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Ukrainian community reacts to Canadian denial of redress

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA – Is redress a way to rewrite history? One Canadian historian thinks so.

Stella Hryniuk, a Ukrainian Canadian history professor at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, says the Canadian government was right to deny compensation for the internment of as many as 6,000 Ukrainian Canadians during the first world war. Some 80,000 Ukrainian Canadians were also declared enemy aliens.

"I don' think any injustice should be forgotten," Dr. Hryniuk explained. "But I don't believe in rewriting history. The [Canadian] government was acting in accordance with the thinking of the day. I don't think we have that kind of wisdom where a government today can impose its morals on a previous government."

However, Ihor Bardyn, chairperson of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress's (UCC) redress committee, said the Canadian government's action is not only wrong by today's standards, but was wrong back then. "[Former Liberal Prime Minister] Sir Wilfrid Laurier resigned from [Conservative] Prime Minister Robert Borden's wartime coalition Union on September 17, 1917, over the issue of Ukrainian internment. He said back then that some day the government of Canada would have to atone for its decision."

On December 13, 1994, Progressive Conservative Sen. Raynell Andreychuk told the Senate that "redressing a historical injustice is fundamental to the ability of the Ukrainian Canadian community to regain and sustain its sense of identity and moral worth. Only in facing up to this tragedy, by admitting mistakes, acknowledging hardships and most of all, by educating those who come after us, can we ever hope to remove the threat of this occurring again."

A day later, Canada's secretary of state for multiculturalism, Sheila Finestone, announced that the Canadian government would not compensate $400 million in redress claims from six Canadian ethnic groups, including Ukrainian Canadians. Instead, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's government will establish a $24 million Canadian Race Relations Foundation in Toronto next spring.

Half of the funding toward that center will come from a 1988 Canadian government settlement with the Japanese Canadian community over World War II internment, said John Gregorovich, chairman of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA), which he said spent close to $40,000 over the past three years pressing for a resolution of the redress issue.

Six years ago, former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney allotted $12 million toward a community development fund to the National Association of Japanese Canadians, along with $21,000 to every survivor of the Canadian camps.

Mr. Gregorovich said he thinks that if the Canadian government wants to play fair now, it should ask for the $360 million compensation package given to the Japanese Canadian community. "It's either equal justice for all or none."

That's like comparing apples and oranges, suggested Dr. Hryniuk. She said the Japanese Canadian settlement was justifiable. "They were Canadian citizens, while, in my research I maybe found two Ukrainian Canadians who were Canadian citizens."

There were about 170,000 Ukrainians

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Parliament approves draft law on powers of government bodies

KYYIV — The Ukrainian Parliament on December 28, 1994, passed the draft of a bill on the division of government powers, following a heated debate that lasted two days.

On the last day of their plenary session, the deputies passed the "Law on State Power and Local Self-Government" by a vote of 220-109, with 18 abstentions. The law delineates the responsibilities of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, as well as local government.

As envisioned by President Leonid Kuchma and presented on December 2, 1994, the measure gives the president much more power, such as the authority to form a Cabinet of Ministers without the approval of the Parliament, to disband the Parliament if the legislature disagrees twice with a governmental plan of action, and the right to veto legislation passed by the Parliament.

The draft law has now gone back to a special committee that will review it and present it again to the Parliament in early January for final approval.

In order to pass in the first reading, the bill needed a simple majority. However, in order for the bill to take effect as law, it must pass by a two-thirds majority plus one, or 301 votes, since it deals with a constitutional issue.

The special committee charged with reviewing the legislation is composed of one representative from each of the Parliament's nine factions: Vasyl Durdynets (Center), Roman Bezsmertny (Statehood), Valentyn Nedryhaylo (Independents), Serhiy Holovaty (Reforms) Viktor Omelych (Unity), Oleksander Lavrynovych (Rukh), Vasyl Korneliuk (Agrarians), Gennadiy Dolzhenko (Communists), and one from the Socialists, whose name was unavailable at press time.

The committee will work on various sections of the law. As it now stands, the bill provides for a strong executive, while the Parliament is seen as simply a law-making body. The country is envisioned as a strong presidential republic, like the France of Gen. Charles DeGaulle and Francois Mitterand.

Urging the Parliament to adopt the law in its first reading, Presidential Chief of Staff Dmytro Tabachnyk presented a 15-minute speech on behalf of Mr. Kuchma on Wednesday morning, December 28.

CHRIST IS BORN

Bas-relief by Zenon V. Holubec, from a Christmas card published by St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Hunter, N.Y.

Ukraine receives $500 million loan from World Bank

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — The World Bank agreed on December 22, 1994, to loan Ukraine $500 million in support of the country's transition to a market economy. It is the single largest disbursement of Western assistance to Ukraine thus far.

The money will be used to stabilize and revitalize Ukraine's economy, specifically to cover the cost of essential imports such as natural gas and oil. Ukraine relies heavily on energy imports, which have left it almost $4 billion in debt and short of money needed to bankroll economic stabilization and reform.

The disbursement comes after the country, which still has seen little movement toward a market-oriented system, finally agreed to reform by way of price

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Nuclear power in Ukraine: a look at a troubled industry

by David R. Marples

Ukraine's energy troubles have led to a new emphasis on the development of nuclear power and to a desire among the country's nuclear authorities to maintain the Chornobyl station in operation in the face of opposition from international nuclear experts.

Throughout the course of the year, Ukraine altered its position on Chornobyl and eventually adopted an obdurate stance. There appears to be general agreement on this issue between the State Committee for the Safe Use of Nuclear Energy (Mykhailo Umanets), the Supreme Council Committee on the Questions of Nuclear Policies and Nuclear Safety (Mykhailo Pavlovsky) and the director of the Chornobyl station (Sergei Parashin). In addition to the controversial Chornobyl station, Ukraine's nuclear authorities have had difficulties in expanding existing stations because of public protests.

Analysis

1994 saw a sharp decline in electricity output at thermal power stations of 16 percent in the first nine months of the year. Though nuclear-powered electricity also dropped because of unscheduled shutdowns of reactors, the proportion of electricity produced at atomic stations reached as high as 52 percent at certain times during the year, and averaged a very high 38 percent.

Ukraine's failure to make significant inroads into its debts for gas imports from Russia (estimated by Russian sources at $2.6 billion in September), and continuing problems in the Donbass coalfield, led to extreme pressure on hydroelectric stations, which were operated at peak capacity. In the long term, however, it is clear that nuclear power must make up the shortfalls at thermal power plants. This has put Chornobyl into new and unexpected focus.

In the spring of 1994, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) declared that the Chornobyl plant failed to meet international safety standards. In April, after talks with a U.S. delegation, Ukraine's nuclear leaders agreed in principle that the remaining two reactors in operation (one and three) should be shut down as soon as possible. One week later, both these reactors had to be switched off because of problems: one severe — the discovery of a defect in the cooling system at the third reactor unit; and one minor — a spillage at the first reactor when a container was dropped by a crane.

On April 20, it was also reported by Deputy Premier Valeriy Shmarov that the covering over the destroyed fourth reactor was in danger of collapse and that about one-fifth of qualified personnel at Chornobyl had left the station in 1993. At that point, Ukraine began to put a substantial pricetag of $6 billion to $8 billion on the closure of Chornobyl.

By late May, after a visit to the station by then President Leonid Kravchuk, Mr. Parashin declared that the station could operate until the year 2007.

In late September, Mr. Parashin elaborated on this theme, stating that to decommission the Chornobyl reactors would take six to 10 years, and that it was thus expedient to permit all three Chornobyl reactors to work to the end of their lifespans (2007, 2008, and 2011, respectively). This statement lent new credence to a statement last February by Mr. Kravchuk that the second reactor, out of operation since a serious fire in 1991, could be returned to service.

In late October, Mr. Pavlovsky outlined the "social problems" that would result from the proposed closure of Chornobyl, especially at the city of Slavutych (population: 30,000) which houses plant operatives and "about 100,000 workers' settlements."

In the past, there have been suggestions to build another nuclear power plant in the vicinity if Chornobyl is closed. Mr. Pavlovsky's view is that it would be more sensible to keep the plant in operation for the immediate future. Also in October, the new president, Leonid Kuchma, convened a meeting on nuclear energy attended by Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol and Deputy Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk. Once again, the concerns of the international community were recognized, but the consensus was that financial and other considerations needed to be taken into account before any action was taken to close the Chornobyl station permanently.

The other arguments used by Ukrainians to counter requests by the IAEA, the European Union and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to shut down Chornobyl immediately are that the plant has been rendered much safer by technical improvements and that Chornobyl is but one of several operating RBMK stations in the CIS. They have

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David R. Marples is director of the Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta.

Coca-Cola expands into Ukraine

KYYIV — Coca-Cola Amatil Limited (CCA) has announced its expansion into Ukraine as the next stage in the company's strategic development in Europe. A CCA-owned sales and distribution center in Kyyiv has commenced operations.

CCA's chief executive officer (development), Bill Gibson, said "Earlier this year CCA announced its moves into Belarus and Slovenia and is in negotiations for the acquisition of companies supplying products of The Coca-Cola Co. to a large part of Poland. This further expansion links our existing territories of Slovakia, Hungary and Belarus via Ukraine."

CCA's wholly owned sales and distribution operation initially is supplying Kyyiv, to be followed very soon by the western part of Ukraine, including Lviv, where a new production facility is close to completion. CCA is supplying the market with Coca-Cola products in a range of packages including returnable glass bottles, cans and PET.

The Lviv start-up will mark the first time that the traditional Coke contour bottle has been filled in Ukraine. Initial supplies have been drawn from CCA's neighboring bottling plants in Hungary and have been received very enthusiastically.

CCA's first Ukrainian joint venture partner, the Kolos Brewery in Lviv, has, through its beer interests, a history of more than 200 years in the local beverage industry. The new joint venture company will initially produce all of CCA's soft drink requirements for the western part of Ukraine. The production company will have capital of $11.5 million (U.S.) with initial ownership of 57 percent for CCA and 43 percent for Kolos.

NEWSBRIEFS

Suicides in Ukrainian military revealed

KYYIV — An official from the Defense Ministry of Ukraine told a news conference on December 12, 1994, that more than 500 soldiers and officers died in the Ukrainian armed forces in the first 11 months of 1994 — most of them by suicide. As reported by Interfax, the official said that nearly half of those who died were officers. He added that the death rate was down 13 percent from the previous year. (RFE/RL Daily Report)

Ethnic Russians also Chechnya victims

GROZNY, Chechnya — Ethnic Russians, who constitute a substantial portion of the population of the Chechen capital and its environs, are suffering the rigors of bombardment and blockade alongside the indigenous Chechen population. Russian Duma Deputy Sergei Kovalev told RIA on December 16, 1994, that "many of the outskirts of Grozny have been destroyed." Outside Grozny, the predominately Russian-inhabited town of Pervomayskoye has been hardest hit by Russian forces. Ethnic Russians interviewed by Russian and Western media express indignation at Moscow's use of force, which puts their lives in danger. Reports from the field also speak of the emergence of a sense of solidarity among the Chechens and local ethnic Russians in the face of common adversity. There are no reports of Chechen threats of any kind to local Russians. One of the justifications for the Russian invasion had been the presumed need to protect ethnic Russians in Chechnya. (RFE/RL Daily Report)

Yet another Communist group formed

KYYIV — The Organization of Soviet Patriots has been established in Ukraine. Delegates to the organizational meeting declared two goals for their association. In the short term, the Soviet Patriots will protect and assist the Communist Party of Ukraine. In the long term, they will help bring about a re-establishment of the Soviet Union. The organization appealed to President Leonid Kuchma to ban the activities of what it called "national-fascist parties," among them Rukh, the Ukrainian Republican Party, the Democratic Party of Ukraine and the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists. (Respublika)

Rescued seaman's wife thanks his saviors

OTTAWA — The wife of one of the two survivors of the recent sinking of the Ukrainian ship Salvador Allende thanked her husband's rescuers for their brave deeds, in a letter sent from the couple's hometown of Kherson, Ukraine, to Ukraine's Embassy in Canada on Sunday, December 11. Larysa Taranov, whose spouse, Oleksander, third engineer on the Allende, was rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard after a 32-hour ordeal, expressed her deepest gratitude to the U.S. and Canadian governments for their critical role in the search and rescue operation that saved her husband. Mrs. Taranov's warmest words went to the helicopter crew that plucked her husband from the cold ocean waters as well as the medical staff of the Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, hospital where Mr. Taranov was treated for severe injuries. (Svoboda)

Ministry denounces Russian meddling

WASHINGTON — The Foreign Ministry of Ukraine issued a statement on December 26, 1994, condemning the remarks of Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov while on a visit to Sevastopil in the Crimea. Mr. Luzhkov, according to the ministry statement, called the city a "second prefecture of Moscow" and "Russia's outpost on its borders." "This constitutes an attempt to undermine the territorial integrity of a friendly neighboring country," said the ministry statement, and runs counter to the Memorandum on Security Guarantees for Ukraine, signed by the U.S., the Russian Federation, Great Britain and Ukraine on December 5, 1994, the Helsinki Final Act and U.N. Security Council resolutions on the inviolability of Ukraine's borders. Finally, the ministry statement allowed Ukraine may have to review its future foreign policy positions towards Russia, in light of declarations such as Mr. Luzhkov's, which run counter to Ukraine's national interests. (Press Office of the Embassy of Ukraine to the U.S.)

AN-70 newest Ukrainian cargo plane

KYYIV — Friday, December 16, the Antonov design bureau, world-renowned for its line of transport planes, conducted successful flight tests of the AN-70 medium cargo transport. The new plane, with a capacity of 35 tons and a cruising speed of 750 to 800 kilometers per hour, will lend itself to a large variety of missions, including air transfer of military equipment and heavy vehicles. The AN-70 is a short-take-off-and-landing aircraft, which may qualify it for use on rough airstrips, such as are present in many Third World and undeveloped areas. The eventual production run of 500 planes will commence in 1996 and will create some 27,000 new jobs in Ukraine and over 50,000 in Russia. (Svoboda)

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Canadian news media divided on redress issue

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA – If the Ukrainian Canadian community is divided over settling the decade-long struggle for redress over World War I internment, so is Canada's mainstream media. Even within some publications.

In a December 19, 1994, editorial, The Globe and Mail, Canada's only national daily newspaper, argued that Canadians should not "deny" their past. In light of the Canadian government's decision to ignore the redress requests from six Canadian ethnic groups, the newspaper suggests an alternative. The editorial reads: "A person with claims for losses should be able to seek redress through negotiation or the courts, which is a better solution than seeking a blanket settlement from Ottawa."

A day later, Globe and Mail columnist Jeffrey Simpson applauded Secretary of State for Multiculturalism Sheila Finestone for showing that her Liberal government "might have some spine after all." Criticizing the short-sightedness of the Mulroney government, which awarded the Japanese Canadian community a $360 million redress settlement in 1988, Mr. Simpson argued that to "compensate one group and others would quickly form a queue for similar treatment."

