at special court. The court has taken place in Stepanovka. In the court, those 20 people at the presence of all village people confessed guilty in Dubovoy's murder. Seven of them were sentenced to death, and the other 13 received from 6 to 10 years of imprisonment with strict isolation.

For December 4, 5 and 6 the warehouses received about 6,000 poods of grain. At the regional meetings on December 10th the secretary of the district party committee and Galaj looked satisfied. Only Kapustin was in a bad mood. The Central Committee of Communist Party appointed Galay as a main representative on our area. All other authorities, including Kapustin, should leave for villages to help in grain-collection, instead of managing. After the meeting Kapustin declared - For me it's even easier to work in one village. I will show you, how the communists struggle for grain - and he left for the biggest village.

In the following five days in Stepanovka has been collected only 30 poods. The same happened in all surrounding areas. But at that five-day period another thing happened -marriage of 46-years Markov on a young beauty Tanya - the niece of the chairman of the local Village Soviet - Tereshchenko. The marriage was not prevented by the fact, that Markov already had a wife and several children.

On December 17th after the meeting Markov with all authorized communists have been called to Nikitovka, the village about 7 kilometers from Stepanovka. At night during my regular visit to village, I saw a strange picture. Entering into one peasant's home I saw a stranger whom I've seen before at the meeting of representatives. Together with representative Tsybrina he did a search. All the family sat in the corner under icons. Children cried on hands of mother and the eldest girl. Tsybrina has invited me to help. I asked him - what does it mean? Tsybrina answered that they are searching for the gold. Another person looked at me with mistrust, but Tsybrina calmed him: - This guy, is our representative.

All icons were off the walls, tables are turned upside down, and even the legs of each stool were investigated. External height and depth inside of all chests has been measured. The host, his wife and all the children had a personal search. Even the oven and the flue have been checked up.

After all, the stranger said to hosts - You have gold earrings, gold coins, a ring and a cross. According to secret service order you are obliged to hand it over to the state and get a receipt. In a case of refusal, you will be in trouble. The host declared, that from all listed there they have only a body cross which is a precious memory from the monastery which his wife visited when she was a girl. Earrings and the ring were sold many years ago, the gold coins they never had. The stranger suggested to hand over a cross and sign a paper that stated that in case of detection one of these things the owner would be the subject to the strict penalty. Except that, it was a demand to keep this visit in a secret. The host and his wife signed the papers, but the women declared, that she will prefer to die, but do not give a cross. However, the stranger insisted, that she should give the cross immediately or she will be arrested. It was clear that the woman would go anywhere, but do not give a cross. Tsybrina warned her, that because of this cross, she would be separated from her children. The stranger ordered him to put the cloth on. The husband with tears on eyes began to persuade her to give a cross: - Give it, - he spoke, - let the God will forgive, but not orphan the children. But she continued to put on. When she put shoes on, the cross has hung on the thread. Husband with a fast movement seized it, broke the thread and gave it to stranger. The poor woman having lost the most precious thing she had, has fallen to the ground and continued to beat in a hysterics. We three have quickly left. They suggested me to go in another household with them, but I refused it.

As then appeared, after the meeting regarding withdrawal of gold our representatives have been directed to villages, where they together with local communists should make searches. In Stepanovka searches have been made in 14 homes. Body crosses, earrings, wedding rings, some coins, and one teaspoon have been withdrawn. Three persons has been arrested and sent to secret service jail at night. Next morning all representatives and communists, after night struggle for gold, returned back to Stepanovka to continue to collect the grain, though knew that this useless business. In Stepanovka, it has been already extorted about 95 thousand of poods and the peasants could have only very small quantity of grain for livelihood. Visiting the homes, we saw, that half of peasants eat bread baked of a mix of flour, vegetables and chaff.

This five days period brought us nothing. Though the feeling of fear after the meetings had tendency to cool down, but some king of fear was in our hearts when we went to the

regional meeting on December 20. Kapustin didn't show up at the meeting, but there was the instructor from the Central Communist Party Committee - Katsman. He suggested to listen reports from the villages. The first report made the representative from Nikitinka village - Benja. Under his story they did the same us we did in Stepanovka, but the grain did not come any more.

- I began to call already in tenth or twentieth time peoples from "strict list" in a separate room - spoke Benja, - and tried to convince them, but useless. One swore the children, second kisses the ground that they have no more grain. I called the widow and began to persuade and threat her. - I have not grain - she insisted. Then I decided to intimidate her. I snatched out a revolver and put it to her forehead. She was so much frightened, that even her eyes pops up and a mouth has opened. I asked her - Where is the grain? She answered - It is buried in a garden - and pointed the place. I have released her, took the group of people and run to the specified place. We rummaged the entire place but didn't discover the grain. She deceived us and run away. I was told later that she spoke someone, she run away from the death and I nearly killed her. Well, tell me if it is possible, which other methods can I apply?

Then engineer Georgiev reported. He said: - You could exclude me from a party today or tomorrow. But I did the best within the limits of my mind. I made a total search at all six hundred peasant's homes. I took away every pood of grain, and not only the grain, I took a millet, a flour - everything! I carried all this stuff on my shoulders. Now, nobody can accused me, that I did not work properly. And how much grain do you think I collected? In total it's only 260 poods. And the shortage at my village still about 20000 poods ". Five more persons spoke after Georgiev, including the instructor of a city town committee who is seeing off students. He has declared in conclusion of the report: "I am ready to give a head for cutting off, that there is no more grain in my village."

Then the instructor of the Central Party Committee - Katsman had a twenty minutes speech. Actually, it was not a speech, it was a storm. His complexion constantly varied, it changed to red, crimson and even gray. Eyes were poured by blood and were ready to jump out. He furiously waved the hands as a mill wings. - Here is the secret! The traitors are sitting here! He shouted striking by hand the pile of papers.

- What did you do? - shouted Katsman, addressing to the secretary of a district party committee and Galaj. He was crimson and shivering, his eyes almost stuck out from orbits.

- What did you do? - even more loudly shouted he, bending from fury and simply clicking a teeth before fatally pale faces of Galaj and the secretary of a district party committee. When Galaj lifted his head, I noticed, that his eyes do not obey him and rotated in a different directions.

- You forgot - continued to shout Katsman - that you among the enemies, that you are on war surrounded with deadly enemies! You have lost your mind and do not think who is who! Here is the first enemy whom I immediately demand to exclude from a party and arrest! And he pointed to the instructor of a town party committee.

The instructor sat down, and his neighbors in horror moved out of him.

- And this is the blockhead, the arrant fool who dragged 260 poods of grain and gave the receipt to "fists" and other this petty-bourgeois swines, that they have no more grain! -

roared Katsman pointing to Georgiev. That poor creature was shakin as in a fever, and his teeth loudly knocked.

- I demand for the beginning to write down to the strict reprimand for him and send to another village. If he will not justify our trust, get him out of party and bring him to the court!

Addressing to everybody, Katsman yelled and squealed - "You are the traitors! You are not communists you are the gang of traitors and conspirators! I have the power from the Central Party Committee to disperse the whole party organizations! I have power to apply to you any measures what you have deserved, down to death execution!"

I felt like somebody piled heavy stones on my breast.

In the end of speech Katsman cried addressing to hall: "If anybody feels like weak, unable to carry out the task assigned to him - lift hands."

Nobody has lifted the hand.

Addressing to the secretary of a district committee of party Katsman has ordered: "Immediately exclude from a party this... traitor, and write down reprimand to another one.

- Vote! - Everybody voted and approved. The instructor of a city town committee has been excluded from the party and surrendered his party membership card.

- Arrest him! - ordered Katsman.

The representative of GPU Surikov approached to excluded and took him out. Then the strict reprimand has been written down to Georgiev.

