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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Ukraine's coal miners stage strike to demand payment of back wages

by Marta Kolomayets
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Despite warnings of mass strikes involving coal mines throughout Ukraine, Interfax-Ukraine reported that as of late Thursday evening, February 1, workers from only 86 mines out of 227 had decided to walk out. They are demanding that they be paid three months of back wages.

According to workers' strike committees, the government owes miners more than 700 trillion karbovantsi (about \$40 million) as wages have not been paid since October.

Interfax-Ukraine reported that 34 mines out of 78 are on strike in the Luhanske region, 46 mines out of 115 are on strike in the Donetsk region and three mines out of 14 are on strike in the Lviv and Volyn regions, in solidarity with their eastern Ukrainian brothers. Two mines are striking in the Kirovohrad region.

Mykhailo Chechetov, a deputy from the Unity faction in Parliament, described the planned strike as a "catastrophe." Addressing the Supreme Council on the morning of February 1, he called on both sides — the trade unions and the government — to engage in constructive dialogue.

Mr. Chechetov warned that the coal industry should be Ukraine's top priority

during this harsh winter — amidst conditions of gas and oil shortages — and should be funded immediately from the state budget.

As The Weekly was going to press, Coal Industry Minister Serhiy Polyakov had been dispatched to discuss an agreement with strike leaders. According to Interfax-Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers has earmarked 20 trillion karbovantsi to be channeled into the coal sector. (Further emissions from the budget would cause the inflation rate to soar, and government officials are holding back on such an option.)

However, the miners are having a tough time believing the government's promises, said Viktor Tumanov, one of

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Parliament cancels moratorium on adoptions, sets procedures

by Marta Kolomayets
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The Parliament on January 30 lifted a moratorium on adoption of Ukrainian children by foreigners and voted to establish a new centralized monitoring agency that will require all adoptions in Ukraine to pass through the country's court system. The Parliament's action is an attempt to regulate adoptions, which had started to become a booming illegal business after Ukraine declared independence in 1991.

The new adoption law gives Ukrainian citizens priority in adopting Ukrainian children, maintains that children adopted by foreigners remain Ukrainian citizens until age 18, keeps tabs on all Ukrainian

children adopted by foreigners through Ukrainian consular services until they turn 18 and forbids any commercial foreign intermediaries to take part in the adoption process.

The law, which takes effect April 1, will closely scrutinize the fate and whereabouts of Ukraine's most precious resource — its children. It ends the 18-month ban on adoptions by foreigners imposed in July 1994 because of Ukraine's lack of laws regulating such procedures.

Monitoring will be done by a new government watchdog organization, which will be created within Ukraine's Ministry of Education and based in Kyiv.

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Canada's new ambassador arrives in Kyiv

by Marta Dyczok

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV — Canada's new ambassador to Ukraine made quite an impressive public entry to Kyiv. The youthful looking 48-year-old Christopher

Westdal, who has no Ukrainian roots, spoke Ukrainian while presenting his credentials to President Leonid Kuchma on Tuesday, January 23.

The Mariyinsky Palace looked particularly majestic for the occasion, gently dusted with fresh snow.

Shaking President Kuchma's hand, Ambassador Westdal said, "Mr. President, I have arrived in Ukraine with the enthusiasm and determination to do my best to serve Canada's interest

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UNA and UFA begin merger negotiations

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Officers of the Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian Fraternal Association met here at the former's Home Office on January 11 to discuss the merger of these two fraternal organizations.

At their second meeting, the two fraternal negotiating committees discussed whether a merger of the UNA and UFA can be effected in 1996, before the regularly scheduled conventions of both organizations that are to take place in 1998.

In accordance with a decision of the special meeting of the UNA General Assembly, which convened at the UNA headquarters building in Jersey City on November 18-19, 1995, the UNA's negotiating team comprises: President Ulana Diachuk, Secretary Martha Lysko, Treasurer Alexander Blahitka and Walter Sochan, honorary member of the General Assembly and former longtime supreme secretary of the UNA.

Also participating as the UNA's legal counsel was Nestor Olesnycky, the

(Continued on page 4)



Ambassador Christopher Westdal arrives at the Mariyinsky Palace.

COMMENTARY: Examining draft of Ukraine's Constitution

by Judge Bohdan A. Futey

On November 15, 1995, the Working Group of the Constitutional Commission of Ukraine had issued a preliminary draft version of Ukraine's Constitution to be presented to the Supreme Council at the beginning of this year. The final version of the constitution must further enable Ukraine's shift from a command system to one based on the rule of law.

Initially, this draft constitution acknowledges principles that support a democratic system. For example, Article 6 states that the power of the state is to be divided between the legislative, executive and judicial branches. Such division implies a co-equality of all three branches and allows for the necessary "checks and balances" that limit the government's authority over its citizens. Further, the draft indicates that the power of each branch derives from the constitution, which connotes the independence of each branch.

Later provisions, however, demonstrate that this draft fails to fully embrace the principles supporting a democracy based on the equality of separate branches of government.

As for adopting such a system, the November 13, 1995, draft of the Law of Ukraine on the Judicial System (Court System) goes much further than does the Working Group's draft of the constitution, especially concerning the judicial branch of power.

While not perfect, the draft Law on the Judicial System better establishes the credibility of the court system as well as the respect due to the judiciary. For example, the draft law clearly emphasizes the judiciary's equality with the other branches of government. In addition to several times expressly affirming the courts' independence, the draft contains specific provisions allowing the court to implement its power.

For example, Article 1, paragraph 2 gives the courts the exclusive authority to interpret the law. Article 6 contains language reminiscent of *Marbury v. Madison*, an early case in the United States that articulated the courts' power of judicial review — the power to declare unconstitutional both legislative statutes and executive acts. Paragraph 3 empowers the courts in Ukraine to declare "enactments" unconstitutional.

The draft law also guarantees judges' lifelong tenure. Life tenure assures judges that they will not lose their jobs in the event of an unpopular decision. This provision, therefore, helps to maintain the courts' impartiality and independence, both of which are necessary in order to maintain a democratic state.

The draft law also supports a unified court system. Whereas earlier drafts of this law, as well as the current draft of the constitution, call for a court system with more than one organizational pyramid, the November 13, 1995, draft Law on the Judicial System establishes a court system where all courts are "under a single umbrella." The Supreme Court of Ukraine is at the apex of this system, with the Constitutional Senate as a part of this court.

The Supreme Court is also composed of various specialized judicial boards. Thus, the decisions of the Supreme Court will influence the decisions of all courts and judicial institutions.

While certain aspects of this draft law require some fine-tuning, as a whole, it goes a long way in establishing the judiciary's independence and co-equality. This would help guarantee a system based

on the supremacy of the rule of law.

For these principles to be effective, however, the constitution also must adopt them. In doing so, the drafters of the constitution will smooth the path toward restructuring Ukraine's legal system, its economy, and its entire system of government. The current draft of the constitution, however, contains many roadblocks on that path.

One problem with the November 15, 1995, draft of the constitution is found in Article 103, which states that the president "is the guarantor of state independence, territorial integrity of Ukraine [and] adherence to the constitution," among other things. This article may be analogous to Article II of the United States Constitution, where the president is obligated to "preserve, protect and defend" the constitution and is granted the power to faithfully execute "the laws."

If so, then this provision is in harmony with the doctrine of separation of powers. If, on the other hand, it means that the president is the guarantor of the power and independence of the judiciary and the legislature, then this article actually interferes with the separation of powers, as shown by the conflicting language in Article 151, which states that the Constitutional Court determines the constitutionality of laws and normative acts by its own interpretation of the constitution.

The court system in general is addressed in Part VIII, titled "Dispensation of Justice." It is noteworthy that the parts dealing with the other two branches use the terms "legislature" and "president" in their titles. Therefore, for the sake of continuity and in order to demonstrate the co-equality of this branch, the drafters should use a title such as "The Judiciary" for Part VIII, rather than merely describing judicial functions.

In this part, the Working Group's draft describes the Supreme Court of Ukraine as only a higher cassational (review) court, rather than the highest court. In addition, the judges of this court are appointed for a three-year term, after which they are eligible for a lifetime appointment. While the eventual lifetime tenure will help ensure impartiality of decisions, the initial three-year term may hinder the appearance of judges' objectivity. As for the removal of these judges, the draft states that their removal will be defined according to a statute. The draft does not contain a provision for impeachment of Supreme Court judges, as it is provided for Constitutional Court judges. The removal process should be the same for both courts.

The draft addresses the Constitutional Court separately, and its treatment of the Constitutional Court raises a series of issues.

First, the draft states that the Constitutional Court is not part of the court system of Ukraine and is independent from the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. Thus, despite prior language dividing power among three branches, there now seems to be a fourth independent body.

The second difficulty is the number of judges on the court. The draft calls for 14 Constitutional Court judges. What happens if there is a tie? In the United States, when the judges are evenly split, the lower court's decision stands. The draft, however, does not establish a court below the Constitutional Court. As for court decisions, the draft does not state how many judges must agree in order to constitute a binding decision. Is a simple majority needed? A two-thirds majority?

A third issue is the judges' objectivity. The draft does provide for judicial immunity from unpopular decisions, which should

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NEWSBRIEFS

Repatriated soldiers take citizenship

KYIV — Over the past three years some 34,000 officers and noncommissioned officers who served throughout former Soviet republics have returned home to Ukraine. Although most of these persons were born in Ukraine and lived here for lengthy periods of time, juridically they had never been citizens of Ukraine, never having submitted the appropriate paperwork. As of June 19, 1995, in accordance with an order by President Leonid Kuchma, individual military units and commands as well as the chief personnel directorate of the Ministry of Defense have been cooperating with the Ministry of the Interior in granting citizenship to the returned service personnel and their families. As of January 26, 98.3 percent of all such personnel and their relatives have received Ukrainian citizenship. The next step involves procuring Ukrainian passports for the newly registered citizens. (Respublika)

IMF officials visit Belarus and Ukraine

MIENSK — A delegation from the International Monetary Fund arrived here on January 29 to determine whether the next tranche of a stand-by credit should be released, Belarusian Radio reported. The credit, worth almost \$300 million, was approved last February, but the release of the funds was frequently delayed by the Belarusian government's non-adherence to the reform program. Agence France Presse reported on January 30 that an IMF team arrived in Kyiv to examine Ukraine's adherence to the austerity program necessary to secure the release of the fourth tranche of its stand-by credit. Last year the IMF agreed to grant \$1.5 billion in credit to Ukraine, but the release of the fourth tranche was delayed this month because Parliament failed to pass laws on budget revenues. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Acting Crimean prime minister appointed

SYMPFEROPIL — Arkadiy Demydenko, Crimean deputy prime minister for industry, has been appointed acting prime minister by the speaker of the regional parliament, Yevhen Supruniuk, UNIAN reported on January 27. Mr. Demydenko will serve until a new prime minister is approved by both Ukrainian government and the Crimean legislature. Crimean deputies dismissed former Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk in December 1995. Mr. Supruniuk was instructed by lawmakers to make a temporary appointment and propose candidates for the permanent post. Mr. Demydenko is among four candidates so

far named; he has the support of seven parliamentary fractions in the Crimea. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Ukraine not nearly as "phony" as Sweden

KYIV — Ukraine, though far behind its Western European counterparts, has the potential to improve the availability of telephones greatly by the year 2006, said Minister of Communications Valery Yefremov at a session of the Supreme Council Committee on the Energy Sector on January 25. Today there are 17.4 telephones for every 100 residents of Ukraine. In Sweden the comparable figures are 120 phones per 100 persons, while in slightly less telecommunicative France there are 89 phones per 100 persons. Mr. Yefremov believes that within the next 10 years Ukraine's ratio can increase to 48 phones per 100 residents. (Respublika)

Dysentery strikes Luhanske region

LUHANSKE — As of January 26, 57 persons have been hospitalized for dysentery in Sverdlovsk. Among them are 49 children. Quarantine measures are being implemented. (Respublika)

Pyvo '96 exposition: ordinary brew-haha

KYIV — "With an Ancient Beverage into the New Millennium" as its slogan, the "Pyvo '96" international beer exposition opened here on January 25, reported the Ukrainian Beer Lovers Party. The party is sponsoring the event, the first of its kind in Ukraine's capital, together with the Kyiv City Council, the "Status" social-cultural center, and local and international investors. At the exposition, Ukraine's potential as a brewer of beer is being highlighted. The aim of the convocation, said Beer Lovers Party member Oleksander Zyrjanov, is to promote development of native brewing potential, showcase innovations in the craft and increase contacts between Ukrainian and foreign brewers. Included in the program are a roundtable discussion of privatization of the brewing industry, the work of the agricultural commodities exchange and the founding conference of the Beer Lovers Club. Kyiv's premier brewer, Obolon, will take part in the program. (Respublika)

Baltin still heads Black Sea Fleet

SEVASTOPOL — Despite several high-level statements by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Russian President Boris Yeltsin that he had been fired, Adm. Eduard Baltin continues to

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Judge Bohdan A. Futey sits on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington.