He suggests that other groups, including the "deported" Acadians, the "interned" Irish, the "defeated" Metis, the "deprived" Francophones, the "discriminated" Catholics, the "cheated" aboriginals and the "resented" Newfoundlanders, could all join the redress bandwagon.

But Mr. Simpson got some of his facts wrong. He claimed the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) is seeking $402 million in compensation.

Ihor Bardyn, chairperson of the UCC's redress committee, said that no price has been affixed to the claim, pending the "government of Canada opening its books" to the amount confiscated from Ukrainian Canadians during the period of 1914 to 1920. As 1992 Price Waterhouse report estimated that amount to be as high as $33 million (in 1991 dollars).

In a response to Mr. Simpson's column, Mr. Bardyn also wrote in a December 21, 1994, letter to The Globe and Mail that the Acadians have in fact begun court action against the British crown over their forced resettlement 250 years ago.

Montreal's The Gazette, meanwhile, was more favorable to the Ukrainian Canadian redress question across the board.

A December 16, 1994, editorial suggested that "the internment of Ukrainians was particularly ignorant. They were targeted because many were citizens of Austria-Hungary, which held Ukraine in its empire; few had any sympathy for it." It also called for the return of all monies confiscated.

Similarly, Gazette columnist Jean-Claude LeClerc, in a December 29, 1994, column, wrote that the proposed Race Relations Foundation, to be established in Toronto next spring, "is no substitute for redressing wrongs so long as their soul, as is said in some cultures, has not been repealed." Mr. LeClerc adds: "There lies a much broader challenge than the fight against racism or even education about tolerance. It should be at the heart of the new much talked-about Canadian citizenship. More than pluralism, what is needed is openness and compassion."

The largest cry for redress support, however, came for the Chinese Canadian community, which is seeking the return of $23 million collected from Chinese Canadian immigrants between 1885 and 1923. Alan Li, president of the Chinese-Canadian Council, said that the community is even willing to relieve Ottawa from paying any interest on the confiscated sum.

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Ukrainian community...

(Continued from page 1)

living in Canada in 1914; most of them came from western Ukraine and held either Austrian or Austro-Hungarian citizenship.

The Winnipeg historian, who teaches in the Slavic studies and history departments at the University of Manitoba, has written extensively about Canada's first Ukrainian Catholic bishop, Nicetas Budka, who was threatened with internment during the first world war over allegedly treasonous remarks he made.

Dr. Hryniuk said she believes that most of the Ukrainian Canadians interned had probably "stepped outside the law" and had "been given warnings."

But Mr. Bardyn disagreed, suggesting that the majority of interned Ukrainian Canadians were at the very least innocent, legal residents of the country. "Once [Canada] accepts you, you're legal."

Anna Pawliw Daviau of Montreal, whose 80-year-old mother, Stephania Mielniczuk Pawliw, was interned as an infant with her family at the Spirit Lake facility in Quebec, said that her family "was cheated" by the Canadian government. "My grandparents came to Canada and worked hard, and this is what happened to them?"

Mr. Gregorovich noted that the UCCLA will continue with its public awareness campaign, with or without Canadian government support.

Not the UCC, however. In a December 15, 1994, statement UCC President Oleh Romaniw expressed disappointment "and in some sense betrayal, when an important issue like the internment of Ukrainian Canadians receives such a poor response from the present-day government." In a news release issued on December 15, 1994, the UCC rejected Ms. Finestone's "contention that it is best to forget the past and to concentrate fully on the future."

In a December 14 letter to the eight organizations representing the ethnic groups seeking redress, Ms. Finestone wrote: "We can and we must learn from the past. We must assure that future generations do not repeat the errors of the past." However, she added: "The issue is whether the best way to do this is to attempt to address the past or to invest in the future. We believe our only choice lies in using limited government resources to create a more equitable society now and a better future for generations to come."

Still, the UCC is pressing the Canadian government to rectify the confiscation of assets from internees as identified in the 1992 Price Waterhouse Report, "Economic Losses of Ukrainian Canadians Resulting from Internment During World War I." The report estimated that Ukrainian Canadian community lost close to $33 million (in 1991 dollars).

But Dr. Hryniuk contended that the Canadian government made the right decision. "If there's money to be spent, it should be spent on education," she said. "I don't want it tied to redress."

The UCCLA is somewhere in the middle. Although its recent submission to the Canadian government, prepared in the fall, sought financial support for public awareness projects, Mr. Gregorovich noted that Ottawa has an obligation to offer some funding.

"Every person in Newfoundland gets about $5,000 in [provincial] transfer payments from Ottawa every year. Every First Nations person gets more, about $6,000 from the federal government, annually. One group is singled out to get nothing: the so-called ethnic group."

He explained that the Canadian government should be cutting wasteful spending instead of targeting groups like the Ukrainian Canadians. "If they miss a comma in a document, they spend millions of dollars to fix it. It's very much like a company that fires a $200-a-week office boy instead of firing a $2,000-a-week vice-president to save money."

However, the UCCLA's chairman blamed the Chrétien government's recent decision on civil servants. "Most of them come from small towns in Ontario and Quebec where they haven't had much exposure to ethnics on the loose out of their cages." He adds that, unlike the Jewish or native communities in Canada who "punish their enemies," Messrs. Romaniw and Bardyn "made much of their ties to the Liberals."

Mr. Gregorovich added "Before he got his head chopped off, Thomas a Becket said, 'Place not your trust in monarchs.' "

Mr. Bardyn, who ran unsuccessfully on two occasions for the Ontario Liberals, appears to have learned a lesson. In fact, he and other members of the National Redress Alliance, which includes members of the Chinese, Italian and Japanese Canadian communities, plan to hold Mr. Chrétien to a broken promise.

In a June 8, 1993, letter to Mr. Bardyn, Mr. Chrétien, then Canada's opposition leader, said the Ukrainian Canadian community "can be assured that we will continue to monitor the situation closely and seek to ensure that the government honors its promise."

What's more, Mr. Bardyn said that Mr. Chrétien's letter to the community was unsolicited. "We did not ask him for it."

The UCC chairperson says that the alliance plans to ask the prime minister to strike a special Cabinet committee to resolve the redress issue once and for all. One person Mr. Bardyn doesn't want on that group is Ms. Finestone.

"She has already insulted the Italian and Chinese communities by being very dismissive," he explained. Following her recent announcement, the secretary of state allegedly appeared on an Italian cable-TV program and referred to the Italian fascist support for Hitler's genocide against the Jews. Ms. Finestone is Jewish.

"Finestone also lied about discussing the redress question with [the Liberal] caucus," said Mr. Bardyn, who stopped short of calling for the junior cabinet minister's resignation. "We found that out through [Liberal member of Parliament for Toronto-The Beaches] Maria Minna, who said the issue was never raised." Ms. Minna is a former president of the National Congress of Italian Canadians.

While Mr. Bardyn awaits a date to meet with Prime Minister Chretien some time in the new year, Mr. Gregorovich has already turned his attention elsewhere. "Maybe we will remind people how helpful the Liberals were during the next election," he suggested. "Maybe we will try someone else."

The options could be interesting. Today's Canadian Parliament is composed of two regional parties: the right-wing Reform Party, which has traditionally opposed multiculturalism, and the official Opposition, the Bloc Quebecois, for which Quebec's sovereignty is the main issue.

Mr. Gregorovich thinks the Bloc Quebecois could be the more sympathetic of the two in the future. "They're sensitive to losing their rights, having experienced the [invocation of the now-dead] War Measures Act in 1970."

TIMELINE: Internment operations

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA – Eighty years after the internment of close to 6,000 Ukrainian Canadians the community has yet to receive some compensation for what many believe to be a historic injustice.

Following is a timeline of salient events during that period:

July 27, 1914: Canada's first Ukrainian Catholic bishop, Nicetas Budka, issues a pastoral letter encouraging Ukrainian Canadians to support their homeland, a day before the start of World War I.

August 4, 1914: Canada declares war on Germany and Austria-Hungary.

August 8, 1914: Following condemnation from the Manitoba Free Press, Bishop Budka issues a follow-up that reminds Ukrainian Canadians of their new loyalties.

August 15, 1914: The Canadian government invokes the War Measures Act and issues a proclamation "respecting immigrants of German or Austro-Hungarian nationality." It is estimated that about 170,000 Ukrainians live in Canada; most are Austro-Hungarian citizens.

August 1914: The first of 26 Ukrainian Canadian internment camps opens at Fort Henry, near Kingston, Ontario.

October 28, 1914: The Canadian government orders the registration of all "enemy aliens." Those who fail to report face internment.

June 26, 1915: The Canadian government orders the arrest and detention of enemy aliens perceived to be a threat to national security.

September 17, 1917: Former Liberal Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier resigns from Conservative Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden's coalition Union government over the Ukrainian Canadian internment issue.

July 1920: The Canadian government holds about $94,000 in trust from former Ukrainian Canadian internees. By 1939, $33,900 claims remain outstanding.

September 22, 1988: Progressive Conservative Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announces a $360 million compensation package to the Japanese Canadian community over World War II internment and promises to establish a Race Relations Foundation.

The same year, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress' (UCC's) Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Commission (UCCLC) submits "The Ukrainian Case for Acknowledgment and Redress" to Multiculturalism Minister Gerry Weiner. Commission researcher Lubomyr Luciuk authors the first book on Ukrainian Canadian internment, "A Time for Atonement: Canada's First National Internment Operations and the Ukrainian Canadians."

October 7, 1988: UCC president Dmytro Cipywnyk sends Mr. Weiner a letter circumscribing the UCCLC's authority to speak on behalf of the UCC.

November 1990: Prime Minister Mulroney tells the House of

(Continued on page 13)

CBS refuses Rabbi Bleich's requests for fair portrayal

by Andrij Wynnyckyj

NEW YORK — In a face-to-face meeting with Rabbi Yaakov Dov Bleich, chief rabbi of Ukraine, Morley Safer and Jeffrey Fager of CBS's "60 Minutes" refused to air a fair portrayal of ethnic relations in the country and his statement decrying the misuse of his testimony.

Rabbi Bleich came to New York while on a recent visit to the U.S. that coincided with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's official sojourn. Rabbi Bleich met with the two individuals primarily responsible for the defamatory portrait of Ukraine drawn in the now notorious program titled "The Ugly Face of Freedom."

Contacted by telephone in Kyyiv on December 14, 1994, Rabbi Bleich spoke to The Weekly about his encounter with the news program's co-editor, Mr. Safer, and the segment's producer, Mr. Fager.

Rabbi Bleich said the trio met "on neutral ground" because he feared the pressure that would be exerted upon him if he went to CBS headquarters on New York's Fifth Avenue.

During the meeting, Rabbi Bleich requested an on-air reading of his October 31,1994, statement, in which he faulted the program for having quoted his words "out of the context that they were said" and that "the broadcast did not convey the true state of affairs in Ukraine." Rabbi Bleich said he would consider this gesture a retraction of sorts.

In reply, he was told: "We already read off the Cardinal's [Myroslav Lubachivsky's] letter and we won't read yours."

When the Jewish religious letter suggested that "60 Minutes" make another segment, and this time show the positive things about Ukraine, "since there are many more positive aspects to life in the country than what they showed," Rabbi Bleich reported that Morley Safer said: "Right now we have no interest."

Rabbi Bleich also brought up the issue of the false pretexts under which the interviews were conducted in Ukraine. Cardinal Lubachivsky had been told CBS was doing a story on religion in post-Soviet Ukraine, while Rabbi Bleich expected to speak about "the help American organizations were providing for rebuilding in Ukraine."

The rabbi challenged the newsmen, saying, "why did you say this to me if those were not your intentions?" He was told "Well, we were planning on doing that type of report, but while we were there we chanced on this other story, which we thought was much better."

As to the question of his words having been taken completely out of context, Rabbi Bleich said he protested specifically about the reference to the renaming of streets. "When you asked me about the naming of streets after Petliura and Khmelnytsky, I said that it doesn't bother me," he related, explaining that "it was when I was talking about something completely different that they used the part they quoted me on."

Rabbi Bleich said Mr. Safer replied: "Well, the truth is that we heard it from people, we heard this from the locals, so that's why we put it in there."

Rabbi Bleich said a correspondent from the Ukrainian television network UT-2 interviewed him on December 13, 1994, and asked about CBS's motive in airing "The Ugly Face" program. "I told him," said Rabbi Bleich, " 'Look, you journalists are all the same anyway, if you don't have a story, you create one.' "

Ukraine's deputies attend British seminar

by Tony Leliw

LONDON – A group of young Ukrainian people's deputies sampled democracy British-style when they visited the country for a two-week seminar called "Making Democracy Work."

Organized by Foundations for Freedom (FFF), the deputies were able to see everything from the workings of the British Parliament to a day's program in Liverpool, which included a tour of the city, reception given by the lord mayor, and presentation of local initiatives for inner city regeneration.

The deputies represented divergent strands of political opinion coming from different regions of Ukraine. Ivan Popesku, 30, Independent, is a teacher from Chernivtsi and the first deputy of Romanian descent to be elected to the new Ukrainian Parliament. Sergei Aksenenko, 27, Communist Party, Luhanske, is a member of the parliamentary commission on mass media.

The purpose of the seminar, which ended on November 26, was to show the deputies the values, institutions and relationships needed to develop a true democracy. British society was used as a case study in what democracy can be, and the challenges facing Ukraine at the present time.

The deputies gave their thoughts on what their British hosts had shown them at their final reception at Westminster Theater. Yurij Syzenko, a 38-year-old Communist Party deputy from Zaporizhzhia, said: "The visit was interesting because it allowed me to meet people from all layers of British society. Ukraine today is looking for its own place on the political map of Europe. It is not a surprise that quite a lot of people know little about the existence of it as a state."

Mr. Syzenko added: "In our history there have been some good and bad things. Everything we have good we need to conserve. The British people have proved this in my opinion, that we cannot just copy somebody. We should take into consideration the mentality of the people and their traditions."

Taras Protsevyat, 32, Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, Lviv, gave a short account of Ukraine's historic struggles culminating in its winning independence, and gave a pessimistic view of relations between Ukraine and Russia in the near future. "We have very complicated economic problems and the reason for that is the neo-colonial economic structure of Ukraine," he said.

Speaking after the meeting, Mikhailo Churuta, Communist Party, Luhanske seemed unmoved by his visit. "In Ukraine the number of members of the Communist Party supersede all of the other 37 parties put together. The party program is to build a socialist society as before, though we understand that we could not build a society of people who are equal, but this is an ideal for which people should strive. The goal is to restore the Soviet Union, but we do not know what shape it will take."

Edward Peters, project coordinator of FFF, said: "It has been an extraordinary privilege to see our country through their eyes and come to love their country more. I am very grateful for that experience. We have glimpsed the magnitude of the problems that Ukraine faces."

Foundations for Freedom is an initiative of Moral Re-Armament, registered in the UK as a charity. Its aim is to nurture fresh leadership in a younger generation in Central and Eastern Europe. The foundation's patrons include the prime minister and leaders of all the other parties in Parliament.