Unexpectedly, the manager city cultural committee - Golovan has asked a word.

Addressing to Katsman, he started talking:

- You have accused all of us present here in treachery, isn't it?

- Are you disagree? - cried Katsman.

- I am not only disagree, but I declare, that it is a slander.

- What? - has cried Katsman, but Golovan continued - Your shout will not frighten me.

Also, nobody prevented you when you spoke, so have patience to listen, what I shall tell you. If you count yourselves as a communist and two hundred of persons as traitors, it yet does not mean, that it is the truth. Do you think the enemies have collected more than 1.600.000 poods of grain? I do not argue - the peoples are different. We have excluded from the party those who failed the business. But nobody will dare to name me the traitor because I succeeded in three villages and now in my current village the plan is executed on 99 % and will be certainly completed in a next five days.

I understand we need an "iron" discipline, and iron discipline mean fear. Without deadly fear, even me with my fidelity to the party, could not produce those results what I have. And I quite approve and I subscribe under your threats. Let's talk about the methods. You have flared up, when people spoke that they do not know what kind of methods to use to take the grain. One does total searches, and other puts revolver to a forehead because he aspires to carry out the task, but do not able and does nonsense. To extract the grain we

have to use the certain methods, sometimes unusually complex. This business is more complex than the war. You are visiting different areas and probably seen successful methods of grain-collections. Don't you want to share these methods with us?

Though Katsman was nervous, but he has listened Golovan, only occasionally throwing retorts: " Thanks for a moral - he said, - and if you so want from me the methods, go to Stepanovka village to prove the fidelity of a party. I warned you before the people from the district party committee and all two hundred here present, that if you will not take for a five-day week the rest of 25,500 poods of grain, you will be excluded from the party and any your merits will not rescue you.

"Could be better to give you my party membership card in advance?" - With irony, but with visible excitement has asked Golovan. "No, it is not necessary now - answered Katsman and added:

- Everybody must immediately leave for villages now.

Golovan took place in our horse cart and ask us to stop near his apartment. He left for his home and returned ten minutes later. He accompanied with his wife. The fear has been reflected in her eyes. Probably he warned her, that he goes difficult business and may lose communist party membership.

Local communists called Golovan - "monk". He did not smoke, didn't drink vodka even on official banquets, had no additional income except his salary and even never claimed travel expenses when he traveled for business. At the same time the secretary of a district communist party committee had at home several sacks of flours, lots of honey, butter and other products. Golovan lived half-starving, wearing holey boots and had no even a short coat. For the last three month the secretary of a district committee got a pair of suits and a coat and all the goods from the local society store went first for his wife. Other regional authorities did the same in self-supply by products, manufactured goods from cooperative warehouses.

Golovan was strange exception. Such rather strange and unreasonable behavior explained by his believing in communistic ideals as religious dogma and piously trusted in them. Precisely same fanatic was his wife. They have been very happy. Poverty did not confuse them, they seriously trusted, that they are building the paradise for the future generations. Golovan had other "defects", he had gentle disposition, was fair, truthful. He was sentimental up to tearfulness. People told that during the evictions of "Fists" from their homes with small half-naked children during the severe icy cold weather, it was a tear in his eyes, but he believed, that these victims are necessary. In the name of "great ideals" he suppressed his voice of conscience.

During the collectivization and grain collection he was used as "heavy artillery", overcoming any obstacles and Golovan invariable came out the winner

All the way to the village he has been silent, anxious and seems to be internally rather excited, though externally seems quiet. Looks like was is deeply thinking about something.

Having arrived in Stepanovka, Golovan at once has demanded "strict list" and the list of village activists. Looking through the lists, he asked to characterize several activists which he has selectively named and asked, how many grain each of them has already handed. Then he checked up how many grain has been handed over by each of local communists. Appeared, that chairman of Village Soviet Tereshchenko has handed over only 10 poods. He also has asked to give him the data on the land size for all the farms and compared it with the plans of grain-collections. After inquiry about methods used to grain collection he suggested Markov to send the people back to private farms. Also, he asked Markov to name somebody from a brigade who could quickly make notes. Markov has named me. I was very pleased, as hoped to see how he will work, and also, I would like to consider this unusual man.

Golovan asked chairman of the Village Soviet to invite the individual farmers for the evening meeting. After this he began to consider the statistics with size of the lands, quantity of cattle and structure of family. Then has begun to copy this list and has added columns: - "must hand over the grain" - and - "already handed over". He has given a part of this work to me. When lists were ready, it was dark outside. He chose thirty surnames from these lists and ordered the chairman of Village Soviet to call these people at night. Then he began to have dinner which consists of a piece of bread. I suggested him to have a meal with me at my home, but he refused it. At 8 in the evenings we have gone for the meeting. There were no more than hundred persons. In short and quiet speech Golovan told them that the grain is necessary for the state and that peasants should hand it over honesty it contrary to peoples who hide the grain and tell others do not hand it over. Also, he assured that the grain collection plan will be executed during this five-day period. He has finished with the words: "This night, open your secret storehouses and till the morning hand over only 2000 poods and we will decide in the morning what to do next. So, remember - 2000 poods till the morning."

The assembly slowly began to miss, and we have gone to the Village Soviet. On the road I asked Golovan, whether he trusts that though hundreds of poods will be hand over during the night? He answered: "I'm not the child, but we cannot act differently. Any business should begin from attempt to convince people voluntary to execute the requirement of the Soviet authorities. If it does not help, then not stopping the propaganda, we must use other methods. The peasants have the grain, but it is well hidden. There are no odd fellows who will voluntary hand over the grain. Everyone hide grain, the question is - how we could force them to hand it over. Collective farms business is easier - everything on the account. Heads of collective farm try to please first to authority, instead of collective farmers to keep their position. Therefore, if it has ordered them to take out everything, they will do it and will not even think how many remain to collective farmers. And here is how to compel individual farmers to hand over the grain? You heard, that has turned out when Georgiev attempt to take the grain. Comrade Lenin teaches us, that in any business it is necessary to find out the main part.

To find that part we must use our brains. Among two hundred persons working in the villages including city workers and university professors, there are no more than ten people, capable to find such main parts of business.

To be in fear, people usually do the thing that first comes to their mind - arrest and hold the people for some days in a cold shed or a cellar, not allowing to eat. One representative even tied the old woman to the tree on the street under the rain, taking off a coat from her. But all this violence will not help. I never heard that anyone from individual farmers has handed over the grain after such violence. Some of them will more likely to die, than to leave children without bread. Hence it is necessary to search for other methods. The peasants are convinced that their hidden grain cannot be found, therefore they will sing the same old song: - "We have no grain".

Then he has asked me, whether I know somebody from local people who are reliable and may help us with the grain collection? I told him, it may be village activists, who helped to representatives. For interrogation peoples from "strict list" we occupied a small room at the Village Soviet. All peasants told us that they have no more grain and even asked us to make a search. Golovan did notes in his papers. About one o'clock in the morning Volynets came in - the twenty years son of widow from "strict list". He has explained, that mother is sick and has sent him. He has been very badly dressed. The clothes were a tatter, and on the legs, he had shoes with holes although rural streets have been covered with a mud. Volynets told us that he and his mother may die by the spring with famine because they handed over all the grain long time ago and added that peasants, who have grain, are registered as activists and they have authority to put others to the "strict list". Golovan asked him if he knows somebody who has a lot of hidden grain? Volynets answered that if he even knew, he would not tell, and he bears nobody of malice. Having learned that his father was the red guerrilla and died several years ago, Golovan asked him, whether he knows somebody from peasants who was a fighter for Soviet Power during the civil war and is very poor now?