Primakov travels to Kyiv to lay groundwork for Yeltsin visit

by Marta Kolomayets
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin is expected to finally visit Ukraine on April 4-5. Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma said during his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov in Kyiv on February 1.

During the course of his meeting with the newly appointed Russian foreign minister, President Kuchma pointed out the need for "speeding up negotiations and settling outstanding issues to ensure the success of a very important visit," reported Interfax-Ukraine.

Mr. Primakov, 65, who was appointed Russia's Foreign Minister by President Yeltsin after the dismissal of Andrei Kozyrev from that post last month, came to Kyiv on the invitation of Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko to discuss preparations regarding President Yeltsin's visit, which has been more than 18 months in the making.

However, during a press briefing late

on January 31, the two foreign ministers seemed to have a different approach to the conditions for the impending visit.

"We proceed from the premise that the Black Sea Fleet problem will not be an obstacle to the visit of President Yeltsin," said Mr. Udovenko at the Foreign Ministry. "The link is not that strong as the process is already in progress," said the Ukrainian diplomat, referring to headway made in BSF negotiations last June, when the two presidents met in Sochi.

The Russian foreign minister, however, told reporters that "Russia's position remains the same: the issue of the Black Sea Fleet should be resolved before President Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine."

According to Interfax-Ukraine, Mr. Primakov believes that regular meetings between the two heads of state, such as the recent discussions in Moscow during the CIS summit, give every reason to hope that the fleet problem will be resolved even before President Yeltsin's

(Continued on page 17)

Shelest, former Communist Party leader in Ukraine, dead at 87

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Petro Shelest, the leader of the Communist Party of the Ukrainian SSR ousted in 1972 for nationalistic tendencies as a result of his defense of the Ukrainian language and culture in that Soviet republic, died in Moscow on January 25. He was 87.

Mr. Shelest's death was announced in Moscow by the Embassy of Ukraine. Reuters quoted Petro Tolochko, vice-president of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, as saying of the former Communist Party leader: "Shelest was one of the first in the Soviet era to lay the cornerstone for Ukrainian statehood."

"He was a party man in the Soviet mold, but in his heart he felt where Ukraine's interests lay and acted in favor of this national development as much as this was permitted," Mr. Tolochko added.

Petro Shelest was born on February 14, 1908, in Andriyivka, Zniyiv county, in the Kharkiv gubernia of Ukraine. He graduated from the Mariupol Metallurgical Institute in 1935, and from 1940 worked as a party official in defense industries located in Kharkiv, Cheliabinsk and Saratov. From 1948 he worked as a plant director in Leningrad and Kyiv.

A protégé of Nikita Khrushchev and Nikolai Podgorny, and a doctrinaire Marxist-Leninist, he rose in the party ranks to positions on the city, then oblast levels. He was second secretary (1954) of the Kyiv City Committee, and second and first secretary (1954 and 1957, respectively) of the Kyiv Oblast Committee.

Next he rose to republic and all-union party positions. In 1954 he became a candidate member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine (CC CPU), a member in 1956. He became a candidate member of the CC CPU Presidium in 1960 and a member a year later.

Mr. Shelest became a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1961, and secretary of the CC CPU and chief of its Bureau for Industry and Construction in 1962. He was named first secretary of the CPU as well as a member of the Presidium of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet in 1963, the same year he became a candidate member of the CC CPSU Presidium. A year later he was voted a full member of the CC CPSU Presidium.

In 1966 he was elected to membership in the Politburos of both the CPU and CPSU Central Committees, and became a member of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Mr. Shelest served as first secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine in 1963-1972. In that post, according to the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, he pursued domestic policies that encouraged cultural and educational Ukrainization and a measure of autonomous administration and economic development. To some extent, the encyclopedia notes, Mr. Shelest tolerated the dissident movement, and the activities and patriotic writings of the nationally conscious intelligentsia in Ukraine.

As a result of his pro-Ukrainian policies he came into conflict with Leonid Brezhnev and other members of the CPSU Politburo, who saw his activity as detrimental to the interests of the Soviet Union as a whole. In 1970 Mr. Shelest published a book, "Ukraino Nasha Radianska" (Our Soviet Ukraine), a popular publication that noted Ukraine's glorious Kozak past and its cultural achievements.

In 1972 Moscow attacked so-called "national deviations" in Ukraine, launching a wave of arrests of Ukrainian dissidents. Mr. Shelest was ousted in May of that year and replaced by one of his adversaries, hard-liner Volodymyr Shcherbytsky, who promoted an identity for the "Soviet people" and implemented policies of Russification. Mr. Shcherbytsky remained first secretary until 1989, when he was removed by Mikhail Gorbachev.

Transferred to Moscow, Mr. Shelest held the largely symbolic post of Soviet deputy premier for 11 months. He was rebuked for party failures in Ukraine and his book was denounced for its ideological and factual "errors," including "nationalism," "idealization of the past," "economic autarchism" and "national narrow-mindedness."

He was removed from the CPSU Politburo, and many of his supporters were purged from the Communist Party of Ukraine. Mr. Shelest was named director of a defense enterprise near Moscow, where he worked until retirement.

A collection of Shelest's speeches, "Idey Lenina Peremahayut" (Lenin's Ideas Triumph) came out in 1971.

Clinton signs foreign assistance bill with \$225 M earmark for Ukraine

by Eugene M. Iwanciw

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton signed the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1996 into law on January 26. The \$12.1 billion legislation mandates "not less than" \$225 million for Ukraine, making Ukraine the third largest recipient of U.S. assistance after Israel and Egypt. U.S. assistance to Russia is capped at "no more than" \$195 million.

Though initially passed by both the House and the Senate in the fall, the legislation was stalled due to an impasse between the House and Senate on abortion language contained in the bill. The House-Senate Conference Committee resolved all the differences between the two passed versions, save the abortion amendment.

Despite considerable pressure from many quarters, Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.), the author of the restrictive House language, which both the Senate and the administration strongly opposed, refused to compromise or agree to remove any mention of abortion in the bill. This stalemate on the legislation prevented the release of funds for foreign assistance programs for virtually one-third of the 1996 fiscal year.

To avert another government shutdown, the House on January 25 passed a continuing resolution to fund government departments, agencies, and programs that have not had their appropriations bills signed into law. To that resolution, the House added the conference report on foreign assistance, with the abortion provision modified. The following day the Senate passed the continuing resolution and sent it to the president for signature.

It was signed later in the day.

While the continuing resolution funds many other government programs until mid-March, funding for foreign assistance programs extends to September 30, the end of the fiscal year.

The delay in passing the foreign assistance legislation was especially frustrating to the Ukrainian American community, which for years has lobbied for increased assistance to Ukraine. Due to the scant assistance provided Ukraine by the administration, in 1993 the Congress, led by Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), began to earmark higher levels of assistance for Ukraine than that requested by the administration.

Two previous earmark efforts strongly proposed by the Clinton administration forced the Congress to "recommmend" rather than mandate higher levels of aid. With the Republican takeover of Congress and the deteriorating political situation in Russia, the administration was unable to sway the Congress from its position of strong support for Ukraine.

The bill reduced over-all foreign assistance \$1.4 billion below fiscal year 1995 totals and \$2.7 billion below the president's request. The \$640 million of assistance to other new independent states of the former Soviet Union was reduced \$202 million below 1995 levels and \$148 million below the president's request. Assistance to Ukraine, however, increased \$75 million over 1995 levels and \$65 million above the president's request.

Due to the snail's pace of economic reform in Ukraine, Congress did make assistance to Ukraine continue on Ukraine's undertaking "significant economic reforms."

Russia accepted by Council of Europe; Ukrainian delegation split on admission

STRASBOURG — The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe approved Russia's membership application by a vote of 164-35, with 15 abstentions, on January 25, Respublika and OMRI Daily Digest reported. After formal endorsement by the council's Committee of Ministers, Russia will become the council's 39th member at a February ceremony.

According to Respublika, the Ukrainian delegation split on the CE admission vote, with eight deputies voting for Russia's admission, among them the newly elected vice-president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CE Borys Olynyk (Communist Party of Ukraine), Yevhen Marmazov (CPU), Serhiy Dovhan (Agrarian), Viktor Merkushov (Unity), Anatoliy Rakhansky (Independents), Hennadiy Samofalov (Inter-regional Bloc of Deputies), Valeriy Cherep (Center) and Ivan Chyhz (Socialists). Those voting for Russia's admission explained themselves by stressing the need to integrate Russia into Europe and prevent a takeover by chauvinists like Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Two deputies abstained: Justice Minister Serhiy Holovaty (Reforms) and Volodymyr Stretovych (Agrarians for Reforms). Mr. Holovaty told Respublika at a press conference on January 28 that he could not vote "no" insofar as that would contradict the Ukrainian government's policy of closer relations with Russia, but that his conscience did not allow him to vote "yes."

Rukh Chairman Vyacheslav Chornovil

and deputy Bohdan Yaroshynsky (Statehood) voted "no," basing their opposition on Russia's inability to respect basic human rights and the continuing war in Chechnya, Respublika reported.

Russia's struggle against Chechen rebels fighting for independence from the Russian Federation and the widespread human rights violations reported there had raised serious questions in the eyes of activists such as Russian Duma Deputy Sergei Kovalev, as to whether the country should be admitted at this time, reported OMRI Daily Digest on January 26. As a condition of membership, Russia is to ratify the European Human Rights Convention and adhere to the council's agreements on human rights.

However, Agence France Presse reported that senior Russian Interior Ministry officials said it would be "premature" to end the death penalty in Russia — one of the council's requirements for admission — while Duma Security Committee Chairman Viktor Ilyukhin said ending the death penalty was presently out of the question as the government does not have the capacity to keep large numbers of prisoners serving life sentences.

Representatives of President Boris Yeltsin's administration were also quoted by AFP on January 26 as saying there are no plans to abolish the 1994 anti-organized crime decree, which permits the detention of suspects for up to 30 days before charges are brought.

Radio Canada International benefits from Cabinet shuffle

by Andrij Wynnycky

TORONTO — One of the beneficiaries of Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's recent Cabinet shuffle is Radio Canada International, the embattled Montreal-based broadcaster. Upon assuming her position as Heritage Minister on January 25, Sheila Copps announced that a deal had been worked out with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs whereby the service would be guaranteed funding.

Ms. Copps told a scrum of reporters in Ottawa, "Our first priority is to restore funding to Radio Canada International." This decision averted the shutdown of RCI scheduled for March 31 that would have made Canada the only industrialized country in the world without an international radio service.

The new minister was quoted in the January 26 issue of the *Globe and Mail* as saying that incoming Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy "has some money in his department that he will free up."

However, many details remain unclear. Neither the Heritage Ministry (responsible for communications policy and RCI's parent company, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.), nor Foreign Affairs have issued any communiqués on the subject, and nobody has mentioned any specific figures.

A media relations official at the Heritage Ministry confirmed that RCI is one of Ms. Copps' priorities and that a more concrete announcement would be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Another source of potential support for RCI was the Juneau report on Canadian broadcasting, due to be released on the

afternoon of January 31. Insiders said the document was expected to echo recommendations made by a Senate Transportation and Communications Committee report of 1994, saying that RCI funding should be restored to its 1990 level and that the service represents "money well spent."