CORRECTIONS

California and CBS

In The Weekly's editorial of December 11, 1994, it was reported on the basis of an e-mail transmission that the Ukrainian American community in southern California had met on November 25 with representatives of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. The e-mail report, written by Maria Oharenko, an officer of the California Association to Aid Ukraine, noted that "all agreed the '60 Minutes' report was inaccurate," that the Wiesenthal Center had offered to "host an exhibit" on the famine and that it would "help finance a trip to Los Angeles by Rabbi Yaakov Bleich."

The Weekly was notified by Bohdan Futala, media officer of the CAAU, that this report was inaccurate. According to Mr. Futala, "There was no explicit consensus reached" in regard to the accuracy of the "60 Minutes" report. "A Jewish American activist suggested that the Holocaust Museum in L.A. host an exhibit on the Great Famine and the director of the museum agreed to bring this matter up for consideration by the board of directors." There was no commitment to finance a trip by Rabbi Bleich, however, "a representative of the center expressed an interest in organizing a meeting for Rabbi Bleich with the Jewish community in southern California."

Ukrainian explorer

In the story "Ukraine renews Antarctic research" (December 25, 1994) by Petro Matiaszek, the name of the Ukrainian explorer who sailed the southern Pacific was given as Makukh-Makhlay. The correct name, according to the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, is Nikolai Miklukho-Maklai.

OBITUARY: Rev. Joseph Chupil, 72, pastor in Arizona

PHOENIX, Ariz. – The Rev. Joseph Chupil, pastor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Phoenix and St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Mission in Tucson, died on Sunday afternoon, November 20, 1994. Father Chupil, 72, died in Casa Grande, Ariz., during his return from Tucson, where he had celebrated a divine liturgy.

The Rev. Chupil was born in Ukraine on August 28, 1922. After immigrating to Canada, he moved to the Los Angeles area where he and his wife, Irene, raised three children: Olha, Natalie and Mark. While working full-time as a tailor, he completed his theological studies and was ordained to the deaconate by the late Bishop Jaroslaw Gabro in 1976. After his wife passed away, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Innocent Lotocky OSBM in 1988. Since ordination he had served as administrator to both Arizona communities.

The priestly parastas was held in Phoenix on Wednesday evening, November 23, after the holy rosary was recited by the parish and the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Following services, the parish sisterhood prepared a light meal and refreshments in the parish hall where clergy, individuals from Phoenix and Tucson, as well as family members, reflected on Father Chupil's life.

A divine liturgy for the departed and a panakhyda were offered on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24. For two days the Rev. Chupil's remains, robed in gold vestments, lay in state in the church. On the tetrapod, next to the funeral bier, lay the Holy Gospel, chalice, and epitrakhil as reminders of the Rev. Chupil's priesthood. The church was filled to capacity with parishioners, and friends arrived from Phoenix and Tucson for both services.

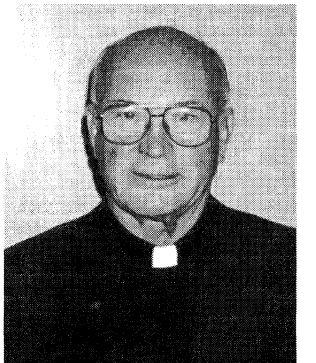
Father Chupil's remains were then flown to Los Angeles where that evening a priestly parastas was held at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church. A divine liturgy for the departed was offered Friday morning, after which Bishop Michael Wiwchar, reciting ancient Old Slavonic prayers of priestly farewell, anointed Father Joseph's remains with oil.

The Right Rev. Mitred Archpriest Peter Leskiw then, in the tradition of a priest's funeral, placed a veil (aer) over Father Joseph's face, symbolizing the veiled mystery of our faith. From the church a large procession proceeded to a local cemetery where a panahyda was conducted, and Bishop Wiwchar sealed the tomb.

Father Chupil's final resting place is with his departed wife and son in a California cemetery.

Suriving are two daughters, Olha Hirka and Natalie Chupil of California. Deepest condolences and sorrow were expressed to both of them and to their families.

Presiding at all services in Arizona and California was Bishop Wiwchar CSsR, of the St. Nicholas Eparchy. Twelve members of the clergy participated during services in Phoenix including: the Rt. Rev. Leskiw (Western Diocesan Dean and Pastor, Los Angeles), the Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Andrew Mykyta (San Diego), the Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Myroslav Oleshko (emeritus), the Rev. Nicholas Zachariadis (resident priest, Northern California parishes), the Rev. Deacon Ewhen Wasylyna (Phoenix) and the Rev. Deacon Myron Mykyta (Phoenix). Also present were priests from the local Ukrainian Orthodox, Byzantine Catholic and Roman Catholic parishes.



The Rev. Joseph Chupil

Clergy participating in Los Angeles services included: the Rt. Rev. Leskiw, the Rt. Rev. Mykyta, the Rev. Deacon Theodore Wroblicky (administrator, Northern California parishes), and the Rev. Deacon Myron Mykyta. Also present were clergy from the Ukrainian Orthodox community, the Very Rev. Joseph Ridella from Palm Springs and the Rev. Diaz, a Navy chaplain.

Eulogies were given during funeral services by Bishop Wiwchar, Father Leskiw, and Deacon Mykyta. The bishop spoke about the sacrament of Holy Orders and Father Joseph's role as a priest. Father Leskiw described his long-term relationship with Father Joseph. Deacon Mykyta reflected on Father Joseph's life and tenure as pastor of the Phoenix and Tucson parishes.

Northern Californians seek to bridge the Ukrainian professional community

by R. Orest Kulewicz

SAN FRANCISCO – With the aim of building an active networking community for the 1990s, the recently established Ukrainian Professionals of Northern California hosted an interactive forum titled "Bridging the Professional Ukrainian Community" at the Hotel St. Claire in San Jose, Calif., on November 5.

Participants traveled from as far away as Colorado and Pennsylvania to hear presentations on a wide array of topics ranging from contemporary Ukrainian art to the state of current medical practice in Ukraine. Among the speakers, which included international doctors, businessmen and scientists, was Vasyl Lopata, a noted Ukrainian artist and designer of the new Ukrainian currency, the hryvnia.

First to speak was Oleh Weres, a chemist who ventured to Ukraine just over two years ago in hope of developing a high-technology start-up company there. Mr. Weres said it didn't take long to discover that many Ukrainian cities had high concentrations of well-trained scientists and engineers. He added that from the standpoint of expertise, many Ukrainian research agencies are "on par with Westinghouse and Toshiba." Mr. Weres said, "With 70 years of isolation, scientists have got to come up with something."

On his second visit to Ukraine, Mr. Weres found a research facility in Kharkiv that had come up with a clever way to improve the efficiency of power plants. He calculated that if U.S. power companies applied the Ukrainian technology they could save more than $1 billion. Furthermore, the investment required by U.S. companies to reap the savings is rather small, on the order of $250,000 per facility.

Despite these potential benefits, Mr. Weres is yet to finalize the sale of the Ukrainian technology to the American interests that he has lined up. Among the difficulties he cited was the Ukrainian partner's fear of somehow getting shortchanged by American partners in the deal. "Many Ukrainians believe capitalism is simply a legal form of stealing," he commented.

Next to speak was Vera Babiak, a graduate student adviser at the University of Colorado at Boulder, who has been focusing attention on the development of a scholarship fund for Ukrainians interested in applying their sponsored education in their homeland. The challenge, said Ms. Babiak, is to find candidates who will return to Ukraine after their education. "Many want to stay here," she explained.

Ms. Babiak said she will continue to develop the scholarship fund, as interest to develop such a program has been surprisingly high. After placing a simple ad in a local newspaper requesting responses from those interested in developing a Ukrainian community group in Boulder, Ms. Babiak was surprised to receive a flurry of phone calls. "We're in the woodwork out here, but people want to network throughout the entire Southwest," she said.

The focus later shifted back to the business sector, specifically with regard to Ukraine's medical industry. Entrepreneur Oleh Steciw delivered a synopsis of the efforts of his company, Global Biomarketing Group Inc., to break into the Ukrainian pharmaceutical industry.

Having been among the initial wave of foreign business interests to venture into the Ukrainian market on the eve of independence in 1991, Mr. Steciw's aim was to sell medical goods and supplies vital to the first phase of medical care, predominantly instruments and specialized chemicals used in patient diagnoses. After seeing first-hand the primitive state of Ukraine's medical system, Mr. Steciw said he knew his company's efforts were much-needed. "Ukraine needs absolutely everything. Raw materials, wood, machinery," he said. He added that resources are so constrained in Ukraine today that "people in Ukraine look at Russia as successful."

Mr. Steciw characterized the business style in Ukraine to be very different from that in the West. "It's very personal there," he commented, "people need to know you before they work with you."

Like many foreign interests seeking to penetrate the Ukrainian market, Mr. Steciw's company has encountered its share of challenges related to the country's undefined legal system, poor accounting practices and corrupt business activity. But Mr. Steciw maintains that an honest, profitable business is nonetheless possible in Ukraine. The trick to doing business in Ukraine, he said, is to first establish a plan of action that defines the scope of your efforts there and to stick to it.

After hearing about the various obstacles facing the business sector in Ukraine, forum participants were privy to a special presentation by one of Ukraine's most noted contemporary artists, Vasyl Lopata, regarding the role of art in building a new Ukraine. Having earned the distinguished Taras Shevchenko Prize in Art – the highest in Ukraine – Mr. Lopata stressed the need to incorporate the true spirit of Ukrainian culture in the country's future. Ukraine's history spans thousands of years, said Mr. Lopata. "Without an understanding of its history and culture, our country is in danger of becoming a hollow nation," he said.

Many of Mr. Lopata's works were featured at the forum, and he drew attention to the subtleties of Ukrainian life he had so painstakingly recreated within them. After pointing to a landscape of one sun-drenched Ukrainian farm, Mr. Lopata commented, "I don't want to see events like Chornobyl make a beautiful Ukraine something seen only in paintings."

Mr. Lopata's latest project includes the design of Ukraine's yet to be released currency, the hryvnia. The artist said Ukraine's new money will be graced with portraits of some of the most influential figures in its history, like Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko and Lesia Ukrainka. By incorporating these key figures in a medium that will one day be exchanged throughout the world, Mr. Lopata hopes that more will come to recognize Ukraine's unique identity.

Dr. Andrew Iwach, a San Francisco-based ophthalmologist, followed Mr. Lopata's presentation with an in-depth report on the state of Ukraine's eye care, appropriately titled "A Vision for Ukraine's Future." Having witnessed the outdated and poorly equipped medical facilities during his first visit to Ukraine two years ago, Dr. Iwach joined in an effort with other American doctors to distribute critical medical aid to the country.

"Physicians are truly under extreme limitations in Ukraine," said Dr. Iwach, who cited his grandmother's cataracts as an example of the country's inability to address medical problems easily remedied in the West. "When my grandmother went to the eye doctor there they said she was too old to receive any treatment."

Dr. Iwach said he believes Ukraine's medical problems are concentrated in two different areas: medical resources and undertrained doctors. To remedy this situation, he is working with members of the American Academy of Opthalmologists to offer training to Ukrainian physicians that would enable them to better serve their patients.

Medical equipment and supplies also are desperately needed in hospitals, said Dr. Iwach, adding that Ukrainian children unfortunately are bearing the brunt of much of the disparities in the country's medical system because they are particularly sensitive to eye problems. "If a child's eyes don't receive appropriate care at an early age they can be blinded for life," he said.

On a positive note, Dr. Iwach offered several examples of the successes American opthamologists have achieved in Ukraine. He displayed a picture of a young boy who was the fortunate recipient of a corneal transplant that enabled him to see his mother for the first time in his life. Said Dr. Iwach, "I'm optimistic that if we work together we can make a difference."

R. Orest Kulewicz delivered the final presentation titled "Modern Information Systems and Sources on Ukraine," which focused on the availability of accurate and timely information on Ukraine's economic, political and cultural spheres. Having spent nearly a year in Kyyiv as a journalist for a local news agency and television broadcasting company, Mr. Kulewicz shared his first-hand experience with several alternative sources of information on Ukraine and touched on how the global Ukrainian community can use Internet, the vast computer network, as a powerful tool to receive and distribute information on Ukraine.

"Although Ukraine has been deprived of reliable and accurate news coverage, things are changing," said Mr. Kulewicz. As examples of recent changes in the availability of Ukrainian news sources, he cited several relatively

(Continued on page 11)

Pittsburgh society honors editor of Forum

PITTSBURGH – Andrew S. Gregorovich, editor of Forum: A Ukrainian Review, was honored as the 1994 Ukrainian of the Year by the Ukrainian Technological Society of Pittsburgh at its 25th annual dinner-dance on November 26 at The University Club in the Oakland district of Pittsburgh.

Members and guests were welcomed by President Deborah Alexa Sirko, Executive Board Member Marta Pisetska Farley introduced Mr. Gregorovich, and First Vice-President Halya S. Polatajko read the citation and presented the award plaque, with calligraphy by Ukrainian artist Kathy Boykowycz.

Mr. Gregorovich was honored for his editorship of Forum since its inception in 1967, for his professional career as a bibliographer and librarian with the University of Toronto, for his collection of many rare Ukrainian maps (including the very first map to bear the name "Ukraine",) and other rare documents dealing with Ukraine, and for his participation in many organizations in the Ukrainian Canadian community.

Forum, which is published by the Ukrainian Fraternal Association, is a colorfully illustrated, quarterly magazine presenting Ukrainian art, history and culture in Ukraine, Canada and the United States.

Watching the presentation were Mr. Gregorovich's wife, Patricia; his brother, John; his sister, Hanya Sirka, and his aunt, Olga Pawliuk. Congratulatory letters were read by Ms. Farley from Dr. Dmytro Cipywnyk, president, and Yaroslaw Sokolyk, general secretary, of the Ukrainian World Congress, and from Ivan Oleksyn, president of the Ukrainian Fraternal Association.

In his acceptance remarks, Mr. Gregorovich noted that Ukrainian heritage in Ukraine is under attack from Americanization; he urged those present to continue to preserve their Ukrainian heritage. He added that he is now on sabbatical from the University of Toronto in order to complete his forthcoming book on Ukrainian heritage, a book he said would be profusely illustrated and would portray the essence of Ukraine's history, culture and achievements, and provide basic facts about Ukraine.

Mr. Gregorovich brought two publications to Pittsburgh, published by him just for the occasion. The first was "Jews and Ukrainians: Analysis of the CBS 60 Minutes Program, 'The Ugly Face of Freedom' " and the second was "Jewish-Ukrainian Bibliography; a Brief selected Bibliography of Resources in English." The latter work will be republished in an upcoming issue of Forum.

While Mr. Gregorovich was in Pittsburgh, he visited

Andrew S. Gregorovich

and photographed the Ukrainian Nationality Room in the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh, which he hopes to write about in Forum.

The Ukrainian Technological Society is an association of Ukrainian professionals and businesspersons founded on February 8, 1970. Recently, it was a founding member-organization of the Federation of Ukrainian American Business and Professional Associations.