- I know such people - answered Volynets. One of them is the former militiaman Gorobets and the other - Petrenko served in a Red Army together with my father. They leave in nearby village and they are such poor that nobody respects them. Having released Volynets, Golovan has charged me to call immediately Gorobets and Petrenko, that I and have executed through attendants. Golovan continued the conversations with peasants. When he passed about 25 people he told me: "Speaking between us, half of these people certainly have no some grain, and due to them the plan cannot be executed. These lists would need to be revised, more truly on half to update due to other people, including some activists, but I was occurred with a good idea. If I can find for the beginning only two reliable people, we shall take the grain.

Gorobets has appeared. He had only excessively worn out jacket and there was no even a shirt on him. On one leg he had a fragmentary boot tied up a cord, and on another - old galosh. The head has been decorated with an old red peak-cap, hanging on one ear. Gorobets had a dashing appearance, but magnificent mustaches. He looks like forty years old. As told us that his family consisted of seven peoples which being are hungry and

cold, did not leave a log hut for the whole day and were heated one from another. Gorobets told us that live in collective farm is intolerable. "We can improve the business in collective farm, - said Golovan, - for such people as you we can provide some help if you can help the state. Gorobets answered - Yes, I always ready to help, but I don't want to be forgotten because I spilled my blood during the war and now have such poverty life. It should be a shame for the Soviet authority, that nobody does hear me and does not want to help.

- As you can see, I heard about you and wanted to meet you, because you have been highly praised said Golovan.
- Who may praise me? I can't believe in it – the local authorities look at me with contempt. I did my job during the war job and now may be thrown into the garbage. But in case if it will be necessary to protect a revolution, they will recollect me.
- Are you still ready to protect the Soviet Power and even to die for it? - asked Golovan. Gorobets was a little hushed up. – I can tell you the truth. If I should die for the Soviet Power and my children will not be forgotten - then I'm ready. But I'm not willing to protect interests of our new sirs.
- Now dear comrade Gorobets you don't need to fight or spill your blood any more. But instead, you should help me with grain-collections. I can assure you - at that time, neither you, no your children will not be forgotten. You are the person devoted to the Soviet Power and I can see you are vigorous, clever and obviously well know, that is doing on in the villages. Gorobets could not keep silent: - I know it – he said. Golovan's praises and promises bribed him and he was obviously ready for any services.

And so, continued Golovan, - first name to me of you know the same offended and same reliable people, as you. But they should be ready for any business. And first of all, tell me what kind of person Petrenko? Gorobets has characterized Petrenko as quite reliable person and also, he has named 9 more persons for whom he warranted in every respect. All these people have been offended and extremely poor.

Golovan ordered to call in all these people. Soon Petrenko has appeared. Golovan asked Gorobets to step out for some minutes and asked Petrenko about him. Petrenko characterized Gorobets as a person who hating almost everybody and capable for everything. Petrenko also has agreed to render any service.

Then we called Gorobets. Addressing to Petrenko he contentedly started talking: "Here the brother - are the good people who do not forget us, and appreciate old fighters, want us to serve and truly they will not forget us ". Petrenko also approved the list of people named by Gorobets.

"Well, and now, - has addressed to both Golovan, - start the business. To extract the grain, it is necessary to know precisely where it is hidden. Not presumably, but completely precisely to know where it is, otherwise, we shall ruin all business. Therefore, I ask you to name one or two people who, as you know for sure hiding the grain, where and how many". Gorobets and Petrenko started thinking.

"Our main task now is precisely to write down everything we will know about hidden grain. Also, we must write down all the data about their property status, the past of the people who hiding the grain and their political characteristic" - instructed me Golovan while those two recollected everything that they knew about hidden grain.

"We live outside of Stepanovka village and consequently we have a few data. When we will gather all our peoples, then we can lay out to you a full picture" - said Gorobets. "Do you know what else we can do? - He continued - it is necessary to include our wives in this business. They know much more than a man. This offer was pleased Golovan very much. Then Gorobets and Petrenko began to name the persons hiding the grain. They specified the quantities and where it was hidden.

Simultaneously they informed a degree of reliability and a source whence they have taken these data. Both simply burnt with the desire to provide more such data, it was obvious first counting upon compensation. All conversations were conducted by half-whisper that it was not audible outside of room.

Peoples named by Gorobets and Petrenko began to come. All of them were poor, offended, embittered and ready for any kind of business. Each of them was exposed to detailed interrogation about his past, relatives, attitude to Soviets and so on. Then he usually acquainted with an affair by Gorobets and Petrenko and was included in prospecting work. Everyone should inform independently all data known to him which I accurately wrote down.

The data that have been already written down and appeared repeatedly had greater attention. Almost all invited peoples came in and the data given by them hardly held in notebook. I was amazed with awareness existing on village. What may be the source of these data? Maybe someone has peeped, when grain hid, or someone under a strict secret has told the close relatives who in turn under a secret stirred up further. Most of the secrets were known from the women.

Golovan took a special note to the data taken from children's conversations. When we finished collection of information, Golovan ordered me to read each message which has undergone to collective discussion.

We had authentic data only for four persons. It was precisely known what kind of grain is hidden, where, and approximately its quantity. Among these four, there was one widow living with the teenager nearby to the Village Soviet.

Two activists suggested to Golovan to deliver material evidence to their message and it was authorized to them to do it, but with a condition of extreme care.

Before let them go, Golovan addressing to all of us said: "I have no doubts, that we shall take the grain, I have made sure, that you are reliable people, praiseworthy and gratitude. The business we are doing is absolute secret. If we could not keep it, the rumors will run, as the wave on water and will inevitably reach the one who hides the grain."

So, the main thing is to keep secret. I do not think that any of you will be capable of treachery as you know each other very well, but garrulity is extremely dangerous.

Therefore, I'm warning each of you that outside of the given circle of persons you cannot tell any word to anybody including your own wife. Even suspicion activity may guard the people and we shall fail. It must be the absolute secret and everyone who will give out

this secret will lose his life. Instead to transfer him to secret service, I will kill him by myself as the criminal by my handgun ".

Here Golovan took out a shiny revolver. Seen the weapon, ready to deprive a life for one superfluous word, even brave Gorobets was frightened a little, some people had nervously cough. Golovan has hidden the revolver and continued: "We have some data, but it is not enough. Your conversations with woman may help us a lot. Comrade Gorobets was right. And I charge you to ask your wives, what they know.

Certainly, not everyone is able to do it without risk. Therefore, do it only if you hope that your wife will not blab out and in two minutes will forget that you asked. The same who has quite reliable and dexterous wives or daughters, charge them to talk with people and cautiously direct conversations at grain-collections. I believe that such ways we will get additional data.

Now one more important circumstance: to nobody could reproach you, that you didn't handed over the grain, I demand that all of you should hand over all the grain you have, even a flour. And do it whenever is possible in public, that everybody knew that you are conscious citizens. Give really everything, not leaving even a stock for a week. I assure you, that everything collected over the plan will be yours.

Disturbing voices were heard: "What will be happened, if we shall hand over everything, even flour, and the plan will not be executed?" Golovan answered, that it is necessary to work hard to exceed the plan, and he does not doubt of it. "For those of us who already frightened for result of our fight, will better leave us and do not influence negatively others."

One of us said that he can give only two poods of flour from four, because he doesn't want to be the grave-digger of the whole heap of kiddies. All others pressed him, especially Gorobets, calling him as a traitor and, addressing to Golovan, has expressed the opinion on isolation of this person till plan will be executed.

Golovan has calmed down the activists and ordered that person to leave and forget that he saw and heard, risking losing a life. With words: "I'm not the enemy to myself and my children ", he has left.