The Coalition to Restore Full RCI Funding issued an action item titled "Encouraging News for RCI," which referred to the latest developments as "a turning point," but warned supporters not to get complacent and asked that they "continue to convince [the government] that Canada needs a strong radio voice."

The action item also outlined the coalition's demands. "The coalition is calling for a separate protected budget (somewhat like Canada's contribution to the United Nations). We feel that the service should be restored to at least its 1990-1991 levels, bringing back language sections such as the German and Japanese services, and restoring the targeted English and French programming for different geographic areas such as Europe, Africa, Asia, etc."

Wojtek Gwiazda, a coalition spokesman, was guarded. "It's encouraging, but we haven't seen any numbers on any check," he said. "In 1991, we were 'saved' by the Mulroney government, but our funding was cut in half and we lost a number of important language services."

"On the other hand," the English service announcer/producer added, "we hope that Ms. Copps and Mr. Axworthy will meet with us, because we have a number of very strong arguments as to how RCI can be saved and maintained."

Mr. Gwiazda added, "Keep those letters and postcards coming."

the merger agreement itself.

Similarly, a meeting between representatives of the UNA and the Ukrainian National Aid Association of America took place in Jersey City on December 16, 1995.

The UNA General Assembly, the organization's highest decision-making body between quadrennial conventions, voted at its special meeting in November 1995 to go ahead with merger negotiations with both the Ukrainian Fraternal Association and the Ukrainian National Aid Association of America.

UNA and UFA...

(Continued from page 1)

UNA's vice-president.

The Ukrainian Fraternal Association was represented by President John Oleksyn, Secretary Serge Kowalchuk and Secretary-Treasurer George Klapischak.

Among the topics discussed were the requirements of the two state insurance departments of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, where the UNA and UFA, respectively, are registered, including deadlines for submission of various documents, such as



During their meeting regarding a merger between the Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian Fraternal Association are: (seated, from left) Martha Lysko, John Oleksyn, Ulana Diachuk, Walter Sochan, (standing) George Klapischak, Alexander Blahitka, Nestor Olesnycky and Serge Kowalchuk.

Parliament cancels...

(Continued from page 1)

Deputies from the working group setting up this system pledge that it will not be a bureaucratic web, but a simple computer data bank that will keep records of Ukrainian orphans and prospective parents from Ukraine and abroad.

"We wrote this law first and foremost in the interests of our children," said Nina Karpachova, deputy chair of the Parliament's Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities and International Relations, whose working group spent close to a year fine-tuning the adoption law before presenting it for approval in Ukraine's Supreme Council. "The orphans are wards of the state. Where can they turn if not to the state for protection?" she added.

The legislature voted 260-13 to approve "Amendments and Supplements to the Code on Marriage and Family." Most of the changes concerned restructuring and creating the mechanism involved in the sensitive issue of adoption (Articles 101-199), while a few modifications in the code (Articles 33, 82-97) included an increase in child-support payments.

All of the amendments were passed in the second reading of this law after almost a full day of debates, during which lawmakers listened to Ms. Karpachova explain the additions and corrections to the code.

Deputy Procurator General Viktor Tanciura informed the Supreme Council of the numerous violations regarding foreign adoption of Ukrainian children over the past four years — due to the absence of codified procedures. He provided horrific facts concerning the way children were adopted — without legal papers, in exchange for monetary gifts to individuals, including government officials in Ukraine.

Children as "goods"

According to a report prepared back in 1994 by the Procurator General's office and read by Mr. Tanciura on January 30: "Ukrainian children were convenient 'goods' for swindlers and organizations with questionable reputations, because according to reports from various visitors to the Ukrainian Embassy in the United States, some foreign adoption facilitators would charge tens of thousands of dollars — some of which was used for bribes, in order to get genetically and physically healthy children out of Ukraine."

Another report presented by Mr. Tanciura examined the illegal actions of Lviv doctors who sold babies to Westerners in 1993-1994. An investigation into these cases is currently under way, and three doctors who were arrested in February 1994 in connection with this illicit baby-trading have been further detained until August 1996.

A group of Lviv prosecutors is scheduled to leave for the United States in the near future. Deputies approved a proposal by Ms. Karpachova that another investigating team composed of Parliament deputies be formed to join forces with the Office of the Procurator General in order to get answers to a number of questions regarding the illegal adoption of Lviv babies and put an end to this matter once and for all.

During her parliamentary presentation on January 30, Ms. Karpachova disclosed the uncontrolled and fast-growing rise in foreign adoptions in 1993 and 1994, which in the end forced the Parliament to ban adoptions of Ukrainian children. "Whereas in 1990, only two children were adopted by foreigners, in 1993 the numbers had risen to 392," she said. (In 1991, eight kids were adopted by foreigners, in 1992 that

number rose to 97 and in the first six months of 1994, orphans adopted by foreigners totaled 203).

From 1990 through July 1994, when the moratorium was imposed, 802 children had been shipped out of Ukraine. Today, Ukrainian authorities do not know the whereabouts of 631 legally adopted children.

Cabinet unaware of true situation

Ms. Karpachova also revealed that often the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers did not know what was going on with orphans in the country. She noted that when the first reading of the law was presented in Parliament last year (after the moratorium had been in effect) government statistics reported that only 447 had been adopted by foreigners. But, Ms. Karpachova and her committee found, through their own investigation, that the numbers were almost double — 802.

Despite the fact that Ukrainian law allows a mother who gives up her baby six months to change her mind, Ms. Karpachova cited cases of newborns — two-day-olds, five-day-olds and 10-day-olds — disappearing from maternity wards and hospitals, never to be seen again.

She highlighted the Lviv baby scandal, citing 31 documented cases. However, she also noted that her group's investigation documented much of the same in the Odessa region (18 infants).

Ms. Karpachova noted that her group had uncovered 18 foreign commercial adoption agencies or "facilitators," who helped in transporting Ukrainian children out of Ukraine.

"As a result, in Ukraine we had an interesting situation: Ukrainian families who wished to adopt orphans — and those numbers have doubled in the last few years — were put on a waiting list for five to six years, while foreigners were adopting babies in a few months' time," she told deputies.

"The protection of the gene pool is of critical importance in Ukraine, considering

(Continued on page 17)

Visa lottery opens on February 12

NEW YORK — The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service will accept applications for its annual visa lottery from February 12 to March 12.

The lottery, which awards legal, permanent residency in the United States to immigrants, requires that applicants have either a high school diploma of five years' experience in a field that requires two years of training.

Applicants should submit their name and date of birth, as well as those of their spouse and children under age 21, current mailing address, native country, signature and a recent photo by the deadline. There is no charge for applying. Winners are chosen randomly by computer.

Congress established the visa lottery in 1990 to create greater diversity among immigrants. It is open only to immigrants from countries that have sent less than 50,000 people to the United States in the past five years, among them Ukraine.

In last year's lottery 55,000 of the 4.5 million applicants won green cards. For more information or to obtain New York City's consumer guide for applying call (212) 487-4270.

Washington Post correspondent shares his perceptions of Ukraine

by Yaro Bihun

WASHINGTON — James Rupert, The Washington Post's correspondent in Kyiv, sees Ukraine as being in a very fortunate position. "It is now moving towards stability — the elusive post-Soviet stability that all the former republics of the Soviet Union should be seeking — but with a better chance of achieving it than most," he noted.

Mr. Rupert shared his perceptions about Ukraine, its relationship with Russia and the West, the "good news" and the "bad news" in its effort to secure political and economic security during a "Friday Evening Forum" on January 19, sponsored jointly by the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and The Washington Group, an association of Ukrainian American professionals.

With reporting experience in Uzbekistan and other parts of the former Soviet Union, as well as in South Asia, James Rupert arrived in Kyiv in November 1994, when, as he recalled, Ukraine was being painted in the West as "perhaps a non-viable state," a view that was "enshrined" in the U.S. intelligence estimate he now says was "far too pessimistic." But that gloomy estimate, which hinted at the possible dismemberment of Ukraine, he added, helped convince the Washington Post to open its bureau in Kyiv, he added.

Until recently, the Western press, academia and governments were forced to look at Ukraine through Moscow's "lens" or "filter," which tended to present a "much more negative" view of Ukraine than what he found by living there, Mr. Rupert said.

Not all of the blame, however, should be placed on the Moscow "filter," he added. There was a serious drift during President Kravchuk's administration, which did not make a serious effort in initiating economic reforms or in defining a security structure for Ukraine.

Since then, The Post correspondent added, "In both of these areas, I think, the Kuchma administration has gotten to grips with the essential tasks in ways that the previous administration did not seem to have done."

That's not to say that President Leonid Kuchma reforms have succeeded, he said. "They're having an immense amount of trouble. But the point is, they're working, the grindstone is turning and grinding away at the features of the Soviet command economy, and so, progress can be made."

"I have now a much more optimistic view of Ukraine and where it's headed than when I went there," Mr. Rupert said, observing that Ukraine has "most, if not perhaps all, of the basic essential building blocks of viable, independent statehood."

He pointed out that Ukrainians have a strong sense of national identity, a "much more cohesive sense" for the kind of state that they would like to create than most other republics of the former Soviet Union. The idea of an independent Ukrainian state is not new to them, and they feel very much a part of Europe, he said.

"They want investment from Europe, they want to be able to travel to Europe, they want their country to look like and work like European countries work. That's not something you can say about Russia, or Belarus, or Tajikistan, or Uzbekistan."

Mr. Rupert also noted that while different people interpret "democracy" in different ways, there's much more consensus among Ukrainians that they want "something called democracy" than in most other parts of the former Soviet Union.

Also on the "good news" side of the ledger, Mr. Rupert noted that Ukraine has had four years of independence without any serious political violence, unlike the civil wars that have plagued Russia and other newly independent states. Despite all of the dire predictions about what was going to happen in the Crimea and about the split coming between eastern and western Ukraine, political violence has been so rare, he said, that only two cases come to mind: some rioting in the Crimea after a mafia shooting of Tatars and the "immensely lamentable" affair at St. Sophia's Cathedral during the burial of Patriarch Volodymyr.

"The idea of violence in politics and extremism in politics is much more anathema in Kyiv than it is in Moscow, and that's shaped the histories of these two countries in the short time they've parted after the Soviet collapse," he pointed out.

Mr. Rupert said he's intrigued by this difference in the two political cultures. "My sense is that it goes back to the difference between being the exercisers and the subjects of empire. There is no Ukrainian idea of a 'great derzhava,' a great state with great ambitions that by some natural, God-given right ought to be ruling all the way down to the Bosphorus. And yet, you can find people who dream these dreams with their eyes open in Russia — and a lot of people. It's a part of the political culture."

In the "bad news" category, Mr. Rupert noted Ukraine's total dependence on Russia as its supplier of energy, the slow pace of privatization and the still-unresolved constitutional power-sharing arrangement between the president and the Parliament.

The lack of a reliable energy supply, Mr. Rupert said, "is Ukraine's Achilles' heel." Ukraine remains "horrendously dependent" on Russia as the source and transmitter of its energy supplies. He sees the establishment of Ukraine's energy independence as one of the most important, and least fulfilled, tasks of the Ukrainian government.

On the privatization front, the State Property Fund is months behind its targets in privatizing businesses, and the selling off of land is even further behind, he said. The resistance to reform by oblast and raion-level bureaucracies is fueling a political battle in Kyiv, where President Kuchma is fighting to get control over the reins of power, including direct authority over the administrative structures at the provincial level. The battle now is being fought over the new constitution, he said, but even if the president wins, it's not clear that a new constitution will settle the issue.

Mr. Rupert said he feels the president "eventually will manage to get enough power in hand to force through the essentials of his reform program in a way that they will become irreversible." After three years of economic depression, the Ukrainian people are receptive to change, he said, and there is no clearly articulated alternative to Kuchma's reform plan. In addition to President Kuchma, Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk has begun to show his reformist credentials, especially during and after his Washington visit last September, he added.

In answer to a question, Mr. Rupert said he sees no immediate, short-term danger for Ukraine from the communist gains in the recent Russian elections. He said he found the purging of democrats and economic reformers from the Yeltsin Cabinet more damaging, in a general sense. Visiting Moscow on assignments, Mr. Rupert finds that Russians, in general, still find it hard to accept the idea of Ukraine being independent of Russia. And the recent election results show that the idea of a Slavic union is still very powerful in Russia, he said.