In marking its 25th anniversary, founders Dr. Michael Kotyk and Michael Korchynsky looked back on the society's programs: the Ukrainian of the Year Award with 25 awards including the first award to Stepan Chemych and awards to Metropolitan Mstyslav, Patriarch Josyf Slipyj, Nadia Svitlychna and Leonid M. Kravchuk; the Scholarship Program with more than 200 scholarships totaling $76,800 presented to 152 students; and its publications, including the UTS Newsletter, The Pittsburgh Ukrainian Bulletin and the Ukrainian Directory of Greater Pittsburgh.

Following the award presentation and dinner, there was dancing to the music of Lviviany.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

In the spirit of Christmas

In the recently released movie "Little Women," the four March sisters, Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy, look forward to a Christmas Day feast complete with butter, fresh-baked bread and oranges — delicacies the family has had to do without because of hard times during the Civil War.

When they realize that there are people who are worse off than they are, they hesitate, but only for a moment, and turn their goodies over to a poor German family that lives nearby.

Perhaps this is just a simple story but it does convey the true meaning of Christmas, a spirit often forgotten in these days of mass consumerism and high technology.

In a subsequent scene in the movie, based on the American children's classic, the girls rejoice that they are together for Christmas. They gather with their mother to read a letter from their father and in unison pray for his well-being, hoping that they will soon be together as a family.

These thoughts come to mind because in this day and age, few people have little time to think about their loved ones. Although gift-giving is a pleasant gesture to show that someone is thought of, is it not more meaningful to spend some "quality time" with loved ones, to ask what they wish for in the New Year, to inquire about their Christmas wishes, their future plans, their dreams?

In his Christmas homily this year, Bishop Basil Losten of Stamford tells us to welcome Christ into our hearts. He eulogizes: "We must not organize our lives by what we have; what matters is what we are. External 'success' fades away so quickly; what matters are values that will last."

"Do not expect happiness from things that vanish even faster than we expect them to," adds the Catholic hierarch.

But do expect this joy to come from within during this holiday season, do expect a light-heartedness from the spirit of sharing, of giving, of hoping.

Experience the joy that comes from hoping for better times, for you, your family and friends, your loved ones near and far. Pray that those in Ukraine — many of whom for decades had been deprived of Christmases, robbed of moral and spiritual values — may feel the warmth of Christ's love during this holiday season.

And pray that these holidays bring together families and friends who do not spend Christmas comparing the size of their pocketbooks or the weight of their professional titles, but examine the depth of their spirits, the generosity of their hearts.

Khrystos Rodyvsia — Slavim Yoho!

CHRISTMAS PASTORAL: Christ has come down from the heavens

Archpastoral encyclical of the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States of America, and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the Diaspora.

To the venerable clergy, monastics and devout faithful: May the peace, grace and the blessing of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, born for our salvation, descend upon all of you.

Christ is born! Christ has come from the heavens – welcome Him!

Once again, as it is every year, in a world which witnesses a decline in spirituality, in a world in which mankind seeks out paths leading to God, Divine Love leads all of us to the joyful celebration of a great mystery – the nativity of Light from Light, and True God from True God – the Lord Jesus Christ, Savior, Deliverer and Teacher, who for us and for our salvation came down from the heavens, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man, so that we might be reborn in Divine Grace and live as free and responsible people and reflect that Divine image and likeness according to which we were created.

Once again, after days set aside for spiritual preparation and renewal, our parish churches in independent and sovereign Ukraine, and in the countries of the Ukrainian Orthodox diaspora will be the scenes of solemn Nativity liturgies. Echoing joyfully will be not only Nativity liturgical hymns, written for the sake of our spiritual rebirth and edification, but together with them our traditional Ukrainian Nativity carols – meaningful songs of faith which have their genesis in the creative genius of our devout and Christ-loving ancestors, and which sprang directly from the believing hearts of those who embraced the Son of God, fashioned a cave (pechera) for the Savior in their own hearts, accepted his saving Good News and made Him the center of their every activity.

Christ is born! He leads all people who accept Him to a new and blessed Life. He, having heard our fervent prayers, and having tested our steadfastness in the faith and our faithfulness, brought Ukraine to a new life, to full freedom and statehood, and entrusted its religious and political destiny not to foreigners, but to native sons and daughters upon whom will depend her future in this and in the impending 21st century.

"Christ has come from the heavens – greet Him!" proclaims our Holy Church. How are we to greet Him? The answer is simple! We greet Christ when we generously sow justice, truth, love and joy around us; we greet Christ when we open our hearts to Him, when we make ourselves accessible to His transfiguring grace and when we become His instruments here on earth. Born is He, who enlightens every person born into this world. Born in us is He who said of Himself: "I am the light of the world," "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life...," "I am with you until the end of time."

The feast of the Nativity of the Son of God, beautified with inspirational liturgical services, instructional liturgical hymns and moving carols, invites us to witness to a world which today has lost its sense of morality and personal responsibility, that Christ the Son of God, born in Bethlehem, is the only one in whom we can find the fullness of life, the only one in whom human beings can realize their full potential. Christmas challenges us, who on the feast verbally proclaim that we "have been baptized into Christ and have put on Christ" to ask ourselves if we indeed have put on Christ, or just nominally, when convenient? Today there are many who do not comprehend the transforming essence of this feast. Many are those who narrow the meaning of the feast to only its ritual and cultural manifestations, and forget, or even worse, seek not to enter into the depths of its mystical significance. However there are those who receive Christ the Son of God, as did those sincere shepherds of old who were favored with knowing Christ, those who can be compared to the learned Magi from the East, who, guided by the Lord's star, found Christ the Source of all wisdom, worshipped Him and presented to Him their best gifts.

The feast of Christ's Nativity is for all of us a bright signpost, pointing out the path leading to Christ and to the fullness of life in Him. It teaches us that we who live in times which put to the test our faithfulness to Christ and His Good News (Gospel), can be the shepherds of our own acts, thoughts and feelings, and that we can intently look into the firmament of our life and in it find the never-erring star of the Lord, and following it, come, as free and mature Orthodox Ukrainians, to the Lord, Who is in us and with us.

In bestowing upon all of you our archpastoral Nativity benediction, we commend you to the love of Him Who humbled Himself and became poor so that He might appear to us as the God-man, so that we might hear and accept His words, become rich through His wise and saving teachings, and bring to Him, our sure and tranquil haven, others who seek Him and aspire not to temporal goods, but to lasting blessings which come from Him, who grants spiritual peace to men of good will.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem for our salvation, be with all of you.

Christ is Born!
Let us glorify Him in word and deed.

Your devoted servants in the Lord,
†**Constantine,** Metropolitan
†**Anatolij,** Metropolitan
†**Antony,** Archbishop
†**Paisij,** Bishop
†**Ioan,** Bishop
†**Jeremiah,** Bishop

Issued on the feast of Christ's Nativity, January 7, in St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle Center, South Bound Brook, N.J.

Jan. 7 1853

Turning the pages back...

Mykola Arkas, the popular composer and amateur historian, was born on January 7, 1853. A graduate of Odessa University, he worked at the Mykolayiv Naval Office in 1875-1899, then settled on his estate in the Kherson gubernia, where he established a Ukrainian language school.

One of the founders of the Prosvita society in Mykolayiv, he served as its president until his death. He also recorded and arranged Ukrainian folk songs. In 1891, he published his major musical work, the opera "Kateryna" (based on Taras Shevchenko's poem). It was first staged in Moscow in 1899 by Mykhailo Kropyvnytsky.

Arkas wrote a popular "Istoria Ukrainy" (History of Ukraine, 1908) that was published in St. Petersburg. He died in March 1909 in Mykolayiv.

Source: "Arkas, Mykola" Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Vol. 1 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984).

UNA Fund for the Rebirth of Ukraine

UNA FUND FOR THE REBIRTH OF UKRAINE

The Home Office of the Ukrainian National Association reports that, as of December 21, the fraternal organization's Fund for the Rebirth of Ukraine has received 18,624 checks from its members with donations totalling **$473,117.30** The contributions include individual members' donations, as well as returns of members' dividend checks and interest payments on promissory notes.

Please make checks payable to:
UNA Fund for the Rebirth of Ukraine.

NEWS AND VIEWS

National minorities in Ukraine: an emerging success story

by Orest Deychakiwsky

The now-infamous "60 Minutes" broadcast on "The Ugly Face of Freedom" in Ukraine has raised numerous questions about Ukrainian-Jewish relations, many of which have been addressed on the pages of The Ukrainian Weekly and other newspapers. One of the most egregious features of the broadcast is that it completely ignored the positive aspects not only of Ukrainian-Jewish relations, but of Ukraine's favorable policies towards its minorities. The "60 Minutes" report raises a number of questions concerning Ukrainian government policy towards its minorities and their current treatment.

The subject of national minorities in present-day Ukraine has to date not received the attention it deserves, perhaps making it easier for those so inclined to put their own negative twists on the issue. Ukraine's record has been objectively, and, for the most part, favorably assessed by the U.S. government, Congress, international organizations and, on occasion, by the media. National minorities in Ukraine is an important issue not only on its own merits, but because it serves as a useful barometer of independent Ukraine's efforts to overcome the Soviet legacy and become a genuinely democratic, full-fledged member of the international community.

To cover all of the facets of national minorities issues in Ukraine would go well beyond the scope of this overview. Instead, this article attempts to merely provide a broader context to the question of the treatment of Jews in Ukraine by focusing on the policies pertaining to all of Ukraine's national minorities and providing a few illustrative examples of treatment of individual minority groups.

First, in the way of background, while Ukraine has approximately 110 different ethnic groups on its territory, except for the Russians, they make up a relatively small proportion of the population of 52 million. According to the 1989 census, 72.7 percent are Ukrainians and 22.1 percent are Russians, leaving only about 5 percent belonging to other groups. With respect to Russians, some observers believe that their actual number is smaller than 22 percent and a future census would reflect that. Among the reasons: some mixed marriage and Russified Ukrainians earlier tended to identity, or felt compelled to identify, with the dominant and more "prestigious" Russian nationality.

From a historical perspective, it is worthwhile to note that until 1800 over 90 percent of Ukraine was ethnically Ukrainian. During the 19th century, with the expansion of the Russian empire, the percentage of minorities grew significantly. The devastation and aftermath of World War II, however, greatly reduced the numbers of many minorities such as the Poles and Jews who had played important roles in the history of Ukraine. Instead, the Russians were left as by far the most numerous and significant minority.

Legal framework and policies

Independent Ukraine has pursued a liberal policy toward ethnic minorities. Despite problems – and severe economic constraints – Ukraine's treatment of its minorities has been positive and encouraging. Unlike many other former Soviet republics, Ukraine has been largely untouched by ethnic conflict and violence. According to the U.S. State Department Annual Human Rights Country Report for 1993: "...Ukraine has been remarkably free of interethnic antagonism and conflict."

Ukraine's favorable record has been noted in various reports of U.S. governmental entities, such as the State Department and Helsinki Commission, as well as by international organizations, such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (including the CSCE's High Commissioner on National Minorities, former Dutch Foreign Minister Max van der Stoel.)

Ukraine's recent history with respect to national minorities had been one of tolerance and inclusivity. Indeed, Ukraine's legal framework and policies reflected the positive attitude towards minorities even prior to Ukrainian independence. Importantly, they set the stage for minority support for the historic December 1991 independence referendum. The legal framework included: the July 1990 declaration on the State Sovereignty of Ukraine; the Declaration of the Rights of Nationalities in Ukraine adopted on November 1, 1991; the October 1989 Law on Languages; and the October 1991 Law on Citizenship. All of these were significant not only in signaling that Ukraine's minorities would have nothing to fear in an independent Ukraine, but also indicated to the world that nationalism and democracy need not be mutually exclusive.

Thanks in large part to Rukh, the leading force for Ukrainian independence which at that time actively promoted the rights of minorities, Ukraine showed the world that the struggle for independence could be peaceful, democratic, and ethnically tolerant and inclusive.

The October 1991 citizenship law was especially vital. The law makes no distinction on the basis of ethnic group and underscores Ukrainian adherence to the idea that Ukraine be based on a territorial principle rather than on ethnicity. This reduced concerns about an exclusive Ukrainian nationalism (i.e., "Ukraine for the Ukrainians").

Favorable policies and a positive legal framework have continued since independence: A law on national minorities, containing strong guarantees along the lines of the November 1991 declaration, was passed by the Ukrainian Parliament in June 1992. It has been recognized for its progressive nature by various international actors. The law, inter alia, promises

(Continued on page 14)

Orest Deychakiwsky is a staff advisor at the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission).

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas

Fourth Christmas in "free" Ukraine

The last time I wrote about Christmas in Ukraine I wrote that Ukraine was still a "captive nation."

That was a year ago. Has anything really changed? Yes and no.

Leonid Kravchuk, a do-nothing, bureaucratic, former Communist toadie heavy into symbolism but little else, is no longer president. This is a blessing.

Unlike his predecessor, Leonid Kuchma, Ukraine's new president, is not backing away from painful change. With the appointment of free marketer Victor Pynzenyk as first deputy prime minister, it appears that Mr. Kuchma is serious about economic reform. Mr. Kuchma made a good impression at the White House, and is moving decisively to take advantage of the economic assistance available from the United States and the G-7 states. Privatization is still to be fully implemented, but a start has been made. Recent public opinion polls from Ukraine show a favorable approval rating for Mr. Kuchma, and his 301 to 8 vote in Ukraine's Parliament to accept the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty demonstrates support in the legislative branch.

Relations between the United States and Ukraine have improved dramatically. "The United States has shown itself to be Ukraine's most ardent supporter in the G-7," wrote Ian Brzezinski in November. A member of the American-Ukrainian Advisory Committee, Mr. Brzezinski believes that improved American Ukrainian relations are "geopolitically significant" because they "reflect growing awareness in the United States that promoting the consolidation of Ukraine's independence is a critical component of any effective policy designed to ensure both Russia's post-imperial transformation and stability in Eastern Europe."

In February, Ukraine became a member of the Partnership for Peace, a NATO program viewed by many as the first step towards full NATO membership. As a result of the program, Ukrainian and U.S. military forces have participated in peacekeeping exercises in the Black Sea, in Poland and in Holland.

The Crimea is also less of a problem. The Crimea's president Yuriy Meshkov has been stripped of all real power and the new Crimean prime minister, Anatoly Franchuk, is Mr. Kuchma's son-in-law's father. With Mr. Kuchma's election, eastern Ukraine also seems to be talking less about secession. At least for now.

But little else has changed. Far too many Ukrainian government leaders are still unscrupulous and corrupt. Even democrats and former dissidents have joined the "gimme mine" crowd in the belief, I suppose, that Ukraine's days of independence are limited and one had better start a Swiss bank account before it's too late.

And the Russians are and will remain a problem for a very long time. As late as October Alexander Solzhenitsyn was in Moscow inveighing against what he considers to be the Kremlin's neglect of some 25 million Russians who have suddenly become minorities in foreign lands. He repeated his earlier demands that Russia re-incorporate Ukraine and Belarus into its federation. As Malcolm Forbes wrote on December 5, "most Russians viscerally cannot accept the idea of an independent Ukraine, comparing the loss to the U.S. giving up Florida or California."