The other person said: "Comrade Representative, I am a member of collective farm where I have never received any grain for my work. I have two poods of barley and ready to hand over it, as well as all others and I will do it now.

But do you know where is this grain from? I borrowed it from a man whose name is Makagon. Yes, he has a hidden grain. I do not know that you are going to do with him, but he is very kind and fair person. He isn't a reach man, but he has already handed over to the state more than 200 poods. Except me, I know ten other collective farmers whom he with a pity to their children has given on a bag of grain. Giving this, he spoke to everyone: " Will have - will return, if not - the God with you". Except me, there are two more peoples in this meeting, who have received grain from him.

One of the two named persons answered: "Do you think he gave the grain to you and me from the poverty? It was given from prosperity. You do not know that he had in his mind. He could think: "Instead of giving grain to the state for nothing, it's better to give the poor men who could later protect me". Now he has a reason to hide the rest of grain and to say: "I have no more, I gave everything to poor". I would fluff up him.

Having stopped dispute, Golovan told: "Nobody knows what the real intentions of Makagon was. If he hasn't hidden grain, we didn't speak about him. I quite understand comrade, who pities the benefactor, but in fact we are political people and our great task is a struggle for grain. And you know, how our party and comrade Lenin speaks: "Struggle for grain - struggle for socialism".

For the success of grain collection you should not pity even your own father. I can tell about my father: he fed me, grew, and helped me to get education, not eating enough and suffering of any need with family. I became the communist, have apprehended the doctrine of communism and became the fighter for realization of communistic ideas. But my father blocked my way to the building of socialism. I have tried to over persuade him, but he has rested: "Our grandfathers and fathers lived individually, and I want to live and die on my own land". What should I do in this situation? In the name of communism, I renounced my father and all my family in the official letter I sent to the Village Soviet where it has been read on a meeting. Father has cursed me for it.

As you can see I have not regretted my own father. I understand when you pity another person, moreover doing kind affairs for you. But we shall tell that when you feed the pig or calf in fact you love them.

For example, I love calves very much. It was very a pity to me to see when somebody cut the calf or even a pig. And this is my wife herself always cuts the hen. But I do not object to cut them. We cut them not because we hate them, but because it is necessary.

The same happened in business. It is possible to not have any hate and even to regret for the person, but if the state interests demand it, it is necessary to sacrifice him. This justification of bringing benefactors in a victim was accepted with the big satisfaction that was expressed in approving notice of peoples in the meeting.

It was almost dawn and Golovan has hastened of two peoples promised to bring "material evidences" to go.

Then addressing to activists, he has told, that it is desirable to expand this brigade by bringing the reliable people, but an obligatory condition of acceptance in a brigade should be delivering all the grain. He said: "Definitely, those who have hidden grain will wish to join us even so-called "activists" from the Village Soviet. We cannot accept not only these "activists" in our brigade, but even two local communists."

Peoples started to name the people which could be included in brigade. Golovan has charged to call these people. Scouts returned and brought a sample of wheat hidden under chaff in a tent. Everybody smiles in a prediction of the successful beginning. Golovan ordered two scouts to stay with him and the rest of peoples allowed going for a breakfast and carrying out the assignment, i.e. to try to discover an additional data about hidden grain.

All activists should hand over the grain and return not later than 10 o'clock in the morning, bringing the additional members whom have been solved to admit in a brigade.

Golovan asked me, how many teachers are there? I answered, that there is only one teacher – Lisa, a member Young Communist League. "Let's visit her" he said. We came in school. Lisa had a breakfast and invited us to have on a cup of tea.

"I have an important, but completely secret assignment for you" - said Golovan.

- You should in skillful conversation with children to find out where their parents hide the grain".

I thought Lisa will not accept this proposal which had no any relation with education. However, she appeared rather pleased.

-I will do it - she said with a smile - I already helped to secret service in revealing the hidden gold, so I already have some experience.

-Perfect! But remember, this should be secret, warned Golovan.

- Do not worry - answered Lisa - after the lessons and even earlier you will receive a bale of reports.

She left for the lesson. Golovan began to be nervous.

- What happened, if this young girl will fail our serious business? In fact, we will lose everything. Listen, go to the classroom and tell her quietly to postpone this action for a while.

I quickly went to the classroom. Lisa spoke to children and I decided to do not interrupt her. She asked me to sit down and continued the fascinating story about the brave young boy. After ten minutes she finished this story, telling the children that this brave boy knew everything, even knew where mum and dad hide the grain.

- But nobody of you knows it - finished her story Lisa.

I was struck having seen as about twenty children's hands have quickly shot up. Some impatient even shaken their hands asking: "Lisa, Lisa listen to me"

No, my dear children, - answered Lisa crafty smiling, - I cannot allow you to speak about it. Your parents told you speak to nobody about it. But if you want, we shall write class work: "Where my dad and mum hide the grain"

-We shall write, we shall write! - cried a trustful kid.

- Well, it is good, here is a paper. Write please. I shall correct your mistakes later.

Children's heads were declined above school desks, and they started writing a terrible denunciation dooming parents and themselves to the death. They did it with such diligence and such love, not having in their pure souls a shadow of suspicion about treachery of the plan.

I told Golovan about it. He was delighted with Lisa's ingenious.

- Listen, I told him - to transform in such way innocent children into murderers of the parents - it is awful!

- I can tell you the same thing I have already told to our brigade - Any victims are acceptable in the name of interests of the state. The goal justifies any actions.

- Don't you think I had no pity for children during the eviction of reach peasants? At the time, when I did it, I thought, that my heart will become torn. I'm very compassionate and soon or later it will ruin me. But what could I do? I'm obligated to do the things that are disgusting for my heart. It's may be a result of brought up in the childhood or simply I have such character. I'm struggle with myself, but I cannot overcome my feeling of compassion and I can do all these things only with a great effort of my will.

- How many such ideological communists do you know? - I asked.

- Unfortunately, in our town I don't know any of ideological communists. Speaking between us, our local leaders serve exclusively to ideas of their stomach. They have no either ideals, nor heart. And sufferings of other peoples are a trifle which is not worthy for them. It is difficult, very difficult to build a new society with such people.

We returned to the Village Soviet and Golovan continues of viewing of lists, showing to Tereshchenko and others he is busy with his ordinary work. Tereshchenko did not suspect that the special brigade is already created and the whole network of spies including women and innocent children are working around in a secret.

At 10 PM the activists gathered again bringing the new "reliable" peoples. The clothes many of them have been stained with flour. Golovan checked all the peoples against the brigade list and wrote down how many grain and flour has been handed each member. The person who refused to hand over two poods of flour came back. He declared that he changed his mind, ready to hand over all he has and now is sorry. As well as the last night, the meeting occurred in separate room and half-whisper.

Instructed the new peoples and warned them about the responsibility, Golovan came to Tereshchenko and ordered urgently to prepare three horse carts. In the meantime, Gorobets spoke:

- If somebody will try to break our business, comrade representative will shoot such person as f dog. Even the shoot is not necessary. We shall break off him on a part! Truly I speak?"

- It is true! – Amicably answered activists.

Golovan has sent one person to bring a widow Pavluchka who has wheat hidden in a tent. Pavluchka appeared.

- If you have so much grain why don't you hand it over to the state? - asked Golovan.

- Oh, I have no grain. 250 poods has already handed over, other have eaten me and my son. Now, we have no grain at all - answered Pavluchka.

- You will not deceive me. You still have a lot of grain, but you have buried it. Pavluchka made the sign of cross and swore that she has nothing and even asked for a search.

- And what we could do if we shall find? - asked Golovan.

- My God, if you will find even a ten poods - take all my property and shoot me.

- Are you seriously speaking? Are you ready to accept such penalty if we shall find a grain?