"It's a popular view, it's a street-level view of Ukraine, and it's also a view which is held within the halls of power in Russia." While not everyone holds to this view, he added, "it's still an important player in the Russian political mind."

"I think Ukraine's independent statehood is established," he said, and it cannot be undone except through something as drastic as a world war or a conflagration like in Yugoslavia. And even among those in Russia loath to accept Ukraine's independence — except for extremists like Zhirinovskiy — no one thinks that Ukraine can be brought back into the fold by force.

"They can't even subdue Chechnya, for Pete's sake," he pointed out. "That's been a sobering lesson to the Russians. And so, any idea of a forceful reintegration of Ukraine, I think, died in the streets of Grozny within the first days of the assault on Chechnya."

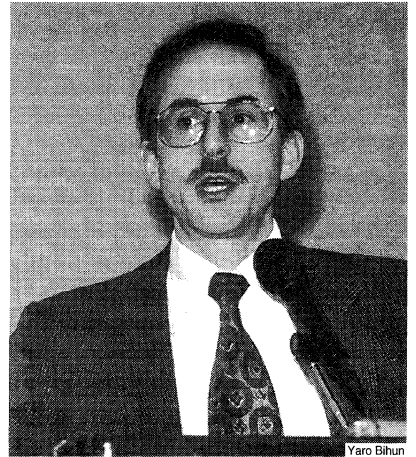
What could happen, however, is the development of a Ukraine so dependent on Russia — for energy and other things — that it would be unable to pursue the interests of its own people, he said. But unlike Belarus, Ukraine is moving in a direction that tends to reduce the danger of this happening.

Mr. Rupert said he found Ukrainians receptive to the idea of privatization and willing to participate in this process, which they did not fully understand. They appear to welcome Western investment, and are less xenophobic about it than are some Russians, he added. They also welcome Russian investment, although not in some strategic sectors like oil and gas pipelines.

As for the Commonwealth of Independent States, Mr. Rupert said he seen an ongoing fight between those, on the one hand, who want to have the CIS perform a legitimate coordinating role between the economies of the newly independent states, and, on the other hand, Russia, which would like to make it a tool of its foreign policy — as was made clear in a policy document from President Boris Yeltsin's office made public a few months ago.

Why did Ukraine so readily give up its nuclear weapons? As the Washington Post correspondent sees it, "The Ukrainian military did its math and concluded that it could not afford these weapons." And as for Ukraine's perceived hesitation, it "was in part, because Ukraine wanted to get something in return for giving up those missiles."

Asked to assess Western media coverage of Ukraine, Mr. Rupert said that it is not receiving the attention it warrants, being "a real linchpin for that entire region." Unfortunately, as he tells his colleagues in Kyiv, the collapse of the Soviet Union did not coincide with an increase in the budgets of the Western press, and it's difficult to do a job well on a shoestring.



James Rupert, The Washington Post's Kyiv correspondent, speaks at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

He described the Western news operation in Ukraine:

- There are two large English-language news bureaus in Kyiv today: Reuters and BBC. Radio Liberty, which also maintains a large bureau, directs its reporting back into Ukraine.

- Media elements that have made "serious commitments and are spending serious money" in Ukraine, are: the Washington Post, Associated Press, Wall Street Journal, Financial Times and The Ukrainian Weekly. In addition there are stringers for the Los Angeles Times, CBS and CNN.

- Non-English-language, Western coverage comes from the news agencies of France, Italy, Spain and Germany.

"It's far too little attention for a country of 55 million people, whose fate has immensely important implications for the stability of the region as a whole," he said. "We need to do a lot better."

Mr. Rupert, who recently returned with his wife to Washington for the birth of their daughter, found living in Kyiv better than in Moscow or Tashkent. There is crime, he said, "But I find that I'm no more concerned in walking around in Kyiv at night than I was when I lived here in Washington — which is to say I'm concerned but not panicked."

The Weekly's role cited by correspondent

by Yaro Bihun

Washington — The Washington Post correspondent in Kyiv, James Rupert, says he considers The Ukrainian Weekly "a very important element of the Western press presence in Ukraine" and its Kyiv correspondent Marta Kolomayets "by far the most influential" of all foreign correspondents.

Speaking about his work in Ukraine during a January 19 forum sponsored jointly by the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and The Washington Group of Ukrainian American professionals, Mr. Rupert singled out The Weekly when talking about the various news organizations working in Kyiv.

"I always tell Marta Kolomayets, who's the correspondent for The Ukrainian Weekly, that of all the foreign correspondents in Kyiv, she is by far the most influential," he told the gathering.

"She laughs about this," he continued, "But, actually, back here in the States...there are very few of my readers who are going to get up in the morning after I've written a story about this or that going on in Ukraine and are going to leap to the phone to call their congressman. But within the Ukrainian American community, of course, that tendency is much greater, and they're reading very attentively The Ukrainian Weekly," he said.

"So I count that as a very important element of the Western press presence in Ukraine — The Ukrainian Weekly," Mr. Rupert noted.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Do we value our community?

It's mid-year (in terms of the academic year), a time of mid-term examinations and semester breaks, and a time of needed assessment and reassessment, and course correction. Diverse activities — scholastic and extracurricular — are in full swing. Our community life, too, is abuzz. We've just completed the "malanka" season and now it's on to the debutante balls that abound at this time of year as proud parents introduce their daughters (and sons, we would argue) to our community. Clearly it is a time to appreciate our friends and our community.

So while we're all enjoying ourselves at the social events of this season, maybe it's worthwhile also to ponder what our lives would be like without that community? Is that community important to our sense of well-being and contentment, and our happiness? Do we want our community to continue to exist? What are we contributing to ensure the continuity and vitality of our community life?

The parents of today's generation of parents made sacrifices so their children could remain Ukrainian in spirit. They thought nothing of making the time and spending the money necessary to support our community organizations. They felt not only that it was their duty to make sure their kids belonged to Ukrainian organizations, but that it was their duty as parents to volunteer and help those organizations in myriad ways, whether that involved baking pastries for a bake sale, or serving as a supervisor for a youth organization's activities.

If there were Plast meetings on a weeknight, they'd make sure the kids were there, and on time. If there was Ukrainian school on Saturday, their children were there without fail each Saturday — not only when it wasn't inconvenient. If their children were enrolled in a particular activity, say a Ukrainian dance ensemble, that was a commitment taken seriously. As a result, our organizations flourished.

Today, however, that seems to have changed. Attendance at activities in which children are enrolled are considered "optional." Parents seem less willing to give of themselves and to give up their precious time.

Parents' priorities influence their children's priorities. If parents consider Ukrainian activities second-rate, then what do you think the children believe? Let's not kid ourselves, children learn very early on in life what is important and what is not — from their parents. So, if parents send out signals that it's not important to regularly attend SUM-A activities, or to do homework for "Uke school," it is obvious to the children that things Ukrainian somehow are not as valuable as the non-Ukrainian aspects of their lives.

To be sure, there are those who will say times are tougher because the community is more scattered, both mom and dad work, etc., etc. We've heard it all — and all of it is true. But there is another greater truth, and that is that, whether one likes to hear it or not, it's all a question of priorities. If it's more important for the kids to go shopping with mom than to go to classes at the School of Ukrainian Studies, then who's to blame for the school's decline?

When it comes to community life, we get what we deserve. If we invest our time and effort, we will undoubtedly be compensated with more rewarding activities in our community life. If, on the other hand, we choose to sit on the sidelines, if we insist on being occasional observers instead of true participants in our community life, we will become witness to that community withering away.

So, what are our priorities? Do we want our community to remain vibrant, to exist for our children and even theirs? If so, there are two key words to remember and to practice: commitment and contribution. Think about it. Then act on it.

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Turning the pages back...

As Ukrainians in North America ponder the difficulties of integrating with the newest arrivals from Ukraine, let alone those who arrived in the 1980s from Poland, a figure worth considering is Bohdan (Gordon Robert) Panchuk.

Born near Peterson, Saskatchewan, on February 8, 1915, in 1940 G.R.B. Panchuk enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and was posted in the United Kingdom. Three years later, he helped establish the Ukrainian Canadian Servicemen's Association (UCSA).

While serving on the Continent, he gradually became aware of the scale of the massive dimensions of the refugee, or displaced persons, problem as millions of Eastern and Central Europeans fled to escape the Red Army's advance.

At first, Panchuk naively believed Ukrainian Canadians would be welcomed by their Soviet allies if they chose to visit their ancestral home. He soon became aware of the reasons that impelled the human torrent westward.

In late 1945, as the infamous repatriation provisions of the Yalta agreement were being implemented by Stalin and his U.S. and (to a lesser extent) British co-conspirators, Panchuk co-founded the Central Ukrainian Relief Bureau (CURB), which campaigned against repatriation, worked for resettlement of DPs abroad, and provided material relief.

After assisting this effort into the late 1940s, Panchuk returned to Canada, where he served in the Ukrainian-language section of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's foreign service (now known as Radio Canada International) until 1955.

In a memoir delivered at the "Refugee Experience" conference in 1982, since published in a book of the same title, Panchuk said: "The salvation of the Ukrainian refugees was predicated upon the joint efforts of old and new Ukrainian emigrants. From the newcomers we needed solidarity and unity of purpose to demonstrate their relevance and utility for the Ukrainians already settled in the West."

G.R.B. Panchuk died in Montreal on June 20, 1987.

Sources: "Central Ukrainian Relief Bureau," "Panchuk, Bohdan Gordon," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vols. 1, 3 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984, 1993); *The Refugee Experience* (Edmonton: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press, 1992).

NEWS ANALYSIS

Will the West lose Ukraine?

by Victor Basiuk

In the past couple of months, the eyes of the West have been focused on Russia. When the Communists surged to gain 22.3 percent of the parliamentary vote on December 17, 1995, most commentators and government officials chose to view this development with relative complacency. After all, the share of the vote by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has declined since the election of 1993, and the total vote of the two principal autocratic parties — the Communists and the LDP — has remained about the same. Therefore, not much has changed.

Hardly any attention has been paid to the implications of the Russian election for Ukraine and developments in Ukraine itself.

"The cosmopolitan trend"

In the past year or so, Ukraine witnessed the growth of what has become known as "the cosmopolitan trend." Unlike the national-democratic concept prevalent during the presidency of Leonid Kravchuk, which was focused on Ukraine as a political and cultural entity and was leaning towards the West, the cosmopolitan trend gravitated towards Eurasia, and particularly toward Russia.

Its single most important center has been the staff of the president of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, from which its influence — mainly through appointments — was being extended to the various ministries. However, largely independently from this center, the cosmopolitan views have also penetrated certain parties, including those in the democratic camp.

The event that was instrumental in triggering the rise of the cosmopolitan trend as a major political issue was publication of a book, "Ukraine on the Threshold of the 21st Century: A Political Aspect," in the fall of 1995. The authors of the book were Dmytro Vydrin, adviser to the president, and Dmytro Tabachnyk, the president's chief of staff. The thesis of the book was that the future of Ukraine lies not in Europe, but in the Eurasian continent, where Ukraine should be "a strategic partner" of Russia.

The appearance of review copies created a political uproar, and the authors promptly withdrew the book from circulation. However, the book became a factor in the convening of the Congress of Ukrainian Intelligentsia on December 10, 1995, in Kyiv. With nearly 2,000 delegates from the various regions of Ukraine, the congress was the first of its kind in Ukraine's history. Its "Manifesto" condemned the cosmopolitan trend and the people around the president as stifling Ukrainian language and culture and endangering the nation's independence. As evidence, it pointed out that only 3 percent of books published in Ukraine are in the Ukrainian language.

Enter Yevhen Marchuk

The Congress of Ukrainian Intelligentsia created an organizational structure to continue to fight for its cause. Its chances for success would have been limited if not for the fact that it found a powerful, if undeclared, ally within the president's administration.

Victor Basiuk, a Washington consultant in national security policy, spent five weeks in Kyiv in November and December 1995 as part of a Brookings Institution team conducting seminars on political and economic reforms for Ukrainian parliamentarians.

Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk did not share the cosmopolitan views and a struggle, aimed at replacing Mr. Marchuk, ensued around the president. Losing in the internal bureaucratic in-fighting, Mr. Marchuk dramatically turned the tables by raising the conflict to a political level. He declared his candidacy for Parliament (the Supreme Council) from the Poltava Oblast in the by-election of December 10, 1995, obtained support from Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz, and won handily with 84 percent of the electoral vote in his favor.

The election greatly strengthened Mr. Marchuk's position. The prime minister is the only person who, in accordance with existing Ukrainian laws, can remain in his position in the executive and be a member of the Parliament at the same time. Moreover, a dismissal of the prime minister by the president requires consent of the Parliament. Being a member of the Parliament and influential in it, Mr. Marchuk is now in a position to prevent his own dismissal.

Perhaps even more important, this development took place during a struggle between the president and the Parliament for a new constitution. The president threatened that, if his version of the draft constitution is not accepted by the Parliament, he would submit it to a referendum instead. If approved by the referendum, he would dissolve the Parliament and call for an election. In the face of such a possibility, many parliamentarians believe that Mr. Marchuk as speaker, is the only sufficiently strong personality to stand up to the president and prevent this from happening.

Thus, Mr. Marchuk's options have broadened to the distinct possibility that he may chair the Parliament and use it as a springboard to the presidency. His prospects in this capacity have been significantly strengthened since key figures in the national-democratic camp, apprehensive of the cosmopolitan forces, have rallied in support of Marchuk even though he has never asked for their support and is maintaining an independent position.

The above political developments put President Kuchma — who, ostensibly, has remained above the fray — in a quandary. If he continues to tolerate cosmopolitan views in his immediate surroundings, he may have to face Mr. Marchuk as the speaker of Parliament, standing firmly on a national and pro-Western platform. Alternatively, he could purge his staff of cosmopolitan elements in order to avoid or tone down the conflict.

This problem is yet to be resolved, but it is noteworthy that three of the president's key advisers — Dmytro Vydrin, Anatoliy Halchynsky and Oleksander Razumkov — resigned in late December, 1995 ostensibly for personal reasons.

The dark shadow of Russia

Political developments in Russia have exacerbated the seriousness of the situation in Ukraine. Unlike Italy, Ukraine does not have a national Communist party. Its Communists maintain close ties with Russian Communists, and the latter exert strong influence over their Ukrainian comrades. The avowed intent of the Russian Communists is to restore the Soviet Union within its old boundaries. The Communists have 157 seats (out of 450) in the Russian Duma, the lower House of Parliament, but with their allies they control nearly a half of the total. The speaker of the Duma is a Communist, which gives his party an advantage.

(Continued on page 14)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Famous athletes should help NOC

Dear Editor:

It is with great pleasure that Ukrainian American sports fans read Ihor Stelmach's extensive reports in *The Ukrainian Weekly* on National Hockey League Ukrainian players. We proudly follow their successes on the ice and are delighted with their financial remuneration in the hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars.

With the current economic difficulties facing Ukraine, the Ukrainian diaspora, through USCAK and local Olympic committees, is attempting to raise money to help the financially pressed National Olympic Committee of Ukraine to prepare the best representation of Ukrainian athletes for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. Wouldn't it be a nice gesture if some of the Ukrainian pro-hockey players were to also contribute a few bucks – or even a few Ks – to Ukraine's National Olympic Committee?

The same goes for famous athletes such as Oksana Baiul, Viktor Petrenko, Serhiy Bubka and others who gained their skills in Ukraine and now enjoy financial prosperity abroad.

Nicholas Deychakiwsky, M.D.
Brecksville, Ohio

Time to take on 'Chernobyl' spelling

Dear Editor:

As we near the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, much will be written on the subject of this tragedy. I suggest that we all make an effort to educate the public on the correct transcription from Ukrainian of the geographic place name, i.e., Chernobyl, rather than the Russified Chernobyl. It behooves us to maintain a high index of alertness and react decisively to each instance of "Russian, as usual."

One can cite the listing on p. 456, Vol. 1 of the *Encyclopedia of Ukraine* and quote examples of previous changes that were generally accepted (Peking to Beijing, Ceylon to Sri Lanka, etc.). Every reader can come up with his or her own arguments, I am sure.

We have successfully eliminated the use of "the" before Ukraine and have made fair progress on "Kiev." Now it is time to take on "Chernobyl."

Orest Hawryluk, M.D.
Elkins Park, Pa.

How about holding Leadership Camp?

Dear Editor:

The church board of directors of Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church has decided to sponsor a "Leadership Camp 96" in the Midwest the first two weeks of August open to all members of the community age 17-22. There is definitely a need, but is there interest to pursue this concept?

Ss. Volodymyr and Olha board members have had numerous discussions about the future of our community. The lack of young leaders in our community was defined as a major impediment for future development and sustainment of our "hromada."

The "Leadership Camp 96" would be a two-week intensive training session using the military model of leadership training. The camp would be open to all members of the community regardless of youth

group or church affiliation. The course would present subjects such as: leadership theory and practice, leadership in the community, history of Ukrainian Americans, anti-defamation history, survival techniques, self-assessment and improvement, importance of bilingualism, evaluating core competencies, history of UPA, religion and working together as a team to achieve community objectives.

The camp would emphasize physical activity to put into practice what was taught in the classroom setting. All participants would have to pass a physical training test before the start of the camp. This would be a true integration of participants from different backgrounds, allowing interesting discussions and interactions. Instructors would be specialists in their fields including former military personnel.

To pursue this objective, we need your feedback. Who would be interested in attending and paying for this course? Who is willing to participate? Are there other organizations who are willing to become co-sponsors? A decision must be made no later than March 1. Contact Roman Golash by fax at (847) 885-8565 or by e-mail 752371377@compuserve.com.

Roman Golash
Chicago

Ukraine deserves more than threats

Dear Editor:

Unfortunately, neither Dr. Bohdan J. Bodnaruk in his letter to the editor of September 10, 1995 (Diaspora should stop aid to Ukraine), nor Dr. T. Mackiw in his letter of January 14 (Support Ukraine, despite problems) bother to define the magnitude of this aid that possibly could topple or rescue the very existence of Ukraine.

Is this aid's vastness amounting to millions, tens or hundreds of millions, or even billions? Is its source dependable, perpetual and unconditional? Is it based on actual needs of Ukraine, or is it determined strictly by the whims of the self-appointed leaders of assorted archaic émigré groups? Perhaps, Dr. Bodnaruk, Dr. Mackiw, or both of them, would care to enlighten us.

In the meantime, it would be worth keeping in mind the fact that even if the diaspora's help to Ukraine was in the tens of millions of dollars annually, even if it was reliable, perpetual and unconditional, and even if it was based upon Ukraine's actual needs, it hardly would resolve anything. After all, the diaspora's occasional hand-outs, even if they happened to be as high as \$52 million per year, could hardly be regarded as any meaningful help, for they would enrich each citizen of Ukraine merely by a solitary buck.

In any case, on August 24, 1995, the president of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, didn't acknowledge, as Dr. Mackiw seems to suggest, the diaspora's financial help towards Ukraine's survival, but rather its any-but-financial "contribution of the achievement of independence and consolidation of statehood."

Obviously, insisting as Drs. Bodnaruk and Mackiw apparently do, that the diaspora's merger charity ought to somehow dictate to the democratically elected government of Ukraine how it ought to behave in order to secure its receipt in the future, is nothing but illusionary and grandiose wishful thinking on these gentlemen's part.

Ukraine, most definitely, expects and deserves more from us than threats, ultimatums, bribes, charity and contempt.

Myroslaw Prytulak
Windsor, Ontario

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Yoram Sheftel: Israel's conscience

Yoram Sheftel, the Israeli lawyer who led the fight to acquit John Demjanjuk of war crimes against the Jews, is an extraordinary man who describes himself as "a lone wolf," and apparently enjoys being typecast as "Satan's lawyer" and "the most hated man in Israel."

He was willing to expose his nation's juridical fault line – at great risk to his own career – in the hope that in doing so, things would improve. In his book "The Demjanjuk Affair: The Rise and Fall of a Show Trial," Mr. Sheftel proves conclusively that in the case of Mr. Demjanjuk, "Israeli justice" is an oxymoron. The book demonstrates clearly that while Mr. Sheftel's goal was justice for Mr. Demjanjuk, practically everyone else in Israel was more interested in a lynching.

Has anything changed in Israel since the trial? Apparently not. Dov Levin is still a member of the Israeli Supreme Court. And lest anyone conclude that the trial was not "eminently even-handed, righteous and just," the other two judges, Zvi Tal and Dalia Dorner, have recently joined Mr. Levin on the Supreme Court bench.

As I mentioned in my last review, it's impossible to do justice to this remarkable book in a short article. Last time I focused on Israeli justice from the perspective of the Demjanjuk defense. This article is devoted to Yoram Sheftel, the man.

A fervent Israeli nationalist who read books, articles and the poems of the Ukrainian Zionist leader Zeev Jabotinsky since the age of 8, Mr. Sheftel can be best described as Israel's conscience. At one time he defended the likes of Meyer Lansky, a Jewish member of the crime syndicate in America, who was being expelled from Israel, where he sought sanctuary. Mr. Sheftel supported the American Jew not because he was a criminal but because Mr. Lansky had provided financial support for Israel in its early years. When he needed Israel's help in return, the Israelis were willing to turn their back on a fellow Jew. This and other similar events persuaded Mr. Sheftel that much of the Israeli judicial system was politically corrupt.

Soon after Mr. Demjanjuk's extradition to Israel, Mr. Sheftel came to believe that the authorities were not seeking justice but another Nazi show trial. What convinced him was that at the time of his extradition, another order for deportation to the USSR was pending. Had the Israelis not intervened, Mr. Sheftel reasoned, Mr. Demjanjuk would be long dead and "justice" would have been served.

Show trials in Israel are necessary, Mr. Sheftel suggests, in order to erase the horrific memory of Zionist behavior during the Holocaust, especially "their helplessness and their unforgivable failure to act." Show trials, for that reason, are a desecration of the memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

Before offering his services to the defense, Mr. Sheftel had to assure himself that this "Ukrainian goy" was not Ivan the Terrible. After meeting Mr. Demjanjuk, he concluded that he "was the simplest of individuals, with a quite limited intellectual capacity. He seemed to personify," writes Mr. Sheftel, "the descriptions I had heard from my mother of the large-limbed, weather-beaten Ukrainian peasants who lived near

Rovno [Rivne], the town where she was born."

Mr. Sheftel became convinced that Mr. Demjanjuk had a very bad memory, or was utterly confused. He had trouble remembering many details about his own life and those of the members of his family. "I ruled out the possibility," he writes, "that this forgetfulness might be deliberate, because he would simply be incapable of such finesse." Nor was Mr. Demjanjuk a Jew-hater. "While Demjanjuk's head might be filled with prejudices about Jews, he is no more anti-Semitic than the average East European goy."

The most persuasive factor, however, was Mr. Demjanjuk's ingenuousness. "I sensed that he was speaking the truth when he flatly denied the allegation that he was Ivan the Terrible, or that he had been to Treblinka," writes Mr. Sheftel. "In this he seemed completely plausible, giving the clear impression of honesty and sincerity."

As the above comments suggest, Mr. Sheftel has no great love for Ukrainians as a group. When fund-raising for the Demjanjuk defense before the Israeli Supreme Court became problematic after the conviction, Ed Nishnic mentioned that some Ukrainians in North America thought that demonstrations might help. Mr. Sheftel's response was unequivocal. "No one, especially the Supreme Court, will be to be bothered by a few thousand Ukrainians demonstrating. No one will get excited by it because our average Israeli, rightly or wrongly, considers the average Ukrainian to be a common anti-Semite."

In describing his tour of North America to raise defense funds, he writes: "I was well aware that I would be speaking before an audience made up mostly of goyim particularly prone to anti-Semitic prejudice." His mother agreed. She laughingly told him that "all the staunchest anti-Semites in America are collecting money for Yoram, my dear Jewish son." Still later, Mr. Sheftel writes: "There were quite a few anti-Semites amongst the North American community who lent their support to Demjanjuk. Their goal was not only to help Demjanjuk, whether or not he was Ivan the Terrible, but first and foremost to paralyze completely, or at least interfere substantially with, the functioning of the Office of Special Investigations."