Russian outrage is being translated into Russian sabotage. While in Winnipeg in October, for example, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev made an unexpected appearance at a conference of representatives from the G-7 industrialized democracies and major international lending organizations. With President Kuchma on the dais and many Ukrainian Canadians in the audience, Mr. Kozyrev declared that "there is no G-7 but a G-8 in political issues." After reminding everyone that Ukraine owed his country almost $3 billion, he indicated that Russia expected to receive a share of the West's financial assistance to Ukraine.

In November Mr. Kozyrev shocked NATO officials by vetoing inclusion of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia into the Western defense system. A surprise supporter of this Russian contravention was our old friend Patrick Buchanan. "Yeltsin and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev are among the best friends the U.S. ever had in Moscow," wrote Mr. Buchanan just two weeks ago. Why get them upset by expanding NATO? "For us to intrude U.S. military power into Russia's sphere of influence," he argued, "to give war guarantees to her next-door neighbors, is certain to be taken as a provocation, an arrogant American attempt to deny Russia her legitimate rights as a great power."

Poor Pat just doesn't get it. America has no friends in Moscow. Never did. Never will. As Ronald Reagan understood so well, the best kind of Russia for the United States is a downsized Russia.

Mr. Buchanan is just the latest member of the American "give-Russia-what-it-wants-club." A founding member of the club is Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott who in the words of Malcolm Forbes "sometimes seems more a Russian nationalist than does Boris Yeltsin."

Not surprisingly, American academics are also joining the Russia-first club. Perhaps the most egregious member is Eugene B. Rumer, a senior staff member in the International Policy Department of the RAND Corp. and a part-time consultant for the Carnegie Center in Moscow. In an article titled "Will Ukraine Return to Russia?" which appeared in the fall issue of Foreign Policy, Rumer argued that the views of Ukrainian leaders such as Mykhailo Horyn who believe that Ukraine's "historical mission is to be the doctor who will cure Russia of its imperial ambition" are "unrealistic and dangerous" because they place Ukraine in a vulnerable position. "The Ukrainian political and intellectual elite's failure to recognize the organic link of their people to Russia," continues Mr. Rumer, "is fraught with potentially catastrophic consequences for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine." Why? Because the political and economic situation in Ukraine may become such that Russian "intervention in Ukrainian internal affairs is the only alternative to chaos on its key border."

Greasing the skids for a future Russian invasion, our Carnegie Russian expert concludes: "Russian intervention would probably lead to Ukraine's re-integration into the greater Russian state. Given the dangers associated with protracted internal instability in Ukraine and its spillover into the neighboring countries, re-incorporation into greater Russia might be the only realistic option...Ukraine's disintegration would be a tragedy. But it would not necessarily mark the closing chapter in the transformation of Eastern Europe. It would underscore the fact that Ukraine's collapse could not have been avoided in any case. Meanwhile, the key to European stability would remain in Russia."

As we discovered with the CBS scourging, the Russian KGB is still alive and well and supplying its agents of influence with disinformation that undermines the Ukrainian cause.

This Christmas Ukrainians are further ahead than they were last Christmas. But then so are the Russians!

Ukrainian American Bar Association's fall meeting focuses on CBS controversy

WASHINGTON – The Ukrainian American Bar Association held its annual fall meeting during the weekend of December 9-11, 1994, at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington.

UABA President Walter M. Lupan opened the Saturday morning session, which began with several organizational reports, as well as a report on the Second World Congress of Ukrainian Lawyers that took place in Kyyiv in October 1994.

The American representative to the International Organizing Committee, UABA Vice-President Orest Jejna, reported that the Second World Congress of Ukrainian Lawyers was an unprecedented event, which also saw the opening of the legal year in Ukraine. The beginning of the legal year in Ukraine was commemorated by a liturgy in St. Sophia Cathedral that was attended by President Leonid Kuchma and some 100 lawyers and jurists from throughout the world.

Mr. Jejna also reported that the World Congress of Ukrainian Lawyers elected a new president, Volodymyr Stretovych, a member of the Ukrainian Parliament and chairman of the Committee on Legal Policy and Law Reform. Among Mr. Stretovych's objectives as president of the World Congress of Ukrainian Lawyers are: publishing a directory of law firms that practice in Kyyiv, selecting candidates for internships abroad, and developing a code of ethics for government workers in Ukraine.

The next World Congress of Ukrainian Lawyers is scheduled to take place in 1996.

Participants in the morning session also heard from two members of the Ukrainian judiciary, Dmytro Prytyka and Yuriy Levandovsky. Judge Prytyka is chief judge of the Ukrainian Arbitrage Court in Kyyiv, the highest economics court adjudicating commercial issues for business entities. Judge Levandovsky is chief judge of the Arbitrage Court in the Ternopil Oblast.

Both judges informed the audience about the general organizational structure of the Ukrainian judiciary, as well as some of the intrinsic merits of the Ukrainian judiciary system currently in existence. They conceded, however, that judicial reform efforts in Ukraine continue at a slower than desired pace in light of fiscal and political limitations.

The meeting also heard from Bohdan Futey of the U.S. Court of Claims. Judge Futey spoke about the Constitutional Committee of Ukraine that is currently working on the latest draft of the proposed Ukrainian Constitution. The 41-person committee consists of Ukrainian judges, and political and government leaders.

Judge Futey noted that one of the primary difficulties in formulating a Constitution at this stage of Ukraine's political and legal development is the lack of a political consensus as to the type of government Ukraine will have, a presidential republic or parliamentary system. While the latest draft of the Ukrainian Constitution provides for numerous "positive" rights, such as the right to work, education and a safe environment, Judge Futey noted the severe potential problems of actually enforcing such positive rights.

Saturday's afternoon session began with a viewing of the controversial "60 Minutes" segment, "The Ugly Face of Freedom." Following the viewing of the CBS report, the audience heard a panel discussion titled "Journalistic Responsibility: A Case Study of CBS's '60 Minutes' 'The Ugly Face of Freedom.' " The panel was moderated by UABA member Nestor Olesnycky, and included UABA members Arthur Belendiuk, Olha Rybakoff and Bohdan Vitvitsky. Additional contributors to the panel discussion included UABA Treasurer Bohdanna Pochoday and Volodymyr Vysotsky, an attorney from Toronto.

After the viewing of the program, Mr. Olesnycky began the panel discussion by informing the audience that shortly after the initial broadcast of the program on October 23, the Ukrainian National Association reactivated the Ukrainian Heritage Defense Committee. The UHDC has an open invitation for all Ukrainian organizations throughout the United States to join the committee, the purpose of which is to formulate a strategy to firmly deal with the issues raised in the program, as well as similar incidents that are anticipated in the future. Mr. Olesnycky went on to inform the audience of meetings that took place between representatives of the Ukrainian American community and CBS, and the total lack of responsiveness on the part of CBS. As Mr. Olesnycky put it, "CBS informed us that it stands by its story."

Ms. Rybakoff then spoke about her experience as one of the several attorneys who brought suit in 1987 on behalf of the Delaware Chapter of the Ukrainian Congress Committee Inc. against CBS in connection with its portrayal of Ukrainians in the April 12, 1987, presentation of "Escape from Sobibor." She stressed that the primary problem with the case was that standing became a central issue, as there was no proper plaintiff on whose behalf the lawsuit could or should have been brought.

Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Yuriy Shcherbak presents UABA President Walter Lupan with a copy of the first Constitution of Ukraine drafted in 1710 by Hetman Pylyp Orlyk.

She pointed out that not only was the suit dismissed by the court, but that CBS also sought sanctions against the UCCA and the attorneys who brought the lawsuit, which fortunately were denied by the court. In dismissing the Sobibor lawsuit, the court found that the case involved an organization formed to litigate the special interests of a broad, indefinite class of citizens. The organization had no formal members and did not legally exist at the time of the activity alleged to injure its members. Accordingly, the court concluded that the plaintiff, the Delaware Chapter of the Ukrainian Congress Committee Inc., failed to clearly "allege facts demonstrating that it is a proper party to invoke judicial resolution of the dispute and the exercise of the court's remedial powers."

Mr. Vitvitsky in his presentation addressed what he viewed to be the "creative editing," historical inaccuracies, and quotes and pictures "totally out of context within the '60 Minutes' broadcast." He questioned whether this program was journalism at all and whether there are any standards to which consumers can hold the media. Mr. Vitvitsky noted that the recent "60 Minutes" report is not an isolated incident but a continuous pattern of attacks by the media against Ukrainians, as demonstrated by the 1968 NBC miniseries "Holocaust," CBS's 1987 broadcast of "Escape from Sobibor," then most recently this CBS broadcast of the "The Ugly Face of Freedom."

Previously, such episodes saw the Ukrainian American community demonstrate an ostrich-like attitude, hoping that the issues would quietly go away. This time, the "60 Minutes" program provoked the Ukrainian American community into a concerted effort to react, which Mr. Vitvitsky said he views as a positive and necessary response.

Mr. Belendiuk, an expert in communications law, characterized CBS as a creature of "fear and greed." He pointed out that CBS operates by the grace of the federal government and relies upon its advertisers. Working from that premise, he gave a pointed overview to the audience of what could be done by the Ukrainian American community to get the attention of CBS in this matter. Only then might it lead to a constructive dialogue and perhaps mitigate the possibility of another such attack on Ukrainians in the future. He also offered specific strategies that could be pursued by the Ukrainian community.

Ms. Pochoday informed the audience that the UABA has formed a committee to investigate potential legal and other actions in response to the "60 Minutes" broadcast. She noted the various actions in which the UABA and its members could participate, and encouraged Ukrainian American lawyers to take the initiative in their respective communities.

Finally, Mr. Vysotsky spoke to the audience regarding the Canadian efforts to date in response to the "60 Minutes" broadcast. He also discussed the Canadian desire to form a North American liaison to exchange information in this regard and to possibly coordinate the efforts of Ukrainians in the United States and in Canada.

It also should be noted that the United States Information Agency television program, "Windows on America," videotaped a portion of the UABA meeting on the "60 Minutes" piece for future broadcast in Ukraine.

The UABA meeting concluded with an evening banquet, the keynote speaker at which was Dr. Yuriy Shcherbak, ambas-

(Continued on page 12)

Seen during the reception are: (from left) Dmytro Prytyka, Maria Shcherbak, Bohdanna Pochoday, Dr. Yuriy Shcherbak, Yuriy Levandovsky and Volodymyr Vysotsky.

TRADITIONS: Koliady — the other kind

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

We are all familiar with the koliady (carols) and shchedrivky (new year's songs) sung every year at Christmas: "Boh Predvichnyi" (God Eternal), "Nova Radist Stala" (A New Joy Has Come), "Vo Vefleyemi" (In Bethlehem), "Dobryi Vechir, Tobi" (Good Evening to You), among many. All except the last one sing about the birth of the Christ Child and are similar to the regular English and other European carols we know and love.

But every once in a while, a strange theme sneaks in. For example, "The Holly and the Ivy," with some Christmas elements, is about two plants important to the pre-Christians of Britain. "Dobryi Vechir, Tobi," while mentioning the three Christian holy days of Christmas and having as a refrain "Syn Bozhyi narodyvsia" (the Son of God was born), is about the earlier pre-Christian feast of Koliada (the winter solstice) and refers to setting the table for guests.

The Christmas elements are a later, Christian addition. "Shchedryk," a new year's song about the swallow returning in the spring (and just as popular as "Carol of the Bells") really is a most ancient song, proving to us that the earliest new year in Ukraine was celebrated in the spring, when Mother Earth and all of nature was reborn.

Ukrainian koliadky and shchedrivky are the earliest human songs continuously in existence. These ritual songs tell us about the mind-frame of the earliest humans in Ukraine, about their world view, about everyday life back then, and how they explained to themselves what was around them. We learn from the many verses of each koliadka and shchedrivka how our ancestors believed the earth and heavens were created, about the celestial bodies, the first tree of life, the first waters, the first bird, the first animals, the first human, the first family, the first plants and grains, and the first fire.

Later ritual songs sing about medieval times, and some can actually be traced to particular historical people and events. There are songs for and about family members, individually or as a group (the hospodar and hospodynia — husband and wife, the children, the grandparents), about the divchyna or parubok (young adults of courting and marriageable age) — in fact, many romantic koliadky about engagements and weddings, even one for a young woman who lost her virginity (you couldn't hide a thing in the village), about the village priest and his family, about those recently departed (i.e., deceased), about the widow and her children, koliady sung outside the house before entering or after the regular koliada — "to thank the table," koliady for leaving the house ("pokoliad" — literally, after the koliada), koliady for dancing — "pliasanky," among the Hutsuls, and parodies and humorous koliady.

And, the koliadnyky did not just sing one song and go on to the next house. Each member of the family had a koliada sung for him or her, with a particular, relevant theme.

There are some, for us, very unusual themes, which to our ancestors many centuries ago were quite normal and ordinary. The theme of death, not something usually associated with the happy Christmas season, appears quite often in koliady. If a family member had died during the past year, the koliadnyky would sing especially for that person. Among the Hutsuls of the Carpathian Mountains, the koliadnyky danced special dances and played musical instruments. But when they sang a koliadka for the dead, there was no instrumental accompaniment. In fact, this type of koliadka was called "umerla" (dead, i.e., for the dead).

"Ukrainian Christmas" by V. Bednarsky. (©Chwyli Dnistra, 1988)

In the two-volume "Koliadky i Shchedrivky," compiled by Volodymyr Hnatiuk (Etnografichnyi Zbirnyk. Lviv, Naukove Tovarystvo im. Shevchenka, 1914), there is a section "Koliadky Umerlym" (Koliadky for the Dead): for the husband, the wife, and for children.

In one koliadka, from Stari Kuty, Kosiv county, recorded (i.e., written down) in 1910, brother Petro asks God to extend his life, at least for an hour, "so that I could call my family together, that I may bid farewell, without sin." The koliadka describes how Petro has just gotten his wish about being taken to Jerusalem and gives his soul to God. After a big procession he arrives in Jerusalem/heaven, where he is accepted. "Brother Petro, rest with God, where all the saints rest, where the angels sing, where the Apostles read books... Rest with God, brother Petro, and for us, the living, bliss (shchastia), health for many years, from now until forever, 'hey, dai Bozhe' (hey, grant us, God)."

These verses tell us what people longed for — a "good" death, whereby you did not die alone but were surrounded by family and friends, you asked all for forgiveness for any transgressions, said farewell properly and died with a candle in your hands.

A koliadka from Yaseniv Horishnyi, Kosiv county, about a deceased wife is a real tear-jerker. She has heard the angels calling her, and instructs her husband now to build her new "house" (i.e., coffin) with no windows and no doors (this particular description of a coffin appears often in folk songs). He is also to comb and dress her a certain way, and prepare three beeswax candles. With the first candle, the body is dressed; with the second, the soul leaves and the orphans weep for their mother; with the third candle the body is taken by the angels. The orphans cry that they gave their mother to God, and now there is no one to comb their hair and dress them in white shirts.