- Here to you a sacred cross - answered Pavluchka.

Golovan has written the paper and read it to Pavluchka. "Hereby I swore that I have no grain and I ask to make a search. If the grain will be found even ten poods, I ask to shoot me and confiscate my property.

Pavluchka without any fear signed the paper.

- Now, let's start a search - said Golovan and we left.

We went to her backyard and within three minutes discovered the big heap of wheat at least 25 of poods covered with a chaff. Pavluchka stood, as in catalepsy. - Escort her to the Village Soviet - ordered Golovan.

Two persons began to punch the ground in a shed by sharp iron pivots. But they found nothing. Golovan took in a handful of the wheat from the heap and gone to the Village Soviet. It was a lot of noise in a brigade room. Activists shout to doomed Pavluchka, who stood the middle of room. Golovan sharply asked Pavluchka:

- Where did you hide the rest of grain?

- God witness that I have no more hidden grain - answered shivering and crying woman. Golovan stretched a hand with wheat taken from the heap and cried:

- What is that?

Pavluchka fallen to knees before him – Have mercy on me! - She begged.

- Tell immediately where is the hidden grain - shouted Golovan.

- I swear a life of my son that I have no more.

- And do you think where we have found this wheat? - Asked Golovan.

- Under the manure in the barn. I swear - I have no more!

I was struck how artfully Golovan lured poor Pavluchka. Having left her under supervision of activists he came back to the Pavluchka's backyard.

He asked activists - Did you find something?

- No, we checked all the ground. Nothing is present.

- Let's go to the barn. Move this manure!

Activists quickly moved the manure.

- Now search! - Ordered Golovan. Pivots rested against a tree.

- Quickly to dig!

The deep pit has been discovered. There were about ten bags with wheat and barley. It was a last supply Pavluchka tried to rescue for herself. Returning to the Village Soviet, Golovan told to Pavluchka:

- According to the paper you signed all your property, and the house will be confiscated. You will be sending to the secret service and Surikov will take care of you.

Miserable woman fallen to knees and asked him about mercy, but it is vain. Golovan wrote some words and gave it to me.

- In half an hour make a banner from plywood with this text.

I have found two idleness young guys at the Village Soviet and charged them to build a banner.

In the half an hour, deprived all the property Pavluchka went the middle of street, wading in a December mud accompanied by two activists, going astride. One of them held a banner above her head as a palm leaf above a head of the Pharaoh. The banner said: "She is the enemy of the people. Had a grain hidden from the state. Therefore, she had been arrested".

All the peoples from Stepanovka looked at this show, and the other villages through which conducted the arrested person. Her boy, seeing it, runs away from village.

The brigade got a new residence in her former house. We found flour and some bacon at that home. Also, there were a good cow and hens. All this now belonged to brigade. Golovan has appointed Gorobets to manage the catering services for brigade under the strict supervision that there were no plunders. The confiscated clothes and footwear has been "sold" to brigade members for extremely low prices. Gorobets got female leather jacket for the five rubles which he immediately put on. Others also have dressed up. Activist's wives have appeared and started make a dinner in a kitchen. Unexpectedly stocks of products have strongly replenished, as keen-sighted brigade activists have caught the Jew- speculator on a road near the village. He carried the whole cart of different goods: flours, meat, hens, eggs, and vegetable oil. The poor creature not only had complaints against confiscating, but even removed a cap thanked Golovan that he let him go in peace.

Now, above the gate of former Pavluchka's manor waved a red flag, and a signboard: "*The Shock Brigade - struggle for grain - struggle for socialism*". On a gate was a sign: "No entrance for Strangers and Fists - penalty 25 rubles!"

The lunch time became. It was an enormous lunch for the members of brigade. All of them for a long time had no such meals. These people have been made by authority poor. But the same authorities using them for punishment their neighbors gave them just one lunch and this lunch made them happy. They were ready to kiss Golovan for this meal. All man, women and children - unfortunate, torn off and hungry, looked at Golovan with such gratitude and love, that even a tear stood in their eyes. People in an impulse of delight and gratitude were seemed to offer their lives for him

Golovan was not so happy. He has gathered the poor people's not for a pleasure, but for business. To give the peoples place for the rest, Gorobets ordered to bring in some hay. Those people, who use to live in poor cold log huts, luxuriated here testing a real pleasure lying in hay.

Time was to start to work. Golovan sent me to the school; whence I brought the whole bale of paper sheets diligently filled up by pupils and thanked Lisa on behalf of Golovan. – Tell Golovan not to be afraid, that children will tell somebody that they wrote. I guarantee the uttermost preservation of secret – said Lisa. She smiled; pleased that has filled such "the important state task".

- What may be happen with these unfortunate children in near future? - I thought, bearing the papers sheets which have been wrapped up in the newspaper.

Golovan ordered me to record the new information, which we just received. This work took me for some hours. Alongside with it, Golovan ordered Tereshchenko to call all individual peasants to the evening meeting.

By the supper time then all the work has been finished, Golovan joined me in a small room and we began to compare information. The pupil's compositions where they frankly described where the daddy with mum hides the gain became the most valuable material. The final list of the peasants who have hided grain consisted more than of 30 surnames. Golovan arranged them in the certain sequence, according two attributes: a degree of prosperity and quantity (approximate) the hidden grain.

The courier informed us, that people gathered for meeting.

Golovan has not allowed members of brigade to attend the meeting. During the day he did not allow them to perambulate along the street and gather in groups in order do not cause excessive suspicion. Now he has forbidden them to leave and advised to sleep.

He asked Gorobets to take from collective farm and prepare the saddle horses and twenty horse carts be on duty at the Village Soviet

Then we have gone for the meeting. There were much less people gathered then yesterday.

Golovan started speaking: "Yesterday I have collected you on meeting and today it was necessary to collect, and tomorrow I shall collect you because of your fault. Yesterday I explained to you, that the plan should be executed. I demanded to hand over 2000 poods till this morning. But you did nothing. Today we collected 150 poods from which 75 poods are withdrawn from Pavluchka, and the others handed by poor peoples, who appeared more conscious and diligent because they handed over all up to last grain. I once again warn you and I appeal to your prudence. Anyway, we will execute the plan. Today the December 21. By the morning December, 22 you must hand over yesterday's 2000 poods.

The meeting has ended. Nobody from local authorities suspected, that for that day Golovan made a lot of investigations and created a shock brigade. They only heard, that some grain has been found and nothing else.

We came back to the headquarters of a shock brigade. Near the home a man approach to us and introduced himself as local activist. He told us that he would like to join to brigade. When we tried to open a gate, it appeared closed. We knocked the gate and the hail was heard behind of a fence:

- Who goes?
- What's up? - Asked Golovan.
- Oh, this is you - comrade representative, welcome.

The gate has opened.

- Comrade Gorobets established posts at the gate, near the stable and one more mobile. Just in case if something happens - informed us the gatekeeper.

The part of peoples snored, the others were playing the cards which have hasty been hidden when we came into the house. Gorobets talked about something with two

members of brigade. Our companion appeared the gray-haired plausible old man, decently dressed. Addressing to Gorobets and others Golovan said:

- Ivan wishes to participate in our brigade. What can you tell about him?

Gorobets answered:

- I have nothing against him... but... I do not know why he wants to join to our brigade. However, if he will take over all his grain, as we did, we could accept him.

- Tell us honestly, how much grain do you have? - Asked Golovan.

- Yes, to tell the truth, I still have thirty poods, but I have the family which should eat something till a new crop, i.e. 7 more months, and I need seeds and...

But peoples started shouting so loudly, that he could not tell any more.

- Well, and how much grain could you hand over? - Asked Golovan.

- Maybe 15 poods I would give...