It is understandable that Mr. Sheftel had a need to mention Ukrainian anti-Semitism and Israeli Ukrainophobia given the fact that he had trashed the Israelis and was, after all, initially writing for a Jewish audience. Given his familiarity with the nefarious behavior of the OSI, however, it is puzzling that he should equate Ukrainian opposition to OSI tactics with anti-Semitism.

Mr. Sheftel remains true to his principles, however. He has little use for Jews who served the Soviets, even those who died fighting the Nazis. During a fact-finding trip to KGB headquarters in Symferopol, he noticed a stone World War II memorial plaque engraved with the names of some 30 Jews. "The best of Jewish youth in Russia, the cradle of Zionism," he concludes, "had sold itself and its soul to the Red Devil."

Can our community learn from the Demjanjuk affair? I think so. Let's discuss it. Soon.

NEWS AND VIEWS

AHRU supports Clinton's position on enforcing the peace in Bosnia

by Walter Bodnar

The dispatch of 20,000 U.S. troops to Bosnia by President Bill Clinton in order to keep and enforce the peace that was brokered in Dayton, Ohio, has been a subject of controversy and extensive discussions, which has dominated both houses of the U.S. Congress and the media during the latter part of 1995 and into 1996.

The president's trip to Bosnia on January 13 has evoked both praise and some derisive comments about "electioneering" from American troops stationed there. The reactions and comments at home also have split along party lines.

Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine (AHRU) joined in the dialogue by expressing its position to the executive branch and leading figures in both houses of Congress. More than 100 individual letters were sent to President Clinton, key members and their committees in the Senate and House of Representatives, officials at the State Department, members of the Helsinki Commission and the leadership of the major political parties. The letters expressed support for the president's actions in the interests of peace and stability, adherence to the ideals of human rights and a cessation of hostilities by the warring factions in order to prevent a complete ruination with worldwide repercussions.

AHRU's letter of December 7, 1995, among other things, stated: "We support President Clinton's initiatives...in order to help secure the peace in former Yugoslavia. Maintaining peace among the warring Serbs, Croats and Bosnians — no matter how tenuous and fragile — is preferable to the continued fighting, killings and seemingly endless destruction."

It continues: "Although military involvement by the U.S. carries with it serious risks, the moral and political imperatives involved tell us that attempts to defuse this powder keg are both in our interests and also in the interest of our European allies."

In his reply to AHRU's letter, Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, stated: "The violence in Bosnia is the worst in Europe since World War II. The U.S. has an interest in seeking its end, since it threatens the stability of Europe. We must take action for moral reasons as well; atrocities on this scale have not been seen in Europe since the days of Hitler and Stalin...As the leader of NATO and the only remaining superpower, the U.S. must play its part to ensure that the peace process succeeds."

AHRU also endorsed the statement of support by the National Ethnic Coordinating Committee of the Democratic Party regarding the president's Bosnian policy wherein it was stated that "without the U.S. there would be no peace agreement and without the U.S. there can be no hope for peace. As ethnics we know the consequences of sitting on the sidelines and we know the benefits that can be attained when America becomes involved in the pursuit of our shared values. We ask that you support the president's commitment to implement the Bosnian peace agreement."

Walter Bodnar is vice-president of Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine.

A NATO-led effort, which will have a force of 60,000 peacekeepers — including 400 from Ukraine — and the support of at least 29 nations joining in this international, multilateral military expedition, will work, in the words of Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), for "the re-establishment of a civil society."

In his remarks to the troops in Bosnia, President Clinton — also the commander-in-chief of the U.S. armed forces — said: "You are...protecting our nation's interests by keeping a fire out that has threatened the heart of Europe's stability."

The fighting during the past four years among the Serbs, Croats and Bosnians, which has resulted in the genocidal killings, the wounding of thousands, the rapes, the extensive destruction among the civilian population and devastation of the picturesque region, triggered the armed intervention by President Clinton. This has raised the hope that the agreement, signed in Dayton on November 22, 1995, and affirmed in Paris in December by representatives of the three embattled states, will be adhered to.

AHRU's concluding admonition stated: "Maintaining our leverage on the warring parties and urging a respect for human rights on all sides are signs of our seriousness to help all concerned."

A behind-the-scenes look at the Vervovka tour

by Halyna Kulyk

Not since the Virsky Ensemble has the Western hemisphere had the opportunity to see a truly professional caliber performance of Ukraine's most treasured talents. The Vervovka Ukrainian National Choral and Dance company was founded in 1943 in Kharkiv by Hryhoriy Vervovka initially as a choir; dancers and musicians were quickly added to reflect Ukraine's most beloved activities.

After many years of touring Europe, Vervovka finally has arrived on Western shores. Under the present direction of Anatoly Avdievsky, and with orchestra conductor Stanyaslav Savchuk and choreographer Alexei Gomon (formerly with Virsky), Vervovka has now brought the "soul of the Ukrainian people through song and dance" to America.

In addition to well-known songs and dances, there are several pieces unknown to even Ukrainian American eyes and ears. With costumes matching the music of some less known regions (by American standards), the concert is not only entertaining, but a learning experience for both ourselves and others. The music is soul-quenching, the dancing exciting and meticulous, and the singing both thunderous and ethereal in quality.

But, while the view on stage was picture perfect, behind the wings were sad tales of Ukraine's struggling artists. Upon closer inspection, the beautiful costumes show the wear and tear of 20 to 30 years of near daily use. The instruments too (some hand-made by the musicians themselves) show signs of their talented handling. The morale is low as the hopes of their well-deserved earnings go instead to feeding their tired bodies. Both wages and the per diem are low by our standards (I

Let's harness the power of TV

by Camilla Huk

Certainly in today's world, no one would underestimate the importance of the media. While many have dreamed and thought of ways to harness this energy, few have managed to do what a Ukrainian American engineer has single-handedly done, to literally obtain and control several television stations throughout the United States.

For this engineer, Zenon Reynarowych, the availability of low power TV (LPTV) was not only a potentially profitable venture but a means for the Ukrainian American community to control a vehicle of mass communication, an opportunity to train our people to tell our own story and present our views on issues through Ukrainian programs. With these goals in mind, four years ago he began applying for various LPTV construction permits, ultimately winning awards for a number of them.

Today Mr. Reynarowych owns several, such as Channels 6 and 51 in New Haven, Conn., Channel 38 in Stamford, Conn., and Channel 44 in Morristown, N.J. He built some stations and leased them out, while others are waiting to be built. While his concentration is on the Eastern Seaboard, he has also licensed and leased out stations in Colorado Springs and Pueblo, Colo.

Achieving this was not an easy task, but using his background in engineering, Mr. Reynarowych labored to prepare numerous highly complex and technical

LPTV applications. As there were often so many other applications for these mutually exclusive channels, these applications often had to further go through a lottery process.

Fortunately, fate smiled on Mr. Reynarowych and he won several awards. But even after being awarded an application, he needed to obtain construction permits. Eventually, several of the stations were opened, while others are still under development.

As his background is technical, and as this project can do so much for our community, Mr. Reynarowych has sought support for this project through various community organizations and leaders. Two Ukrainian American women are now working towards preparing a telethon to raise funds to construct an antenna in the New Haven facility so that Ukrainian programs could eventually be broadcast into the New York metropolitan area.

Volunteers from the business and communications communities are being sought to help with this venture. This is the time to make the dream of a Ukrainian television station a reality. An ad hoc committee is looking for people with business acumen, communications interns and anyone interested in this type of project.

Interested parties should contact: Zenon Reynarowych, (718) 847-1388; Camilla Huk, (201) 932-2580 (evenings), or Xenia Rakowsky, (201) 762-7348.

earned thrice that amount 20 years ago), though the energy given to performance is higher.

An impromptu dinner hosted by St. Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Cooper City, Fla., enabled us to catch a glimpse of life during the depression era. Eternally grateful for their first decent meal since their arrival, they put on a small performance that left many parishioners teary-eyed. My unplanned meeting (I was playing guide for friends) with one choir member led me to meet the entire ensemble.

Once my background was known, a professional courtesy was extended to me such that I became one of them. It was after their final performance in Miami that I threw together a snack for 62 of them (which I later found out was

their dinner) of kovbasa (30 lbs) with crackers, mustard, pickles, babka (baked that morning) and cheese-cracker snack packs. The dancers also got granola bars and gatorade mix as they looked most undernourished. Scattered throughout the hotel, each group was called to pick up their meal, which was carefully divided by their choir "inspector" and costume manager.

I managed to converse with most every member in those few hours after the show and was later joined by fellow professional Yarko Antonevych. Mr. Antonevych brought his bandura to entertain the performers as I sat down to read their tour itinerary. We were served black bread, salo and cookies from Ukraine as we discussed every aspect of Ukrainian culture today. We finally left at 4:30 a.m. with tears in our eyes (everyone was overly emotional with the good-byes), knowing we were their only visitors that night and promising to maintain that special bond we found.

I now write this article to urge all Ukrainians and their friends to not lose this opportunity to experience this deeply devoted company. For those churches and organizations that are able, please sponsor a dinner/fund-raiser for these artists. Even gifts of fruit and snacks brought to the stage door some three hours prior to a concert are most helpful. For any information on gifts or drop-off points, please call Tavria, (305) 864-4895. Tavria Arts Foundation Inc. is a non-profit organization devoted to helping Ukrainian artists and athletes here and abroad. We are presently creating a special "Friends of Vervovka" group to offer additional support and raise money for badly needed new costumes.

Meanwhile, see their concerts and visit if possible. Ask to speak to their choir, ballet or music "inspectors," and tell them Halyna sent you.



Anatoly Avdievsky, Vervovka's artistic director.

Life and work of Leo Mol highlighted in book published in Ukraine

by Marta Dyczok
Special to *The Weekly*

KYIV – Ukrainian Canadian sculptor Leo Mol received an unexpected gift for his 80th birthday. A book describing his life and work was published in Ukraine titled, "Skulptor Leo Mol: Zhyttia i Tvorchist" (The Sculptor Leo Mol: His Life and Work). This is the first major publication about the internationally known artist to appear in the country where he was born.

The Canadian Embassy in Ukraine marked the occasion by hosting a celebratory book launch on December 14, 1995, the first such event held at the Embassy. The master of ceremonies, Consul Roman Waschuk, introduced the author of the book, Dr. Dmytro Stepovyk, senior associate at the Institute of Art History, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.

The Ukrainian art historian explained that he first became enchanted with the works of Leo Mol in 1964, when he saw a photograph of Mr. Mol's statue of Taras Shevchenko in Washington. At the time he was advised by friends to keep this opinion to himself, since the sculptor was considered an enemy of the Soviet Union. Born Leonid Molodozhany in Polonne, in the Khmelnytskyi Oblast of Ukraine in 1915, during World War II he left Ukraine, and in 1949 settled in Canada. He has never been back.

Despite receiving international acclaim for his works, which include the statue of former Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker in Ottawa and portraits of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Winston Churchill, Mr. Mol was virtually unknown in his native Ukraine.

Dr. Stepovyk nurtured his secret admiration for the sculptor for many years, until in 1989, when he was finally allowed to travel abroad, he visited Canada. He sought out Mr. Mol and requested a meeting.

The initial contact developed into a friendship and Dr. Stepovyk conducted a series of interviews with Mr. Mol. He then began scouring Western archives in search of information on the sculptor, and six years later he had enough material for a book.

Although the publishing industry in Ukraine is undergoing a serious crisis, Dr. Stepovyk convinced Mystetstvo Publishers of the importance of his work, and the book was published. An edition of 2,000 copies of the illustrated hard-cover book is now available for distribution.

Nina Prybena, the vice-president of Mystetstvo Publishers who accepted the book for publication and oversaw its production, was beaming at the book launch at the Canadian Embassy. "Finally this artist will be known in Ukraine as well," she said. "The book is now available to readers in Ukraine."