For some reason, the two koliadky for departed children have vineyards and wine as a theme. The grapes are tended, gathered, mashed and made into wine, which is transported to Kyyiv, to the monastery, where it is blessed and distributed to the people.

The koliadky, both from Zhabie, Kosiv county, sing about the young souls who pray for those on earth who have not forgotten them. One ends, "the heavenly kingdom for the little dead souls, and on this earth many years — mnohaya lita — for us, the living." What at first may seem morbid was probably a psychologically cathartic ritual for the mourning family.

The whole feast of Sviat Vechir (Christmas Eve) is about ancestors, and those departed who return to celebrate with the living members of the family. The empty place setting at the table and the food left there all night are for the departed. If the death happened within the year, a koliada for the dead let the mourners remember that person, allowing the grieving to take place openly, with the community. In Ukrainian tradition, the whole family consisted of the departed, the living and those yet to be born. Thus, on Sviat Vechir we still celebrate that togetherness.

Some koliadky for widows end with a wish that the widow may remarry (three gifts for her include a silk kerchief, a metal-worked belt and a gold ring for her fair finger). Others are really sad, describing the widow's poverty and grief. Some ritual songs have become folk songs, and their origin is lost to us. One such song, recorded so movingly a few years ago by Nina Matviyenko, seems to be a bittersweet folk love-song about a separated couple.

Surprisingly, what it really is is a widow's koliadka. "V lisi, v lisi, pid dubynoyu" (In the forest, under the oak tree) tells about two doves who loved each other. A young hunter shoots an arrow towards the oak and kills the male dove, taking the female home to his orchard. She neither eats nor drinks, only beats her wings and weeps under an oak. The hunter asks why she is crying, and the dove replies that the one she loved is gone. "I have 40 doves here, go pick one you can love," the hunter tells her. She replies, "He may have the same kind of feathers, but not the same down, he may sing the same song, but it's not the same voice..."

Not all the koliadky were so sad and morbid. The romantic ones sing about love, matchmaking and wedding festivities — all wish-fulfilling prophecies. The humorous ones and the parodies are downright silly, sometimes even blasphemous or raunchy. But there was a time and place for each koliadka. A story was told, a lesson taught, a wish hoped for, a moral reinforced.

Today, with our limited repertoire of koliady, we have so much to learn from our past.

All creatures great and small

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Even though most of us now live in an urban environment, every Ukrainian child knows about farm animals and how special they are at Christmas. Maybe, to a child's mind, it's only Ukrainian farm animals that behave differently at Christmas, not the ones down the county or provincial road in North America. But that could be because the local farmer does not treat them the same way as the Ukrainian "hospodar" and "hospodynia" did in the old days.

In our comfortable city apartments or suburban homes, we have kept a good part of the special Sviat Vechir (Christmas Eve) traditions, but many have fallen away because of impossibility or impracticality.

In ancient, pre-Christian times, animals were considered a part of the family, of the clan. They were respected, and even though hunted for food, clothing, and shelter, they were spoken to and thanked for their support. Later, during the Neolithic period, with the domestication of certain animals such as horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and fowl, these were still considered family.

Let's go back a century or two, to the traditional Ukrainian Sviat Vechir, the way we remember it from stories. Very clear indications of the close relationship between humans and animals is seen in our Christmas traditions. Every Ukrainian child knows that even before the family sat down to Sviata Vecheria (Holy Supper), a portion of each of the 12 dishes was collected and taken to the stable to share with the animals. Bees were also fed and greeted with the sviata (holy days).

In some regions, among the Hutsuls of the Carpathian Mountains, for example, the husband and wife went outside before supper, and thrice recited an invitation to the winds, the storms, the frosts, all foul weather, as well as to the wolves, bears, and other predatory animals, to come to supper. Each time, the couple waited for a reply. Then they said, "And if you're not coming now, don't bother us the rest of the year!" This was a ritual, magical act, a wish-fulfilling gesture to ensure safety in the new year.

It was believed that on this night, the animals spoke human language. The god of the animals visited them to see if they were well treated. Along with the special food of this evening, the animals were given new hay and fresh straw, everything to make them comfortable. Baby animals were brought into the house to play with the children in the straw under the table. The symbolic family of nature was together on this night.

The reason meat and dairy products are not eaten on Sviat Vechir dates back to our most ancient history. Because most of the traditions of our Rizdvo (Christmas) have their origins in the Paleolithic period (beginning around 22,000 B.C.), in the hunter/gatherer stage of human life, how could humans eat the flesh of the members of their extended clan on this special evening celebrating the winter solstice? The foods were all gathered, collected, dried. Only the fish was fresh. There were no dairy products then, because there were no domesticated animals from which to obtain milk, butter and cheese.

The animals are even part of the vinchuvannia (recited greetings) and in the koliadky. After greetings to the husband, wife and children, the farm animals are included in the next line, as is the field and its harvest:

And with this word we ring the bells; and bow to you, renowned master of the house, our lord Ivanko; we bow to you, we honor you, we wish you a good and long life, for you and your wife, your family, your animals, your horned animals, and with the entire home and holy field..."

Another koliadka wishes a full, satisfied home, and bees with hives... and as many cows, sheep, and horses as there are crumbs on the table. A Hutsul "podiaka stolovy" (thanks to the table, after all the koliady are sung) wishes to the family, among other good things, that when the cattle are in the barns, and the sheep are on the way to the polonyna (the highland meadows), that the Blessed Mother of God cross their path, to bless them.

If a hospodar had beehives, Hutsul koliadnyky,

(Continued on page 16)

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CONCERT REVIEW: Mykola Suk at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall

by Leonid Hrabovsky

Mykola Suk

Four years have passed since Ukrainian pianist Mykola Suk relocated to the United States, to New York City. Mr. Suk is one of the outstanding musicians of Ukraine. His virtuosic technique allows him to master works that form pillars of the pianistic repertoire. Mykola Suk's recital on October 23, at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center in New York, offered an imaginatively conceived program.

The first half consisted of a series of cycles of shorter works: Seven Bagatelles by Beethoven, "Out of Doors" Suite by Bela Bartok and three pieces from Valentin Silvestrov's "Children's Music" No. 3. After the intermission, the pianist performed the monumental Sonata in B minor by Franz Liszt.

Pianists tend to treat Beethoven's music in one of two ways: either in a more abstract manner, emphasizing logic, proportion and form, or in a more exuberant manner, bringing out the music's proto-romantic elements of turbulence and excess. Mr. Suk's Beethoven is the Beethoven of the "golden mean," closer to Sviatoslav Richter or Gieseking than Glenn Gould or Maria Yudina. The interpretation was more classically balanced, the dynamics and expression held together by the demands of form. Truthfully, that is the more proper way – since Beethoven was both a classical and a romantic composer. Mr. Suk's performance of Beethoven's Bagatelles was full of the most refined phrasing, clear dynamic contrasts, and well-defined but subtle rhythm. The bagatelles emerged as seven portraits from Beethoven's life.

Bartok's "Out of Doors" Suite is one of the composer's most successful compositions for the piano. The music has a dark and somber coloring, full of harsh dissonances and short melodic phrases. Sometimes the melody disappears and what is left is the naked rhythmic skeleton. Often the percussive element dominates. In his performance of this work, Mr. Suk was able to achieve a baring of the emotional content of the music. He tore away the veil of beautification that has accrued to the work over decades of performances and presented the listener with a concentrated ecstasy of passion.

Ukrainian composer Valentin Silvestrov has produced many works for the piano, including three sonatas and many cycles of shorter works. Silvestrov's mature style is full of intimate and elegiac lyricism that creates an almost diary-like quality and, sometimes, a very individual capriciousness. Children's Music No. 3 stands a bit to the side of Silvestrov's other piano works, being essentially a revision of his early student works. Mr. Suk found the most magically delicate, beautiful and refined "pianos" and "pianissimos." His soft touch carefully glued together these humble musical relics from the distant past into a bas-relief of intimate, thoughtful melodies in translucent accompaniments that resonated in the far corners of the concert hall.

Liszt's piano sonata is one of the central pillars of the romantic literature – and is especially central in Mykola Suk's repertoire. This, in the words of one critic, not only demands that the pianist be a master technician, but also a master strategist. It demands a strategist who in performance will tie together the many episodes and thus reveal its monumental artistic secrets. Mr. Suk met all the demands of this work. He showed himself to be a fully mature artist who balanced and forged the many dimensional complexities of this diverse work into a single entity, tightly connecting all the episodes into a single overwhelming unit. In Mr. Suk's performance it became a profound, many-hued, romantic poem, filled with heroic ecstasy, moving lyricism, despair, struggle and hope. Although the sonata lasts 30 minutes, in Mr. Suk's performance, time flew by unnoticed.

At the end, the immensely satisfied audience demanded encores and Mr. Suk performed two: a Scarlatti Sonata in C Major and the 12th Rhapsody of Liszt (his specialty) provoking another storm of applause. Truly, Mykola Suk has arrived as an artist in his prime.

Rudnytsky completes concert tour

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio – Concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky is completing a series of tours that have taken him, since early November, to three different areas of the world.

Between November 5 and 13 Mr. Rudnytsky was in the Philippines where he played two recitals in Manila and one in the Pundaquit Festival in the town of San Antonio, Zambales Province. One of his Manila recitals took place outdoors in the city's Rizal Park and was taped on TV for broadcast nationally throughout the Philippines.

He also conducted masterclasses in piano at the Conservatory of Music at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila and at the Philippine High School for the Performing and Fine Arts, the only such school in all of Asia. Mr. Rudnytsky will tour in the Philippines again in February 1996.

Mr. Rudnytsky held four recitals and a masterclass in Britain, on November 20-25; one of the recitals was on Guernsey in the Channel Islands.

From November 27 until December 4, he performed in Guatemala, appearing as soloist with the Orquesta Clasica in the performance of Beethoven's Concerto No. 1 in C major at the Third International Music Festival.

During the summer months, Mr. Rudnytsky gave concerts in several Latin American countries and the island of Saipan in the western Pacific. He will return to Britain for further tours in February and May 1995.

Mr. Rudnytsky is a member of the piano faculty of Youngstown State University.

VIDEO VIEW: "Memories from Mittenwald, 1946-1949"

"Memories from Mittenwald: 1946-1949," video produced by Dr. Ostap Wynnyckyj, 1994.

by Prof. Orest Subtelny

When World War II ended, Germany teemed with millions of foreign workers and refugees from Soviet occupation. Most of these people eventually returned to their homes. But about 2.5 million East Europeans, including about 220,000 Ukrainians, refused to return to their Soviet-occupied homelands. These were the DPs (displaced persons).

To care for the masses of homeless refugees, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (UNRRA) was formed in 1945. Two years later, the International Relief Organization (IRO) took over this role. Basically, these organizations sought to provide the DPs with food and shelter until they could be permanently resettled. Often grouped by nationality, the refugees were concentrated in "camps" (tabory), that is, requisitioned army barracks, schools and public buildings. Because they were allowed to elect their own leadership to look after administration of the camps as well as education and cultural affairs, these camps, which were located in the American, British, French zones of Germany, were often referred to as "DP republics."

For many of the camp inhabitants, the three to four years they spent in the camps were a unique and often pleasant experience. The DP republics had a surfeit of young, energetic and educated people. Although simple food and shelter (terribly overcrowded) were available, jobs in the shattered German economy were practically impossible to find. Therefore, partly in response to pressing needs, partly to express what had been long repressed and partly to avoid boredom, the DPs generated an extraordinary amount of organizational, cultural, educationals, and political activity. Most of the major Ukrainian-inhabited camps, which, on the average, had between 2,000 and 4,000 inhabitants, were located in American-occupied Bavaria, specifically in Munich, Regensburg, Berchstesgaden and Mittenwald.

Situated in the of Bavarian Alps, beside the swift-flowing Isar River, Mittenwald was probably the most scenically located of all the Ukrainian DP camps. And the beauty of these surroundings probably contributed to the energy, verve and variety of activities for which this camp was famous. It certainly provided a perfect setting for the Ukrainian refugees to recuperate from the horrors of the war and to prepare for the next stage in their lives, a stage that would scatter them to all corners of the world.

It is astonishing how quickly and skillfully the Ukrainian DPs established their administration, schools, churches, youth and sports organizations, and cultural groups. And this entire infrastructure, equal to that of a middle-sized European town, was created with practically no material resources. Indeed, it is striking how relatively little material concerns monopolized the attention of the DPs.

Especially for the youth, the years in Mittenwald seem to have been a wonderful time. Freed from the pressure of jobs, careers, material accumulation, they could devote themselves to their talents, interests and just simply to the joy of being young in the midst of the beautiful Alps. Thus, Mittenwald and the other Ukrainian DP camps were unique incubators in which not only individuals but an entire, very important, segment of the Ukrainian diaspora was formed. And what was experienced, learned and created in camps like Mittenwald would have a great impact on Ukrainian communities throughout the world.

Almost half a century has passed since the establishment of the Mittenwald camp. It is difficult to believe that vibrant, pulsating Ukrainian life amidst the Alps is now receding into an increasingly murky past. Most of the camp elders have passed away. Its inhabitants are scattered around the world (although they still gather periodically to reminisce about their beloved Mittenwald). Those who were young in the camp are now aging. There is a danger that the unique years Ukrainians, both as individuals and as a community, experienced in Mittenwald might be forgotten.

Fortunately, Dr. Ostap Wynnyckyj has produced a video that recaptures the physical setting, the scope of activities, the organizations, the people and, most importantly, the spirit that made the Ukrainian camp in Mittenwald what it was. "Memories from Mittenwald: 1946-1949" is a valuable historical document because we have no such record about any other Ukrainian DP camp.

Firstly, Dr. Wynnyckyj has compiled a vast amount of rare and useful information about the camp. And secondly, he has presented it in a most attractive format, that of the video film. This novel approach is especially significant because it is a very effective way of transmitting to the TV generations, that is, the children and grandchildren of those who were at Mittenwald, an attractive, visual representation of their life in the camp.

In the history of Ukrainian diaspora, we have very few visual documents of this type. For creating it, not only the inhabitants of the Ukrainian camp at Mittenwald, but Ukrainian historians, owe Dr. Ostap Wynnyckyj a sincere vote of thanks.

The video, which includes a transcript, is priced at $30 (U.S.), $35 (Canadian). It may by ordered in the U.S. by contacting: Jaroslaw Duzey, 26657 Haverhill, Warren, MI 48091, (810) 759-3152; and in Canada by contacting: Dr. Ostap Wynnyckyj, 35 Warrender Ave., Apt. 601, Etobicoke, Ontario M9B 5Z5. The video is available in VHS, PAL or SECAM (for Ukraine); please specify system when ordering.

Orest Subtelny is professor of history at York University, North York, Ontario.

Art by Trofimenko on view in Toronto

by Nestor Gula

TORONTO – Even though Klym Trofimenko, known in the art world simply as Klym, started painting late in life, his work is a part of important collections.