- No, no! Not enough! - Cried peoples.

Golovan asked Gorobets with low voice - what kind of person Ivan is and why he wants to join to brigade. He answered, that Ivan is very reasonable, competent, authoritative and always active in all campaigns. Besides it, he is rather acute and certainly feels coming troubles, therefore wants to join a brigade as he does not see any safe way from this situation.

- With a view of precaution it is better to not devote him that we have spoken. We have to give him a strong warning to tell nobody, what we are doing here - said Gorobets.

In Golovan opinion, it may be good to have such person in a brigade, but everybody disagreed on Ivan acceptance of he will hand over less than 30 poods. Ivan spans, repeatedly began to scratch a nape, something thought, and even tried to leave, then returned, obviously decided what for him it is more safe to be in a brigade and finally has declared:

- Well, I will give all the grain I have.

Peoples loudly cried as a sign of approval. It was not known how much grain Ivan really had, but 30 poods were a quantity nobody handed over for a long time.

Then Golovan asked him, whether he knows who hides a grain and where. Ivan fearfully answered, that he does not know.

- Keep in mind - said Golovan - all we discussed here is a secret. Beside this, joining the brigade, you cannot leave from here without the permission.

I was allowed to go to bed, but I must make a banner with words " Struggle for grain - struggle for socialism" and "Death to fists", that I made in the evening. Having finished the work, I have fallen asleep and had a good rest after two days rich with impressions and shocks.

In 6 o'clock in the morning everyone woke up. Gorobets sent some peoples to clean the horses delivered last evening. Golovan left for the Village Soviet where he ordered the attendants to bring the household of every home in a village for the meeting. And he threatened, that the persons avoiding the meeting will be arrested.

Attendants run up to carry out the order. Women in a brigades headquarter assiduously prepared for a plentiful breakfast. It was a sound of milking cows from a shed. At 8 o'clock brigade had a breakfast.

Golovan was noticeably worried, constantly looking in the records and tensely thought, biting a lower lip. He entrusted Gorobets to bring the brigade in alertness. Around 10 am we have been informed, that the church was filled with people.

Golovan gave a sign to Gorobets. He has shouted, and everybody rushed out in a court yard and in some minutes stood in a rank holding horses. A horse cart with three valiant stallions has been prepared for Golovan. Though the meeting was only in three hundred meters away, our arriving was arranged impressively. I sat with Golovan. The horse cart left the court yard and Gorobets with a shrill voice gave a command "Let's go!" Everybody jumped on horses and left from a court yard. We have rushed off along the main street. There were two pedestrians in a front of us with red flags and one with a banner.

Reaching the church all was hastened. Some persons stayed here to hold horses. The others entered the church. The church building was full of peoples. The brigade passed forward and has settled down as horseshoe faced to people. Ahead of brigade stood activists with flags and banner.

Golovan addressed to meeting with few words. He said:

- I'm giving to you only two hours. If you didn't bring 2000 poods of grain in two hours, I will start to punish the saboteurs. I'm asking to you peacefully to execute this small task. Do not execute - expostulate on itself. We will meet here again in a two hours".

- Let me tell something - said Gorobets, dressed in a female jacket, with a scarf around his waist and a red peak-cap on his head.

- Speaking - answered Golovan.

- I would say - *Take your soul out, but deliver the grain!* – Shouted Gorobets. Golovan left the church, brigade followed to him. We sat down to horse cart and rushed off surrounded the brigade. Along the village we went at a trot, and then defiled along nearest farms and returned to brigade.

At noon Golovan checked up the grain collection for this day. No grain has been delivered.

The same way he ordered to call peasants to the meeting. Two guys who refused to come into the meeting because of fragmentary footwear have been immediately arrested.

In 1 pm a courier informed us that the peoples are gathered. Golovan sat in a cart and we jerked to the church and hastened in a front of hundreds of people - exhausted, knocked down, with boiling hatred and anger hearts, but powerless.

Standing in a front of brigade arranged as a semicircle Golovan said:

- I have collected you in a fourth time. I have warned you three times before, but all of you considered it as a joke. It's enough! Now you will be convinced that any masked fist and any saboteur will be punished!

Addressed to brigade he said with a loud voice:

- Let's work comrades! - And quickly left the meeting.

The brigade has rushed along the street, turned left and sharply stopped at one home. We opened a gate and entered to the front yard.

The old woman asked us:

– What are you doing here – good people? She was surprised, seeing such strange picture as motley and shabby brigade.

- Why don't you hand over the grain? - asked her Golovan.

- Yes, God witness, we have no grain. All we had have been taken away by such peoples as you. Now we are hungry.

- I think, you still have the grain, but it well hidden - noticed Golovan with a smile. The old woman continues to swear, that grain is not present. In the meantime, the first peoples going from meeting approached to court yard.

Golovan delayed the conversation while all the people going from a meeting will come close. Peoples saw, that the brigade come in a front yard and consequently everyone has decided to have a look - what is going on?

An old man went, almost run, ahead of all. He went into a court yard.

- Here is the host - said the old woman.

- Pleased to see you - responded Golovan - hello grandfather, we came here for your grain. Why don't you hand over the grain to the state?

The old man has repeated the same that the old woman spoke.

- Grandfather, I advise you to get the grain from the place you hide it and hand over to us. See, the horse carts are ready for loading.

But the old man and the old woman continued to swear, that grain is not present. The two younger men appeared and represented themselves as their sons. They also tried to convince Golovan, that grain is not present. They even tried to appeal to brigade.

- You people, - spoke one of them, addressing to a brigade; - know very well that they do not have grain.

But nobody from brigade answered them. At last Golovan has warned the manor owners, that they will regret, if do not give the grain voluntary. Those swore again and asked for search.

- What we supposed to do if we shall find a grain? – asked them Golovan.

- You may send us directly send to Siberia – answered the old man.

- Well host, if we shall find the grain, we shall confiscate all your property, down to old shirts and clay pots. Whether you understand it, or not? I do not want to do evil for you, but you will not avoid it, if we shall find grain, as well as was could not avoid it Pavluchka. Think well and do not ruin yourself.

The crowd stood in a complete silent as they had roots in a ground.

- I already told you, make a search and if you will find the hidden grain, shoot us at that place. Everybody here heard that I speak.

The crowd kept silent.

- Well – slowly said Golovan. And then addressing to a brigade loudly shouted:

- Start search!

Brigade members took the poles and pressed at the stack of straw, extended in the middle of a front yard. The stack has overturned. The old man and the old woman had their

mouths opened and remained to stand shocked by unexpectedness. Activists quickly cleaned the rests of straw and discovered row of lumbers. Removing the lumbers, they opened a hole, up to the top filled with bags with grain.

Not paying any more attention to shivering old men and their sons, Golovan addressed to a brigade:

- What shall we do comrades?

The voices were heard:

- Confiscate everything from saboteurs!

- Let's vote - suggested Golovan.

- If you agree - lift the hands.

22 hands have amicably risen.

- So, by the name of people all your property is confiscated - addressed Golovan to owners.

- You can take nothing, even a spoon – added he.

Golovan charged three persons to make full inventory. We started to load the bags of grain on a horse carts. Old men have been arrested and locked into the cellar of the Soviet Village. Half of the surrounding peoples quickly gone away as soon the hole have been discovered. Many of them even run. The others remained to stand and watch.

Having left the court yard, the brigade has turned to the right and after two hundred meters, has driven in another yard. It was Makagon's dwelling, who made good things for some brigade members. No more than fifty peasants followed to us and stopped at a yard. The others have gone away.

The same thing happened with Makagon, but even faster. On command "search" activists broken the floor near the stove in his log hut, and found a pit full of grain, since others searched the attic and found barley. Totally, about 40 poods of grain have been confiscated from Makagon.