However, the high costs of publishing in Ukraine today



Sculptor Leo Mol at work on a bust of composer Mykola Lysenko. In the background of this scene from the film "Immortal Image" by Slavko Nowytski is his model for the Shevchenko monument in Washington.

make the price of the book, 3,650,000 karbovantsi (\$27 U.S.), inaccessible to many Ukrainians. In a generous gesture, the Canadian charge d'affaires, Roman Lishchynsky, announced that the Canadian Embassy was buying 40 copies of the book and distributing it to libraries throughout Ukraine to make it available to a wide readership.

Due to his age and state of health, Mr. Mol was unable to attend the book presentation in Kyiv. He did send a telegram which was read by Mr. Waschuk, in which he thanked the author, the publisher and the

Embassy for such a nice birthday present.

Though no longer young and mobile, Leo Mol is still working. He was recently commissioned to prepare a statue of Taras Shevchenko by the city of St. Petersburg (Russia, that is), which has finally decided to honor the memory of the Ukrainian poet.

"Skulptor Leo Mol: Zhyttia i Tvorchist" is available from: Mystetstvo Publishers, att'n Tetiana Koriachenko, 11 Zolotovoritska St., Kyiv, Ukraine; telephone, (38-044) 224-9101.

A postscript to Canadian writers' autumn visit to Kyiv

The article below appeared in the December issue of *The Writers' Union of Canada newsletter*, Prof. Henry Beissel is a well-known Canadian poet, playwright and lecturer at Concordia University in Montreal. He was a member of a group of writers who visited Kyiv for a week last autumn before the official opening of some 600 Canadian books, donated to the Vernadsky Library of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

by Henry Beissel

Kati Rekal, Sonja Dunn and Doris McCarthy have already shared official and personal accounts of our Ukrainian experiences with *The Writers' Union of Canada* members in the October Newsletter, and there is no need for me to repeat what I am in total accord with. Their enthusiasm is fully justified – with regard both to the warm camaraderie that developed between all the members of the delegation and to the success of our mission. Everywhere we were received in a spirit of genuine and generous friendship.

All of which more than made up for any discomforts we suffered; they were not, in any case, due to any negligence on the part of our hosts, who went out of their way to make our stay as pleasant and fruitful as possible. Our discomforts were a pale reflection of the hardships that are part of daily life for most Ukrainians at this difficult time of their rebirth as a nation.

The enthusiasm for Canada which we encountered at every step was not surprising in view of the close and long-standing ties between our two countries established by the many Ukrainian immigrants.

The national poetry award with which Lydia Palij was honored during our stay is one of many concrete demonstrations of how far-reaching these ties are.

When I gave a lecture-cum-reading that focused on Canada at one of the universities, I was promptly declared an "honorary professor" by the vice-rector and invited to return for a series of lectures next May.

And there was the stranger at the bus stop in a small town a two-hour boat ride down the Dnipro who recognized Sonja as the host of a TV show for children; he came from Sudbury to marry a Ukrainian girl in a traditional wedding to which we were all spontaneously invited. So many touching human gestures.

There are, of course, also political and economic dimensions to the interest of Ukrainians in Canada. We have well-established democratic traditions and, at least as compared to them, a sound economy, whereas Ukraine has suffered Polish and Russian tyrannies in various forms throughout its history, and has only recently become an independent democracy. It needs models, and help, as it slowly and painfully emerges from three score and 10 years of Soviet dictatorship that have left the country devastated.

For one thing, it suffered a holocaust as brutal and murderous as any. Six million Ukrainians were systematically starved to death by Stalin between 1931 and 1933 alone, in one of history's most appalling, deliberately engineered famines. The total number of Ukrainians killed by the Soviet regime is estimated to be between 10 million and 16 million.

Many Ukrainians are bitter that the West has ignored their people's horrendous suffering, which included barbaric tortures, wholesale executions, deportation to Siberia and the most inhuman treatment in concentration camps.

Entrenched power is always hard to dislodge, especially when it has ruled by fear. Unaccustomed to the ways of democracy, the Ukrainian body politic still operates too often according to the mechanics of dictatorship. Too many of the old Soviet functionaries are still in power, with but a perfunctory change of hats. They continue to enjoy their privileges by exploiting the authoritarian mindset they so firmly implanted in the people during almost three generations.

The Soviets attempted to eradicate every trace of Ukrainian nationalism and culture, with the object of turning the country, which has vast grain-growing capacities, into Russia's breadbasket.

Even the Ukrainian language was ruthlessly suppressed, so that many Ukrainians today have never learned it. School textbooks are in Russian, and there has not

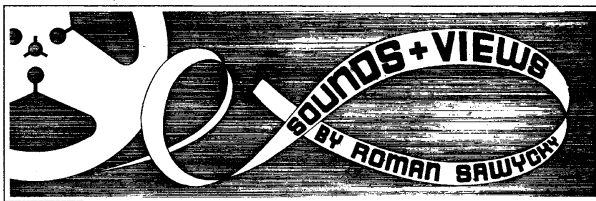
been enough time, nor is there enough money and expertise, to replace them.

Ukrainians consequently, find themselves in the ironic situation of having to debate and promote their national culture and language through the medium of the Russian language for which, understandably, they have no affection. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that about 25 percent of the people of Kyiv are native Russians.

The economic problems are at least as complex. The forced collectivization of Ukrainian farmers and farms was a complete disaster, and along with the deliberate underdevelopment of its industrial base has left its economy in shambles. In fact, the country is bankrupt.

Our "guide" – a woman with a university degree, a single mother with a 14-year-old daughter, fluent in several languages, assistant director of the Central Library of the Academy of Science and in charge of its international affairs, with 37 librarians working under her – earns the equivalent of \$25 per month, half of which she needs for fares to get herself to work and her daughter to school. Except that she hasn't been paid for the last three months; neither have the other employees. There is no money in the treasury. It remained an enigma to us how she, and the thousands like her who refuse to surrender their integrity, manage to survive.

(Continued on page 15)



Ukrainian composers in refreshing recordings

Tape 1: "Lilea Wolanska Sings Lysenko." Taras Filenko, piano; Ukrainian Broadcasting Symphony, Ivan Hamkalo, conductor. L.W. Productions, Canada. LWO192 (Stereo cassette).

Tape 2: "Lilea Wolanska Sings Songs by Composers of the Ukrainian Diaspora." Taras Filenko, piano; Ukrainian Broadcasting Folk Orchestra, Valery Varakuta, conductor. Orchestral arrangements by U. Yatsenko. L.W. Productions, Canada LWO292 (Stereo cassette).

Soprano Lilea Wolanska and pianist/musicologist Taras Filenko have been active both in Europe and in North America in live performances and in recordings. As a researcher/performer Dr. Filenko has lectured on newly discovered works included, in part, on the above cassettes. Such unity of the scientific and the artistic aspects of music seems to indicate new vistas for unjustly neglected repertory.

Opera

Despite isolated, past views to the contrary, Mykola Lysenko is the founder of Ukrainian national opera. Someone had to do it, for opera is not only well but flourishing over a century later. Tape 1 contains arias from such "warhorses" as "Taras Bulba," "Natalia Poltavka" and the rarely recorded "Chornomorsti" and "Nocturne" – the "minute opera."

Ms. Wolanska's soprano sounds vibrant and pleasing, while the Ukrainian Broadcasting Symphony – a solid, large orchestra – is captured with miking not too closely positioned. The over-all sound is live with reverberation tastefully measured. There's a bit too much treble for my taste, but this is quickly corrected with a touch to the right control.

Piano

M. Lysenko's "March" from L. Starytska-Cherniakhivska's drama "Hetman Doroshenko" had languished up to now in an unpublished holograph dating from 1911. But studied and presented here by Mr. Filenko in what sounds like a world premiere recording, it proves to be a viable piece performed with both fluency and commitment.

"Ukrainian Rhapsody" No. 2 (Op. 18) is likewise successful in spite of stiff competition from past live performance standards set by Roman Sawycky Sr. or Lydia Artymiw, and classic recordings by Rada Lysenko (the composer's granddaughter) or Maria Krushelnitska. The second rhapsody, possibly Lysenko's top work for piano solo, is most welcome here in up-to-date sound. Too bad, though, that the rarely played Piano Sonata was not included; it would be interesting to see if this score can fly or at least sound. (Dated 1875, it is the first Ukrainian sonata for the modern concert grand piano composed in Ukraine.)

As soloist, Mr. Filenko projects the music with conviction and with an instrument of rare sonic quality.

Art songs

Besides large forms, Lysenko was noted for art songs for the solo voice. A selection of them is artfully sung here by Ms. Wolanska with precise but aesthetic support from Mr. Filenko.

"Asters" (lyrics by Oleksander Oles) still sounds fresh after all its years before the microphone. On the other hand, I just don't remember ever hearing the

Hrebinka or Mickiewicz texts from a loudspeaker before. These rare flowers are suitably evaluated and recreated.

The dreamlike "Misiatsiu Kniazia" (Princely Moon) is not quite what composer Vasyl Barvinsky made from the Franko lyrics years later, but someone had to do it first, and Lysenko "de facto" introduced many new texts into Ukrainian music well ahead of other composers.

Lysenko's music inspired by Shevchenko is special, and much of it has yet to be equaled, let alone surpassed. Here, the sad musings of a lonely girl ("Oy Odnia Ya Odnia") are logically recorded by a soprano. (The distant recording of this item by heroic tenor Modeste Menzinsky, while touching, had also been "politically incorrect.")

Another blossom never meant to blush unseen is "Sadok Vyshnevyyi Kolo Khaty" (The Cherry Orchard by the Dwelling). Its pastoral gentleness invites comparisons to Tchaikovsky's music to the same poem, scored likewise for soprano with piano underpinning. It should be noted, however, that Tchaikovsky composed not to the original Ukrainian by Shevchenko but followed a later Russian translation. While occasionally more profound, the Tchaikovsky never reached the popularity of the Lysenko original, accorded a loving reading in the issue before us.

What should also be underscored is the simple but significant fact that all selections on Tape 1 consist of original works by Lysenko without any folk song settings. I found this approach to the founder of the national school in Ukrainian classical music both bracing and refreshing.

Diaspora

Tape 2 focuses on art songs by composers active outside Ukraine. In recent years these became subjects of research by Mr. Filenko, who has returned a number of them to the active catalogue in this particular issue. Some items here were recorded with the original piano accompaniments, while others took on more elaborate garbs of orchestral enhancement.

The sequencing begins with Larysa Kuzmenko's "My Ukraine." This presents a gentle synthesis of folk roots and the current theme of faithfulness to one's homeland in its hour of need (accentuated by that purposely chosen folkish sound in the orchestra).

Ihor Sonevsky of New York (born 1926), among other themes cultivates the religious and is represented by seven selections. Although "Our Father" has been offered for choir via the strong devotion of Alexander Koshetz or Mykola Leontovych, this is the first version for solo voice I have heard, and it still manages to sound original and inspirational. Sonevsky has also composed music to choice texts by Lesia Ukrainka and Bohdan Ihor Antonych; his piano parts often utilize imitation techniques

and are examples of work by a successful composer and able pianist.

Most gratifying are the late romantic achievements by Mykola Fomenko (1894-1961), with typically saturated harmonic richness as well as skill and inventiveness in the solo vocal line. Out of the five items by Fomenko, three are restless and searching songs on the theme of spring, complete with cascading streams and surging of new life. Only a master of the voice with piano medium could conceive and transmit such thrilling climaxes of lush romanticism. His intensely patriotic "Liubit Ukrainu" (For Love of Ukraine) got the author of the lyrics – Vasyl Sosiura – in serious trouble when this became a hit song in North America in the mid-1950s.

While not in the same league with Sonevsky or Fomenko, Vasyl Shute (1899-1982) was very much a part of emigre music efforts. In his case, orchestral accompaniments are appreciated more than the original piano (also used), since the symphonies are not unlike colorized versions with added appeal.

The rarely heard female composer Stefania Turkevych-Lukianovych (1908-1977) proved to be quite adventurous. She ventured into uncharted territory and flirted with atonality. Her piano writing can be a challenge even for the accomplished pianist. She is an excellent example of a "genuine article" composer in mediocre and anti-intellectual surroundings frozen by emigrant realism. The three selections never recorded before offer a glimpse of a legacy yet untapped.

