

# Ukraine to demand share of aid money

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From Susan Viets  
in Kiev

THE UKRAINIAN parliament voted yesterday to raise the prickly subject of compensation for victims of the Second World War when it sends a letter of congratulation on unification to the German parliament.

The letter reminds Germans that "in the memory of the millions of Ukrainian citizens who still have not received any compensation, the horrible pictures of death, suffering in Nazi camps and slave work are still alive".

Ukraine, on the western border of the Soviet Union, suffered the full force of the German invasion in June 1941.

The head of parliament's foreign affairs committee, Dmytro Pavlychko, said it was necessary to begin negotiations with Moscow and Bonn to claim part of the 15bn deutschmark (£5.1bn) economic aid Bonn is due to send to Moscow. "Since Ukraine suffered most during the war, it should receive a large part of this money," said Mr Pavlychko.

He earlier told parliament that Hungary was the first country planning to establish relations with the Ukraine, and that Germany and Poland should follow suit. Direct diplomatic relations with Germany should be established first, he said, followed by negotiations for the funds.

Some deputies, however, thought that the question of reparations was inappropriate. "I don't understand why they brought this up," said one MP, Sergei Semenets. "The 15bn deutschmarks is economic aid, not for war reparations."

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