

INTRODUCTION

Any knowledge of life in Soviet Russia can only be gleaned from the limited accounts published in the daily newspapers, or from those who are brave enough to write truthfully of their own experiences.

I feel privileged in writing this introduction to *Islands of Death*, because I truly believe that it is only through books such as this, that the free people of the West will understand and appreciate the horror and menace of life under the Communists.

It must appear unbelievable that such a vast number of people would willingly submit to such conditions, but in this book you will read of the difficulty of avoiding a living death in the labour camps which are to be found throughout the U.S.S.R.

The worst of these camps have always been in the North, in or close to the Arctic Circle, and of these, the Solovky Islands Camp is known as one of the most horrible.

The Ukrainians have always resisted Soviet domination and because of this resistance, thousands upon thousands of them have been forcibly placed in labour camps to serve terms of ten years or more. Under the conditions prevailing in these camps, a great percentage die and there is rarely an opportunity of any record being published to reveal the life they are forced to lead.

In this book, we have an exceptional account from a man now living in Canada, who, by his own efforts and courage, escaped from these horrors.

There is no doubt of the authenticity of this story, and the tragedy is, of course, that these conditions still exist today for hundreds of thousands of ordinary human beings in different parts of Russia and the countries which are occupied by the Communists.

We must fight this evil for the sake of humanity and I only hope that the message in this book, will be taken to heart by every freedom-loving man and woman.

IGOR GOUZENKO