His paintings make up a part of the world renowned Barnes Collection. After visiting one of Klym's first art exhibits and buying several works, the founder of the Barnes Foundation, famed art collector Dr. Albert C. Barnes, promised the Ukrainian American painter that he would visit his studio and buy some additional works. Unfortunately, the American philanthropist and art collector was killed in a car accident before he could make good on his promise.

In Toronto, where the Barnes Collection is on exhibit, approximately 80 people showed up on Sunday, November 6, to the gallery of the Canadian Ukrainian Art Foundation to see over 50 of Klym (Clement) Trofimenko's works. Present at the show was Klym's surviving family: his only son Swiatoslaw and his wife, Martha, their daughter and Klym's granddaughter, Zoya, and her husband Christopher.

Mr. Trofimenko was a prolific painter who produced around 1,000 paintings. He has been shown in Philadelphia, New York, Toronto and Munich. Approximately 200 to 300 of his paintings are still being stored by his son in Delaware. What made Klym's career in art unusual is that he started painting at a relatively late age, 45.

Klym was born in 1898 in the town of Pekarshchyna in the Zhytomyr Oblast in central Ukraine. He was a teacher until World War I when he joined Symon Petliura's army in the fight for Ukrainian independence. As the Bolsheviks were gaining the upper hand in the war, the army crossed the Zbruch River into western Ukraine, then held by the newly created Polish state. After a period of internment by the Polish government, Mr. Trofimenko was released and settled in Lviv. There, he worked as a businessman, owning a cosmetics store. It was in Lviv that Mr. Trofimenko became interested in art, buying many paintings of local artists.

Due to the advance of the Soviet Army into western Ukraine in 1939, Mr. Trofimenko and his family fled westward and settled in Krakow. In Krakow, at the age of 45, he started to paint. However, the second world war's end forced Mr. Trofimenko and his family to flee again, first to Germany in 1945, then to the United States in 1950. Mr. Trofimenko settled in Philadelphia. There he was the curator of the Zoology department at the University of Pennsylvania, but devoted most of his efforts and time to his painting. Klym passed away in 1979 at the age of 81.

Northern Californians...

(Continued from page 5)

new publications that focus exclusively on providing English-language coverage on Ukraine: Intelnews, Eastern Economist and the Ukrainian Business Digest. "With these developing sources the international community now has more access than ever before to what's really happening in Ukraine today," he said.

Mr. Kulewicz finished his presentation with a brief look at the various Ukrainian resources now available on the Internet, a popular means of not only receiving but also sending information throughout the world. He cited estimates indicating that some 25 million users around the world now access the vast computer network, a resource the Ukrainian community may find successful due to its flexibility and relatively inexpensive user fees. "It is my hope we will continue to use these information resources to help develop Ukraine's proper place in the international community," said Mr. Kulewicz.

For more information regarding the Ukrainian Professionals of Northern California call Olenka Steciw, (415) 473-1163, or Email: KULEWICZROB@DELPHI.COM.

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Ukrainian American Bar...

(Continued from page 8)

sador of Ukraine to the United States. Also, members of the Ukrainian diplomatic corps were guests at the UABA banquet, including Volodymyr K. Zabihailo, counselor for political and legal affairs; Col. Ihor Smeshko, Ukraine's military attaché to the United States; Ihor Chiezniak, first secretary and assistant to the ambassador; Dmytro Markov, counselor for press affairs; and Evhen Korniychuk, consul with Ukraine's Consulate General in New York.

UABA President Lupan opened the official portion of the banquet, welcoming the distinguished guests in attendance, gave a brief overview of the UABA activities since its organization in 1977, and introduced the guest speaker, Ambassador Shcherbak, and his wife, Maria. Ambassador Shcherbak gave a cogent presentation outlining the activities of the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington since his appointment one month ago.

He said he views these activities as having global and historical importance, particularly in light of the state visit of President Leonid Kuchma to the United States and his meetings with President Bill Clinton and other high American government officials. He stated that these discussions were constructive and successful, and culminated in the execution of 14 important agreements, including the Ukrainian American Partnership Agreement for Friendship and Cooperation.

Ambassador Shcherbak noted that both countries agreed that the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine are of fundamental importance for the partnership between the United States and Ukraine. He went on to say that in response to Ukraine's efforts to implement its economic reforms, the United States has committed itself to financial and political support to that end. In light of Ukraine's ratification of the START I agreement, on December 5, 1994, the United States, Russia, Great Britain, France and China executed documents in Budapest providing assurances of Ukraine's security.

Ambassador Shcherbak also discussed Ukraine's continued need for input from lawyers – both those in Ukraine, as well as those in the diaspora.

He expressed gratitude for all the probono assistance that Ukrainian American lawyers have given to date and anticipated their continued support. He noted that the radical economic reforms proposed by President Kuchma will require a legal foundation. Accordingly, there are over 180 statutory projects to be considered by the Ukrainian Parliament, all of which will require input from the international legal community.

Ambassador Shcherbak also stated that President Kuchma initiated a proposal for the adoption of a Constitution addressing the distribution of governmental functions in Ukraine, delineating the functions of the legislative, judicial and executive branches, as is the case in the United States. That is to say, a Constitution that would not have the current inconsistencies and contradictions that lead to anarchy in government and legal nihilism.

In conclusion, Ambassador Shcherbak presented as a gift to the Ukrainian American Bar Association a copy of the first Constitution of Ukraine drafted in 1710 by Hetman Pylyp Orlyk. He wished the members of the UABA success in their future endeavors.

The UABA fall conference concluded with a meeting of its officers and board of governors on Sunday morning, where it was decided that its next meeting would be in the spring in Philadelphia.

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National Council of Women salutes eight corporations

by Helen Smindak

NEW YORK – Eight prominent corporations that have done outstanding work in providing fair promotion and equal opportunities for women were saluted by the National Council of Women at a gala awards dinner on November 14.

During the black-tie event, held in the Delegates' Dining Room of the United Nations, awards were handed to corporation representatives by Iryna Kurowyckyj, president of the National Council of Women. She was assisted by NCW Vice-President Vera Rivers.

Outstanding achievement awards went to Barnett Banks, Florida's leading financial institution; Caremark International, a leader in health-care services; the IBM Corp.; J.C. Penny Inc., one of the largest retailing chains in the U.S., and The Principal Financial Group, whose largest company is the Principal Mutual Life Insurance company.

Honorable recognition awards were given to Honeywell Inc., a manufacturer of energy and automation controls; the McDonald's Corporation, the largest food service organization in the world, and Rhone-Poulenc Rorer, one of the top 15 pharmaceutical companies in the world.

William R. Howell, Penney's chief executive officer, and Lance Piccolo, chief executive officer of Caremark, were present at the occasion. Also attending were two of the three judges who oversaw the election of corporations, John Mack Carter, editor-in-chief of Good Housekeeping magazine, and Pia Lindstrom, arts editor for WNBC-TV, News 4 New York.

In her welcoming address to the gathering, Mrs. Kurowyckyj said that the National Council of Women was recognizing corporations "which have gone beyond merely fulfilling the basic requirements to promote women and support their success."

"Our awardees are making our dreams of furthering women's rights and interests a way of life. The future as envisioned by our founders – Susan B. Anthony, Frances Willard, Elizabeth Barton and May Wright Sewall – is becoming a reality," Mrs. Kurowyckyj said with joy.

Mrs. Kurowyckyj has been active with the council since 1982, representing the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. She was elected president of NCW in 1993. Another UNWLA member, Mary Tomorug, serves as the council's treasurer.

Keynote speaker Charles Smith, acting assistant secretary for the American workplace, U.S. Department of Labor, emphasized the importance of grooming, training, retaining and promoting women, minorities and others within the diverse work force into increasingly responsible positions.

"A workplace which recognizes the potential of all of its workers and provides for the continued use of their creativity and ingenuity will result in increased productivity and improvement

(Continued on page 16)

At the NCW dinner are: (from left) Ludmyla Kryzhanivsky, Mary Tomorug, Donna Giuliani and Iryna Kurowyckyj.

Internment...

(Continued from page 3)

Commons that he will apologize to the Chinese Canadian community for the imposition of a racist turn-of-the-century head tax on Chinese immigrants, and to the Ukrainian and Italian Canadian communities over wartime internment.

1991: The House of Commons unanimously passes a resolution from Liberal MP Peter Milliken calling for Ukrainian Canadian redress.

October 10, 1992: Prime Minister Mulroney tells delegates attending the 17th triennial UCC meeting in Winnipeg that his government "remains committed" to resolving the redress issue.

October 11, 1992: Winnipegger Oleh Romaniw is elected UCC president, defeating UCCLC chair John Gregorovich. Almost immediately, Mr. Romaniw orders the commission to disband. Mr. Gregorovich forms another group, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA).

March 29, 1993: Mary Manko Haskett, 84, internment survivor and honorary chair of the UCCLA's redress council, joins a delegation on Parliament Hill that calls for a settlement of the Ukrainian Canadian internment issue by the Canadian government.

May 1993: The UCC's redress committee releases the results of a 1992 Price Waterhouse study on economic losses suffered by Ukrainian Canadian internees. It finds that almost 6,000 people were held and lost as much as $33 million (in 1991 dollars).

May 5, 1993: Rukh chairman Vyacheslav Chornovil and Christian-Democratic Party President Vitally Zhuravsky send Prime Minister Mulroney a letter, calling on him to resolve the Ukrainian Canadian redress request before he leaves office.

Instead, Multiculturalism Minister Weiner offers a formal apology to the Ukrainian Canadian community, to place commemorative public markers at the 26 internment sites, and to build a "Nation Builders Hall of Record" to remember the contribution of Canada's ethnic communities in building Canada. The UCC rejects the building offer.

June 8, 1993: Liberal Opposition Leader Jean Chretien sends Ihor Bardyn, chairperson of the UCC's redress committee, a letter assuring him that Mr. Chretien would "seek to ensure that the government honors its promise."

June 25, 1993: Prime Minister Mulroney leaves office.

June 26, 1993: Mr. Bardyn sends Mr. Mulroney a letter accusing the former prime minister of failing to resolve the redress issue before leaving office. Newly elected Tory leader Kim Campbell becomes prime minister.

October 1993: The National Redress Alliance, composed of representatives from Canada's Ukrainian, Italian, Chinese and Japanese communities, prepares a brief to the United Nation's Human Rights Commission in Geneva, which accuses Canada of violating international human rights. About 700 Japanese Canadians have yet to receive compensation; 17,000 have.

October 25, 1993: Liberal leader Jean Chretien defeats Ms. Campbell in a federal election and becomes Canada's 20th prime minister.

May 27, 1994: Montreal filmmaker Yurij Luhovy's controversial documentary "Freedom Had a Price" premieres in Toronto.

August 4, 1994: The first plaque commemorating the first internment camp site at Fort Henry is unveiled by the UCCLA.

October 1, 1994: The UCCLA, in conjunction with the Calgary branch of the UCC, holds a redress symposium in Banff. Representatives of all five major Canadian political parties express their support for resolving the 80-year-old issue.

October 9, 1994: An unofficial UCC-UCCLA brief is submitted to Parks Canada and the Banff National Park administration seeking the placing of historical plaques at each of the 26 internment camp sites, including the one at Banff's Castle Mountain.

November 1994: The UCCLA issues a 15-point redress claim to Canadian MPs and senators, calling for a massive public awareness campaign.

December 14, 1994: Secretary of State for Multiculturalism Sheila Finestone turns down the redress requests from the Ukrainian Canadian and five other Canadian ethnic communities. Instead she offers to complete six-year-old plans to open the Race Relations Foundation in Toronto, which the Grits opposed at the time.

December 15, 1994: UCC President Oleh Romaniw vows to continue the fight for Ukrainian Canadian redress.

Canadian news...

(Continued from page 3)

In the December 16, 1994, edition of The Globe and Mail, Mr. Li said "it is a strong statement of principle that a government cannot, and should not, and must not, benefit from racism."

At that time, the Canadian government imposed the Head Tax Act and the Chinese Exclusion Act, which forced Chinese immigrants to pay as much as $500 – the equivalent of two years' wages – to enter Canada.

However, Mr. Simpson said he believes that "retrospective demands also transplant today's social understanding to a different social and political context when people made decisions based on assumptions they considered valid but which we might now question."

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National minorities...

(Continued from page 7)

co-equal status with Ukrainian to languages of minorities residing compactly, and guarantees the rights of nationalities to use their languages in all aspects of social life, and the right to schools and cultural facilities.

There have been follow-up laws as well; the creation of a fund for Cultural Development of Ethnic Minorities; and the setting up of a Ministry of Nationalities and Migration in 1993.

It might be useful to highlight a number of other factors in Ukrainian political life that underscore Ukraine's positive attitudes towards national minorities:

• Both of independent Ukraine's presidents and other highranking politicians have condemned xenophobia and anti-Semitism, and advocated the principle of equal citizenship regardless of ethnic background.

• Significantly, along with the government, most major political parties have adopted a liberal approach on minorities, with the exception of a very small number of extreme nationalist parties.

• Since independence, ethnic Russians, Jews and others have held prominent positions in the Ukrainian government. There is no evidence of discrimination against minorities in official positions. Furthermore, minorities appear to be fairly and evenly represented politically. In looking at the 1994 parliamentary elections, national minorities (Russians, Jews, Romanians, Poles, Hungarians and others) are well represented with respect to their proportion of the total population.

• Good bilateral relations with countries such as Hungary, Poland and Israel, whose co-nationals/co-religionists are important minorities in Ukraine. Language on national minorities has been included in bilateral agreements with Hungary and Poland protecting the rights of the respective minorities and supporting the preservation of their identities and cultures.

How does Ukrainian national minority policy manifest itself on the ground? The cultural life of many national groups, stifled by the policies of forced Russification (as were Ukrainians themselves) has expanded significantly as the government has provided a broad spectrum of possibilities for cultural development.

Many have organized national-cultural associations, held conferences or congresses, and are publishing newspapers and books. Some have opened schools in their own languages, and several oblasts have introduced TV and radio programming in minority languages, notably the Crimea, the Transcarpathian Oblast (Hungarian, Romanian, German); Odessa (Romanian, Bulgarian, Gagauz); Chernivtsi (Romanian, Jewish); Donetske (Greek, Jewish) and Zhytomyr (Polish).

According to recent statistics of Ukraine's Ministry of Nationalities, there are currently some 235 national-cultural associations in Ukraine that publish 42 newspapers and four journals.

Despite this tangible progress and a positive governmental attitude and legislation, the picture is not completely rosy. The deterioration of Ukraine's economic situation has made it difficult for the government to fulfill all its commitments of financial support for minorities (the same, of course could be said for the Ukrainian majority).

There is a shortage of teachers qualified to teach many minority languages, with the obvious exception of Russian. Some minorities lack the financial resources to publish materials in their native languages and don't always receive cooperation from officials at the local level. One problem, for instance, is a lack of paper for publishing. Another difficulty is the lack of premises previously owned by groups. While some are being returned, this process is by no means complete.