The shock brigade voted to confiscate everything from Makagon. The peoples, whom he rescued from famine, also voted for it. He and his family also have been sent to the same cellar.

- Let's take a break - said Golovan loudly so everybody from the street could hear him - If it will not help, we shall continue to search other homes.

He ordered brigade to load all Makagon's property to the horse carts and left back for the brigades headquarter. He charged me to look after the peoples confiscating the things, 20 minutes ago belonged to those, who worked hard all the life to gain it.

All the property, up to the wooden spoons and glasses has been confiscated, shipped to the headquarters and stored in a barn. Golovan has ingeniously solved a problem of finding the hidden grain. It was easy to predict the effect of this action to other peasants. The main effect was deprivation of people who hiding the grain of confidence that grain could not be found.

The cruel picture of a fast finding the grain and following confiscation of properties convinced peasants that brigade is known all the secret places with a hidden grain. People preferred to lose the grain, instead of lose all property, freedom and even a life. By the

evening of this day, i.e. on December, 22 peasants delivered about 10000 poods of grain. Peoples have been standing in long lines before the state barns to deliver the grain.

After the magnificent supper brigade members "bought up" all the confiscated things for money given them by Golovan.

The grain delivering proceeded all the night long. In the morning Golovan checked up how many grain handed over by each person listed in our papers. After this he ordered to call all the peasants to the Village Soviet for the meeting.

He was afraid, that the peoples may lose the fear if we will let them alone.

At 9 o'clock in the morning the whole brigade appeared before the meeting

- I called you - began Golovan, - to warn against that wrecking which some of you made at this night, stocked a lot of grain outside of village in a pit. Anyone guilty in such crime will lose not only the property, but also a freedom. I want to warn you one more time that the brigade knows all the peoples who have hidden grain. The yesterday's lesson was useful for many of yours, but the majority still afraid to hand over the grain to the state. We are going to find more hidden grain today. But, if you deliver the grain voluntary – you are safe. Go quickly to houses and bring us the grain. We must finish the grain collection plan for today!

After the meeting, the brigade visited Tereshchenko, Markov's father-in-law and the uncle of the chairman of the Village Soviet. At once the hidden grain has been found out and the decision about confiscation is accepted. His daughter rushed off wailing along the street. Markov and the chairman of the Village Soviet came soon. Markov became puzzled and didn't say even a word. But the chairman of the Village Soviet started to shout and swear:

- Who gave you the rights to do the search in my home?

However, he has been immediately arrested by Golovan. The seal of the Village Soviet and the revolver have been withdrawn from him. After this he has been sent to the Village Soviet and locked in a cellar.

At that day brigade members discovered five more secret storages and their owners have been also arrested.

The brigade members formed dairy, pork and a poultry farms.

Now they had a lot of meat and milk for a dinner.

A lot of peoples wanted to join the brigade. By the evening on December 23 the brigade has grown up to 41 persons. Every candidate exposed to cross-examination by brigade members and should hand over all the grain. After discussion, whether it is necessary to accept the given person, the brigade voted. If it unanimously approved acceptance the new person, Golovan had to authorize the acceptance.

Some of them had no desire struggle for the grain and simply searched to for refuge.

From noon December 22 till 6 o'clock in the morning on December 24 the brigade collected 23000 poods of grain. Peasants of Stepanovka handed over all the grain they had till the last pound and have been doomed for famine.

December 24 was a bright sunny day. In the morning a frost cemented the mud on the streets. A strange transport moved across the village. Several horse carts carried the peoples who have been arrested in the last two days. Crying women and children followed to them. The carts have been escorted by the brigade members dressed in a cloth recently belonged to the peoples sitting in the carts. In a front of procession ride the equestrians with red flags. The brass band followed to them, playing funeral music.

The transport was directed to the small poor village named the Pit. On arriving to the village, peoples from the carts have been placed in poor huts belonged to the members of brigade living there, and their families with cheerful sounds of marches has been carried back to Stepanovka and dwelled into the good homes belonged to arrested peoples. On my way back, I saw a long line of peoples near the state granaries willing to hand over the grain.

The brigade celebrated success. By time of a dinner the all the brigade with the family members gathered at headquarters. It was a real holiday for them. At that day Golovan allowed to prepare a dinner on quantity of the three times greater than the brigade, decided obviously to feed very well this poverty. The brigade has cheerfully settled down for a dinner in a main room. Golovan had a dinner in his room. I joined to him.

Suddenly an automobile horn was heard from the front yard. The doors opened and Katsman with the secretary of a district communist party committee came in. Both were terribly tired, cold and their cloth has been covered with spots of mud. On seen the huge, white and crusty homemade bread and the huge plate full meat soup eaten with appetite by Golovan, Katsman has jarred on.

Speaking to the secretary of a district party committee Katsman cried:

- Look at him, how he is working! You see? He is arranging the banquets, guzzles and doing nothing!

The secretary of a district committee spoke nothing. From time to time it wiped a mouth and frequently swallowed saliva. Obviously, he would prefer to stop these conversations and have a bowl of good soup with a fresh baked bread.

- Stop eating - shouted Katsman to Golovan and report about grain collection!

Golovan continued to eat, pretending he hear nothing.

- Do you hear, what I speak to you? - shouted in all throat Katsman, shivering from fury. Not stopping his meal, Golovan slowly turned a head aside Katsman, and said with irony
- Calm down, shame of the peoples.

- I demand the immediate report on grain-collections rung out Katsman.

Golovan's face became red and he shouted:

- Who you are for me? Don't even try to frighten me!

I thought, that Golovan would strike him with something, but he continued eating. I noticed the spoon was snaked in his hands.

Finally he said - Comrade Tsebrina give them the report if you have finished the calculation.

Tsebrina gave them the papers for December 24.

Katsman looked at the paper, approaching to his eyes and postponing, but could understand nothing.

- This is nonsense! Look at this - he addressed to the secretary of a district party committee. - This is something I cannot understand.

- What it is not clear? - Asked Tsebrina.

- Figures here are weird! - Said Katsman.

Tsebryna took the report:

- Everything is counted precisely up for the last five days.

- The total is 26,750. What is this – pounds?

- Comrade, we are writing down according to instruction. Clearly, that it not pounds but poods - explained Tsebrina.

Katsman still could not understand what is going on. He looked at the report and back to Golovan, who continued to eat nervously. The woman came in and put on the table the big plate with meat and fried potato. A girl-teenager followed her with a jar of milk.

" Listen, - Katsman addressed to Golovan with rather peace tone – tell me please, that does it mean? I still understand nothing.

- You people are competent enough to understand. This is real numbers.

- Is this mean you are collected 26,750 of grain for the last five days? – Asked the secretary of a district communist party committee.

- Exactly, the plan is exceeded on 1250 poods, and after the dinner we will collect two more thousand poods.

From unexpectedness and excitement, the face of Katsman has suddenly sweated.

- Dear Golovan, if it is the true - you are the genius, there is no awards valuable enough I could give to you. This is a miracle!

For the whole district we hoped to collect no more than 5,000 poods!

- Are you still in doubt, if it possible? And how could you threaten me on the meeting with exception from the communist party in case of failure the plan in which reality you do not believe? - Asked Golovan.

- Comrade Golovan, my friend, you in fact understands me, that not having intimidated the people we will achieve nothing.

- Do you mean that the fear is your method? It's nonsense. I am sure that if to you were threatened with execution, you would not take here and even a thousand poods.

There is something except the fear. There are methods, ways and receipts.

We'll all right, sit down and have some meal – rather friendly said Golovan.

- Hey the attendant! - Shouted Golovan.

One of the brigade members appeared at the doors.