Illustrative minorities

What is the reality for various individual minorities in today's Ukraine? Obviously, each minority is different and has its own specific characteristics. The largest minority, ethnic Russians, generally have not faced discrimination (with some exceptions in western Ukraine). On the contrary, they are well represented politically and even culturally dominant in many parts. As a practical matter, because the Russian language was the main medium of communication in the Soviet Union, ethnic Russians in Ukraine have ample opportunities to read Russian-language publications, attend Russian cultural events, send their children to Russian-language schools and listen to Russian radio broadcasts.

Furthermore, laws and decrees are published both in Ukrainian and Russian, and in the east and south, Russian is permitted as a language of official correspondence alongside Ukrainian. Even with independence, Russian still predominates in much of Ukraine. In fact, one can argue that the Russian minority is privileged in this respect in comparison to other ethnic groups in Ukraine and, given the legacy of Russification, even in comparison to ethnic Ukrainians themselves.

Other minorities differ from the Russians as they, too, were subject to Russification and assimilation prior to independence. A considerable amount of space in The Ukrainian Weekly recently has been devoted to the Jewish minority, focusing both on the positive features of the Jewish reality in independent Ukraine (i.e. the renewal and development of Jewish cultural and religious life) as well as the negative (continuing, albeit limited, manifestations of anti-Semitism).

Both the Ukrainian government and democratic opposition have condemned anti-Semitism and have worked successfully to improve Ukrainian-Jewish relations. President Leonid Kuchma's recent visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington and meetings with American Jewish groups are only the latest examples of these efforts.

The government has encouraged the development of Jewish culture, and there is official support for Jewish newspapers, day schools, and other educational and cultural institutions. There has been a mushrooming of Jewish cultural and educational institutions, as well as synagogues. There are, for example, Jewish associations in 89

(Continued on page 15)

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UKRAINE–THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE

National minorities...

(Continued from page 14)

Ukrainian cities, a dozen Jewish newspapers in Ukraine, two Jewish TV programs on Ukrainian TV and services televised on major religious holidays, as well as a private university in Kyyiv.

At the same time, however, manifestations of nationalist extremism, including anti-Semitism, have not disappeared, although the fringe groups that propagate hatred against Jews and others represent only a small minority and have not made significant inroads in the general population. Nevertheless, incidents such as the setting on fire earlier this year of a synagogue in Kremenchuk as well as attacks on Jews in some Ukrainian newspapers certainly give cause for concern.

Other, smaller minorities also have their specific features and issues, depending on history, location, demographics, and the role and influence of interested foreign governments. Who are some of these minorities?

The nearly 200,000-strong Hungarian minority, residing primarily in Transcarpathia, enjoys a great degree of cultural and other freedoms. A bilateral agreement signed in 1991 between Hungary and Ukraine and a Hungarian-Ukrainian joint committee on nationalities has played a constructive role, and high-level Hungarian officials have described Ukrainian-Hungarian cooperation on the minority issue as a model for the rest of Europe.

Poles in Ukraine, as well as the Polish government, have also given generally high marks to Ukraine's treatment of its 200,000 member Polish minority.

Romanians in Ukraine, residing mostly in Chernivtsi Oblast, are making significant progress in their cultural and political development, although allegations about restriction to Romania of territories lost under the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact generate understandable nervousness in Ukraine.

Ukraine's Crimean Tatars are unique in that, in contrast to most other minorities in Ukraine, they have no ethnic homeland outside Ukraine. Most of them, along with other smaller Crimean nationalities, were expelled from the Crimea by Stalin during World War II, accused of collaborating with the Nazis. Since the late 1980s, they have been returning to the Crimea from other parts of the former Soviet Union (some 260,000 have returned to date). They have faced problems in their resettlement efforts and at times have clashed with local Crimean authorities.

The Crimean Tatars have exhibited considerable loyalty towards independent Ukraine, and the Kyyiv government is providing them with economic support. Their situation, while far from ideal, is slowly improving, and they have managed to obtain a political presence in the Crimean Parliament.

Among the most interesting demands of a minority group placed on the Ukrainian government come from the Rusyns (Ruthenians), who reside in the multi-ethnic Transcarpathian Oblast. While most Rusyns consider themselves to be part of the Ukrainian nation and see no incompatibility between being Rusyn and Ukrainian, a small number consider themselves to be a distinct nationality and have even called for autonomy.

Kyyiv has taken a tolerant attitude to the Rusyns, whom it considers to be an ethnographic group of Ukrainians (similar to the Hutsuls or Lemkos), but has exhibited concerns about secessionist tendencies that could call into question Ukraine's territorial integrity.

Ukraine's various minority groups reflect considerable diversity, and each has its own unique characteristics. Clearly, some present practical and political demands to the Ukrainian government that will need to be handled skillfully and in a balanced way.

Ukraine's record on the national minority question, considering it is still a very young democracy, is impressive. On the other hand, it would be foolhardy to suggest that all problems have been eradicated, or that there is no room for improvement. The existence of small sectors of Ukrainian society who display a frightening intolerance to members of certain minorities gives cause for concern, as does the still underdeveloped political and civil culture. Hopefully, with eventual improvements in Ukraine's economic situation, extremist groups will become further marginalized and tolerance will increasingly become the norm.

To be sure, the process of developing a genuine democratic state based on the rule of law is still incomplete. As we have seen during the first three years of Ukraine's independence, the devastating legacy of Soviet rule has left its mark, and the process of transition will not be a speedy or easy one. However, Ukraine is making progress, and the treatment of national minorities, even recognizing shortcomings, is a testament to this progress.

Rabbi Yaakov Bleich, chief rabbi of Kyyiv and Ukraine, said it best in his recent statement on the "60 Minutes" broadcast: "The present government of Ukraine, continuing the policies of the previous government, has an excellent record in human rights respecting the rights of national minorities in deeds and actions and not only on paper."

Even a cursory glance at Ukraine's legal framework and policies with respect to national minorities, as well as their actual treatment (the reality on the ground, if you will), reveals a sharp contrast to the image that the " 60 Minutes" report on Ukraine would seek to portray.

Nuclear power...

(Continued from page 2)

stated repeatedly that the plants at St. Petersburg, Smolensk, Kursk and particularly Ignalina (Lithuania) are equally, if not more, dangerous yet receive little international or media attention.

At present, none of the Chornobyl reactors are in operation: on October 8, reactor one was shut down for maintenance, and on October 13, the third reactor was removed from the grid after a crack was detected in a pipe. These minor ailments have been echoed throughout the Ukrainian nuclear industry. On October 25, for example, the first unit at the Zaporizhzhia station was shut down for a week because of a fault in the generator's feedwater pipeline.

Perspectives

In theory, the closure of Chornobyl three RBMK-1000 reactors could be compensated by the startup of three new VVER reactors: Zaporizhzhia-6; Khmelnytsky-2; and Rivne-4. Together they would cost an estimated $195 million to bring into operation. In June, however, referenda held among the population in the vicinity of Zaporizhzhia voted 61 percent to 31 percent not to bring the sixth reactor on-line. At the city of Nikopil, the only major urban center within the area, the figure was 96 percent. Equally significant, 63 percent of those polled rejected a proposal to construct a nuclear waste disposal site near the station.

Ukraine is littered with temporary disposal sites. Waste disposal is one of the major problems facing the industry. Another is the failure to develop local supplies of uranium, and the usage of fuel originally used at nuclear weapons' sites. Currently the nuclear industry uses uranium imported from Russia, which is hardly practical given Ukraine's debt problems.

Further, even the most optimistic observers do not foresee the construction of any new nuclear plants in the immediate future. The consensus is that Ukraine must build on existing sites which could optimally yield the commissioning of five new VVER-1000 reactors.

The industry must first deal with public opposition. Moreover, the international bodies that have offered financial aid to Ukraine to commission new stations are unlikely to do so without some firm commitment to the eventual closure of Chornobyl. The reality is that the Ukrainian nuclear authorities have moved in the opposite direction and intend to continue a policy that ideally would result in the receipt of European and U.S. assistance for the commissioning of new reactors while procrastinating on the Chornobyl question.

Their main argument in defense of such a policy is one of economic expediency: that nuclear power at the present time represents the only viable form of short-term energy development in Ukraine.

Such reasoning conceals basic dilemmas: that the fourth reactor building requires a new cover and there is a very real danger of a significant release of radioactive dust from the fall of the old reactor lid into the reactor shaft; that Chornobyl and other Ukrainian plants have been beset by a spate of minor accidents over the past three years, including casualties; and that the fundamental flaw of this reactor type — its instability when operated at low power — has not been eliminated (it has been acknowledged, however, that the increased enrichment of uranium used at the RBMKs has had little impact). In addition, the loss of skilled operators at the station and the woefully small number of regulators for this industry (factors that can be applied to all Ukrainian nuclear power plants) make the fundamental change of direction in policy in Ukraine since the lifting of the moratorium on the construction of new reactors in October 1993 very dangerous indeed.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, January 6

PARMA, Ohio.: St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral's eighth annual Christmas radio program for the sick and shut-in parishioners will be aired on radio station WRMR - AM 850, 10-11 p.m. The program will consist of a Christmas message by Archbishop Antony and greetings from the parish clergy, as well as traditional carols. Services on Christmas Eve will be at 8 p.m., preceded by a parish Holy Supper (Sviata Vechera) at 6 p.m. The Holy Supper is sponsored by the Senior Ukrainian Orthodox League for those who are unable to prepare the traditional 12-course meal.

Saturday, January 14

YONKERS, N.Y.: The Ukrainian Youth Center invites everyone to their annual "Malanka." The evening will feature dancing to the scorching music of Kryshtal of New Jersey as well as a hot buffet and champagne toast to bring in the New Year. Tickets are $25 ($15 for students). The buffet starts at 8 p.m. To reserve tables or elicit further information, call (914) 969-4200 (daytime) or (914) 476-6781.

PARMA, Ohio.: The Brotherhood of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral will sponsor its 31st annual "Malanka" dinner/dance in the parish center, immediately following the 6 p.m. vespers in church. A Ukrainian orchestra will provide traditional music following the dinner. Tickets are $15 and may be obtained by calling the rectory, (216) 886-1528.

Sunday, January 15

WHIPPANY, N.J.: The Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM-A) Whippany Branch, will host its fourth annual "Yalynka" at 4 p.m., at St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church hall, Route 10 and Jefferson Road. The evening will include a performance by the children of SUM-A and a traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve dinner. For more information, contact Christine Bytz, (201) 989-4035. Everyone is welcome.

Tuesday, January 17

NEW YORK: The Harriman Institute at Columbia University invites the public to a benefit lecture by Leonid Kravchuk, former president of Ukraine, to be held at Low Library Rotunda at 7 p.m. A reception will follow the lecture. Proceeds from the event, co-sponsored by the Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey, will benefit the institute's Ukrainian Studies Program and the Foundation for an Independent and Democratic Ukraine. For further information, please call the Harriman Institute, (212) 854-4623.

Friday, January 27 - Sunday, February 12

NEW YORK: The Yara Arts Group presents its newest theater piece, "Waterfall / Reflections," an exploration of notions of identity in our changing world, to be held at La Mama Experimental theater, 74 E. Fourth St. For performance schedules and other information, please call La Mama, (212) 475-7710.

Saturday, January 28

WILMINGTON, Del.: Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church invites the community to its annual "Malanka" to be held at the Brandywine Terrace, 3416 Philadelphia Pike, Claymont, Del. The festivities start with a buffet at 7 p.m., followed by dancing to the spirited tunes of Paul Kauriga's Orchestra. Donation: $15 per person. For further information and reservations, call John Cramer, (302) 994-6445.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS, a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public, is a service provided free of charge by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. To have an event listed in this column, please send information (type of event, date, time, place, admission, sponsor, etc.) — typed and in the English language — along with the phone number of a person who may be reached during daytime hours for additional information, to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 30 Montgomery St., Jersey City, NJ 07302.

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National Council...

(Continued from page 13)

in the bottom line," he declared.

Mr. Smith was introduced by Dr. Mary D. Murphree, regional administrator for the U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau, Region II.

Mistress of ceremonies Lynn Sherr, ABC-TV news correspondent on "20/20," noted with a smile that "there's a bit of a Ukrainian theme this evening" as she introduced two performing artists for the musical interlude: soprano Oksana Krovytska and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky.

Ms. Krovytska sang arias from Puccini's "La Rondine" and "Gianni Schicchi" and a sprightly Ukrainian folk song. She was accompanied at the piano by Mr. Vynnytsky, who later performed Chopin's resounding "Revolutions" Etude.

Ms. Sherr's reference to a Ukrainian theme, prompted by the soloists' national origin, may have been encouraged by the presence of several members of the Ukrainian community. Among the guests were Ludmyla Kryzhanivsky, wife of Consul General Victor Kryzhanivsky; Mary Lesawyer, a former president of UNWLA Branch 72 and longtime NCW member; Mrs. Kurowyckyj's husband, Jaroslaw Kurowyckyj; her son, Jaroslaw, and his wife, Ezia.

Donna Hanover Giuliani read a letter of greeting from her husband, New York Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, who commended the National Council of Women for its work in promoting equal opportunity for women at both the national and international level.

One of the oldest organizations in the U.S., the National Council of Women was founded in 1888 by America's famous suffragettes. It is a non-partisan, non-profit, non-sectarian coalition of 33 women's voluntary organizations and individual members of all races, creeds and national origins.

Ukraine receives...

(Continued from page 1)

liberalization, privatization and energy and agriculture sector revamping.

The World Bank decision follows the International Monetary Fund endorsement of President Leonid Kuchma's reform initiative, which released $371 million to Ukraine in October.

Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Yuriy Shcherbak signed the agreement in Washington with World Bank Vice-President Wilfred Talwitz. Ambassador Shcherbak said the loan will allow Ukraine to "proceed more quickly with needed structural changes in the economy, without marked social upheaval and cataclysm."

The Financial Times reported that under the loan agreement Ukraine committed itself to sell 8,000 medium and large enterprises and 90 percent of small enterprises. The effort is to begin with pilot auctions on February 1. Citizens were to start receiving their vouchers on January 2.

Talks also will continue next month between the bank and the Ukrainian government on a $1.5 billion stand-by loan with disbursement possible as early as February.

Aid officials have expressed some concern about implementation of reforms and how aid money will be used. As part of the IMF agreement, Ukraine had agreed to pay Turkmenistan debt arrears for natural gas, money that Turkmenistan did not receive until President Kuchma fired a top energy official for improperly diverting the funds.

All creatures...

(Continued from page 9)

as they left the household they had visited, would perform a ritual involving their hats and walking sticks that symbolized a colony of bees. There were special koliadky for beekeepers, about the bees, the queen bee, how the sons collected the colonies. "We ate here, we drank here, so that the bees will team her (stay in the colony)." One koliada concerns a beekeeper setting up a new hive, and how he goes about it. The final verse asks God to ensure that there be thick honey and yellow wax – the yellow wax for the glory of God (i.e., for church candles), the thick honey for the people.

As we celebrate this Rizdvo, may you enjoy the holidays in happiness, with your spouse, children and family, and your animals; may you enjoy them next year, from 100 years to another 100 years, as many as God has assigned to you, for Mnohaya Lita!

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