- What do you need?

- Bring a dinner for a two and make sure the portions are large.

Katzman's eyes shone as glass. For forthcoming pleasure, he rubbers the hands.

- Well we are so tired pushing the car from the mud – he said.

- How we could travel when the roads turned into the sea of dirt!

The dinner has been delivered and Katsman and the secretary started to eat with a great pleasure.

The secretary of a district communist party committee asked Golovan to tell about magic method

- Well, I will tell you about the simple method that will help us to execute the regional plan. Then Golovan explained in detail how he made impossible - possible and hopeless - carried out...

- ... Now I'm going to give to every brigade member 10 poods of grain that they have quite deserved, and the other grain collected over the plan will be used for covering the regional plan - finished his story Golovan..

Learned, that Katsman and the secretary of a district party committee just came from Nikitinka village, Golovan asked what Kapustin is doing?

- Imagine – said the secretary - this person occupied the best confiscated home in a village the house and transformed it also into the headquarters but... directed against the grain-collections. Almost all the peoples from the “strict list” visited him. Each of them brought the written complaint on the plan and everyone bears something - the chicken, ten eggs, piece of bacon or honey. He takes all these gifts and put the written resolution: "Remove from the strict list". We found about fifty such applications with his resolutions in the Village Soviet. As a result, the grain collection has completely stopped. To save the situation is not possible, unless we will use your method.

We arrested Kapustin; he asked to visit the restroom, but instead jumped over the fence and disappeared. We ordered the Village Soviet to search for him and deliver to the secret service.

Katsman and the secretary prepared to leave.

- Well brother, you have rescued us - said Katsman, shaking Golovan's hands - now we shall spread your communists' science around the area. And tomorrow at regional meeting we shall ask you to inform in detail all the representatives.

In the evening, Golovan arranged the farewell meeting of a brigade. He spoke about formation of collective farm in Stepanovka village. Golovan said:

- All the withdrawn property will be the good base to the blossoming of your collective farm. You have horses, cows, pigs and chicken; have stock. Even the office is ready for it. Golovan drew iridescent prospects of a life in collective farm, and brigade members and their families, listening these speeches with a full stomach, being dressed in confiscated cloth, wanted to believe, that henceforth they will have the same live, as they lived for the past two days.

The new collective farm received the named of murdered member of local Young Communist League - Dubovoy. Before selecting to collective farm board members Gorobets, addressing to Golovan made such speech:

- Dear comrade Golovan, on behalf of all proletarians we intimately thank you that you destroyed the enemies and fists, supplied us with food and created the collective farm. We are happy and pleased, but we so much upset, that you should leave. You are like a father for us. We are asking you on behalf of all us - proletarians to be a chairman of our collective farm. How we shall work! It will be the best collective farm in the country. If it necessary, we will die for you!

Golovan thanked everybody for those feelings of gratitude but told what it is not in his authority to select the work; he is a communist party's fighter and will work at the place the party will send him. He advised to select as a chairman of the worthiest person from the brigade. Then the board has been elected, and Gorobets had been elected as a chairman of collective farm. He thanked for the trust, promising to be fairly and truly chairman.

After a dinner I had a free time and decided to talk a little with Golovan to clear some questions I could not understand. I asked him; why after voting 20 members of brigade about confiscating the property from owners he declared it "in the name of the people"? How could these 20 or even 40 members of brigade supersede more than 1000 peoples living in Stepanovka? Golovan answered:

- Do you think, these thousand peoples will vote for the decision directed against them? Certainly, is not. In fact, these peoples like a baby and do not understand what is good for them. They can't see beyond the current day. The communist party serves for them as a babysitter or acting as a guardian for their advantage. In fact, we are making the industrial revolution in our country, raising the power of Red Army and doing everything necessary for fulfillment of victory of proletarian revolution in all over the world. Proletarian all over the world looks on us with hope, they wait when we shall come and release them from the chains they carry. The peasantry is petty-bourgeois elements from which on the one-side the capitalists endlessly are born, but with other side - proletariat. Therefore, they have dual intentions. They cannot understand these world problems. And we cannot rely on petty-bourgeois psychology of the peasant. We must to destroy the peasantry petty-bourgeois elements, not physically, but mentally as system and to reconstruct brains of peasants on socialist way. But those, who stay on our way we will ruthlessly, physically exterminate, because the great ideas are higher than any victims. Therefore, we always operate – "in the name of the people".

He continued:

- Our government, carrying out the dictatorship of proletariat in the country always operates by name of the people, but have not support from majority of the people. Government has support from some of the peoples, but it has much more deadly enemies and then has enormous number of inert peoples also hostile as well as Stepanovka's peasants.

Certainly, this overwhelming number of inert peoples is much closer to our enemies than to us. We have the power to destroy our enemies. Clearly, inert peoples will not adjoin those whom beat, and will rush back from them and will join to winner, i.e. the Soviet authority. Since this mass turns to our communist party slowly, there we alongside with a propaganda shall push them and sometimes, but with it is necessary and will be good for them in a future.

Let's take as example the Stepanovka village. From total 400 households, 55 have been confiscated before us, 22 was destroyed when murder Dubovoy and we liquidated 8 facilities. Total hostile to the Soviet authority appeared 85. And how many households support us? It is may be 40 brigade members, but it is not a secret, that most them has no concept about our great ideas and support us only temporary because at present time

interests of the state coincide with interests of their stomach. The rest 275 is a hostile and petty-bourgeois mass. When we destroyed households at these days this mass joined to us, handing over the grain, depriving their livelihood. They made it not from love to authority. Everyone did it of fear, having lost any hope for rescue the grain.

With the help of collective farms we shall wipe out from people's memories any ideas about private cow, sheep and chicken. After this, the person who didn't work for strengthening of positions of communism cannot live even a one day. After this, behind words "in the name of the people" will stand all the people.

But it will not come soon. We declared the war against the rests of hostile classes and groups, and against petty-bourgeois ideology. Against power and traditions of an old society. This war will be long lasting and many victims for a final victory are required.

P.S. Evgueni Zuodilov - in one of the fragments of manuscripts I have found a fragment being as though an epilogue to the given manuscript. The author remembers his visit Stepanovka village several years later. I bring it with reductions:

I very much liked to visit Stepanovka village. Not reaching two miles up to Stepanovka I was struck with a strange emptiness which was seen on a place where grew magnificent willows, pyramidal poplars and mighty lindens. All these trees appeared cut down and even the small river began to dry up. Half of huts were empty with collapsed roofs, without doors and windows. It was not visible even a fence in a whole village.

The peoples were strange. They had strange moved eyes; spoke silently and as though being afraid to turn a head. On my inquiries they told, that 70 % of Stepanovka population died from famine. Almost all the peoples from small surrounding villages have died. From all brigade members, once confiscating the grain in Stepanovka survived only two.

Gorobets who has failed to please soviet authorities lost position of collective farm chairman and has died together with his large family. I have tried to find out what categories of people have survived. There were following: heads of collective farms, workers in office, storekeepers, the watchman of barns, and most collective farmers taking care of cattle. All these people somehow had access to collective-farm products or fodder. Also, hunters - on rats, frogs, ravens and sparrows survived. People unable for larceny and on any other shifts like above-mentioned "hunting" have died out as those, who had a large-families.

Golovan, once destroying Stepanovka and sincerely trusting, that he does a good for peoples, in 1933-34 worked as the chief of a local political department. Then he occupied the different positions in a district communist party committee. In 1937 he has been appointed to the post of the secretary of district communist party committee and with his help had been destroyed uncountable quantity of those who has been planned by Stalin for destruction.

Golovan has been arrested as "the enemy of people" and executed. I don't know if he understood before the death his fatal errors.