Sensitive creativity was a signature of Fedir Yakymenko (1876-1945), who favored the poet. Oles. The small scale of his sonic sketches takes on an intimate, chamber quality, with a focus immediately exquisite if vulnerable. The three miniatures, all first recordings, express the "credo" of fragile spirit that lingered about for 50 years yearning to materialize.

Leo Wolanska (U.S.), perhaps the least known, chooses only the biggest names in lyrics, namely Shevchenko and Ukrainka. As a songwriter he prizes sincerity above all else, and his music is open and immediate.

Aside from the recognized Fedir Yakymenko, Paris served as a creative scene also for the unfamiliar Fedir

Yevsevsky (1899-1969). His was mainstream neo-romanticism that did not exclude a bold piano engaging the soloist. Ms. Wolanska therefore ends the cassette with a final mystery of "death, which, having stealthily opened paradise's door, seals your lips so you will not betray its secret" (H. Mazurenko).

Conclusion

I had a field day with this review. The Wolanska/Filenko team sounds well-rehearsed in its unity of purpose, but both artists also apparently practiced spontaneity and came to the microphone well-suited to the repertory of their choice. Generally speaking, the orchestral accompaniments are soundly conceived, conducted and recorded with minimal brushiness. Intonation problems, long associated with Ukrainian orchestras, seem to be misfortunes of the past and intrude no more.

Both cassettes come complete with bilingual programs and bios of the performers – succinct but not sketchy either. The English annotations on the separate art songs are not merely idiomatic but show creativeness in themselves (rarely the case in releases of this type).

Exact timings are provided, but birth and death dates of composers would have placed them in needed perspective not obvious from their music alone.

In short, these releases break new ground ("chornozem" being fertile) and present both educational values and entertainment appeal on a consistently competent technical level indispensable in contemporary audio. The recordings themselves originate from media studios in Ukraine, while the release tapes are chromium dioxide cassettes.

Each tape is priced at \$12 (U.S.) and may be ordered by sending a check or money order to: Dr. Taras Filenko, 73 Alexander St., Edison, NJ 08820; or to: Lilea Wolanska (L.W. Productions), 11319 46th Ave., Edmonton, Alberta T6H 0A4.

Note: At the time of this writing a third cassette by Wolanska/Filenko has been released for distribution. Titled "American Retro," the tape features U.S. composers as re-arranged by Dr. Filenko. It has received positive advance notices from American musicologists and will be reviewed later this year in this column.



Lilea Wolanska and Taras Filenko.

DATELINE NEW YORK: Catching up on culture

by Helen Smindak

February promises to bring a delightful carnival of Ukrainian dancers, singers, musicians and actors to local concert halls and theaters.

Cleaning the slate for later coverage of these events, today's stories complete my account of cultural events from the final months of 1995.

The policemen's chorus

The kind of performance that makes your pulse race, moves you to sing and dance, and inspires you to cheer and wave flags – that was the feat brought about by the Ensemble of Song and Dance of the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs. The 75-member company, complete with chorus, orchestra, soloists and a small troupe of dancers, appeared at the High School of Performing Arts in Manhattan in October.

Quite appropriately, though it occurred by chance, the group's concert took place the same weekend that President Leonid Kuchma came to town to address the 50th anniversary gathering of the United Nations.

Members of the orchestra and the all-male chorus, attired in drab blue uniforms adorned with gold braid and red-brimmed officers' caps, looked for all the world like military personnel, though they are in fact part of the Ukrainian national police force.

Singing with heart and soul (and occasionally overwhelming their listeners with their amplified sound), the chorus offered marching songs of the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen after World War I days ("Hey, Tam na Hori Sich Ide") and such popular Ukrainian folk songs as "Yikhav Kozak za Dunai" (A Kozak Travels Beyond the Danube).

Impressive effects were achieved by the chorus. There was a moving rendition of Nishchynsky's "Zakuvala Ta Syva Zazulia" (The Gray Cuckoo Calls), and an a cappella performance of Borniansky's reverential "Pid Tvooy Mylist" (Under Your Divine Grace). The folk song "Verba" (Willow Tree in the Meadow), which began quietly, swelled to a mighty roar and faded again to a hush.

Humorous selections like "Tsyhanochka" (Gypsy Girl), complete with whistling, head shaking and tremolo bird calls, brought a rollicking element to the program.

Throughout the concert, outstanding performances were delivered by several soloists, particularly the tenor voices. Among these were Y. Savchuk, B. Kryvoruchko, O. Dudka, F. Melnychenko and A. Haidarenko (initials were listed instead of first names in the concert program). O. Kuleshov amazed the audience as he held one note for what seemed to be two full minutes, without pausing to take a breath, in the song "Oy, Susidko" (Oh, neighbor).

Instrumental numbers that spotlight a nimble-fingered flutist and a folk instrument group (violins, flute, accordion, drum and tsymbaly), and several dance presentations were interwoven between songs. Providing room for the dancers, the chorus stepped back in a V-formation to both sides of the stage. The singers remained there while adding vocal accompaniment and spontaneity to the choreography.

Dance numbers presented by a youthful ensemble of six men and six women included a graceful welcome dance with the traditional offering of bread and salt, a lively Kozaks' dance with lances, a boisterous male trio and the Hopak finale.

Ihor Dlaboha, vice-president of the



The Ensemble of Song and Dance of Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs.

New York chapter of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, noted in opening remarks that the concert was dedicated to the November 1 anniversary of the establishment of the Western Ukrainian Republic in 1918. The sponsoring organization for the ensemble's U.S. tour was the Ukrainian American Federation of Police Officers, with Col. Ihor Rakowsky serving as coordinator of the New York concert.

Founded in Kyiv in 1992, the Ensemble of Song and Dance is led by Lt. Col. Mykola Druzenko (managing director), Lt. Col. Roman Cherepakha (artistic director), orchestral director Vasyl Antonov, choirmaster Valeriy Kachanov and balletmaster Mykola Khriapin. In 1994, the ensemble was awarded first prize for clarity and originality at the international competition Slavic Bazaar.

A library of information

Let's open Volume I (A-F)...here's a listing on Dykanka, a town in the Poltava Oblast that was immortalized by Mykola Hohol, who called his first collection of verses "Evenings on a Homestead near Dykanka, 1831-1832."

Look into Volume II (G-K), and you find descriptions of glass, Golden Gate, hemp, composer/opera singer Semen Hulak-Artemovsky, and the definition of "katsap," the derogatory name applied to Russians by Ukrainians.

Volume III (L-Ph) offers information about Lemkos, Ukrainian modernist painter Halyna Mazepa and Hetman of Ukraine Ivan Mazepa.

So it goes through the alphabet – Olha, Pan-Slavonic, rooster (a common figure in Ukrainian folk literature and mythology; a symbol of faith in the Christian Church), Shevchenko, "Slovo o Polku Ihorevi" (The Tale of Ihor's Campaign), sweetbrier (wild rosebush whose flowers ripen into red hips that are rich in Vitamin C), Volyn, Yaroslav the Wise, Zaporozhian Sich.

What's this all about? It has to do with a five-volume, English-language Encyclopedia of Ukraine that carries over 15,000 alphabetical entries, glossy maps and thousands of illustrations. This is a

reference work that can assist anyone interested in Ukraine, its history, economy, culture, geography, industry and demography, and in prominent figures of Ukraine and the diaspora.

Published in Canada in 1993, the Encyclopedia of Ukraine received its official launching in the U.S. last November at a special event hosted by the New York branch of the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

On hand for the debut were several persons involved in the preparation and funding of the encyclopedia: Leonid Rudnytsky, who heads the Shevchenko Society in the U.S. and is also president of the society's World Council; Prof. Danylo Husar Struk, who served as editor-in-chief; Morris Diakowsky, president of the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies; and Walter Baranetsky, president of the Foundation of Friends of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine.

Scholars, consulting editors, editorial staff and cartographers – some 500 in all – produced the encyclopedia. A video depicting the work involved in the creation of the five volumes was shown at the event.

The heavy volumes, together with a slim map and gazetteer book, have a medium brown cover; the front of each volume bears a gold replica of a sunflower symbol created by artist Jacques Hnizdovsky.

The project, initially visualized by the late Prof. Volodymyr Kubijovyc of Sarcelles, France, was brought to fruition by a triumvirate – the Shevchenko Scientific Society (the oldest Ukrainian learned association), the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies and the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies.

This new resource complements the thematic two-volume Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopedia, which was prepared by the Shevchenko Society, funded by the Ukrainian National Association and published by the University of Toronto Press 25 years ago.

The origin of musical creativity

Do you know what country produced

the largest number of famous Jewish violinists, violoncellists and cantors, the second largest number of Jewish pianists and singers, and the third largest number of Jewish composers in the world?

The answer is Ukraine.

The information was offered by Dr. Alex Yufa of Brooklyn, who delivered a talk on "Ukrainian Jews – Prominent World Musicians" at an academic conference held in December at the Shevchenko Scientific Society's quarters in New York.

The all-day conference, which delved into Ukrainian-Jewish relations, was sponsored by the American Association of Russian Jews, the Society of Ukrainian Jewish Relations and the Jewish Cultural Society. Ambassador Anatoly Zlenko, Ukraine's permanent representative to the United Nations, was present for the morning session.

Dr. Yufa, who spent a couple of years researching the origins of great Jewish musicians, came up with a total of 1,061 Jewish persons in nine faculties with roots in Ukraine.

He added these statistics: Ukraine took sixth or seventh place in the world for Jewish musicologists, and ninth place for Jewish conductors.

Although he could not explain the phenomenon, Dr. Yufa guessed that many factors were at play – "something in the qualities of nature, environment, the land in Ukraine" must have fostered the musical talents and creativity of the Jewish people.

Among world-renowned Jewish artists who came from Ukraine, Dr. Yufa named pianists Vladimir Horowitz and Sviatoslav Richter; violinists Mischa Elman, David Oistrakh and Isaac Stern; flutist Bohdan Hilash; cellist Gregor Piatigorsky; cantors Joseph Schmidt and Gershon Sirota; singer cantor Mordecai Hershman; singer Aleksandr Kipnis, and composers Anton Rubinstein and Karol Rathaus.

He said Jewish musicians in America whose parents came from Ukraine include singers Regina Resnik and Richard Tucker, composer George Gershwin and violinist Itzhak Perlman.

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Mid-season marvels

It is the National Hockey League's age of experience. The results of some informal 1995-1996 mid-season award polls and all-star balloting confirm the old tricks of old dogs continue to amaze.

Pick any position and you'll find that the best players this year have been spinning and weaving their magic at a higher level than their peers for a long, long time.

Thirty-five-year-old New York Rangers' center Mark Messier, in his 16th season, finished second in voting for the Hart Trophy (MVP) at mid-season.

Florida Panthers' goalie John Vanbiesbroek, 32, is the mid-season winner of the Vezina as the league's top goalie.

On defense, Chris Chelios of the Chicago Blackhawks and Ray Bourque of the Boston Bruins occupy their usual positions as blueline powerhouses.

The winner of the mid-season Selke Award for best defensive forward is Pittsburgh Penguins' 32-year-old center Ron Francis, who also stood third in over-all league scoring.

None of these results are really surprising.

But the Penguins' Mario Lemieux and St. Louis Blues' Grant Fuhr are two more thriving thirtysomethings who only one year ago were dismissed as overtaken by the talent-sucking duo of poor health and Father Time. Both have come back with seasons that truly rank among their best.

Lemieux, 30, led the NHL and teammate Jaromir Jagr (by 11 points) in scoring at the halfway mark despite playing only 38 of the Penguins' first 45 games. He was the runaway first-team Eastern Conference all-star center and winner of the league-wide Hart Trophy.

Fuhr, 33, was the only goalie to play in all of his team's games and recorded a goals-against average of well below 3.00. He finished second to Vanbiesbroek in league-wide Vezina voting and second to the Detroit Red Wings' Chris Osgood in Western Conference all-star voting.

Of 14 players (Francis was a dual finalist) who finished among the top three in league-wide voting for the Hart, Norris, Vezina, Selke and Lady Bing Trophies, 10 are age 29 or older.

"Perseverance is a great thing," Fuhr said. "All those guys so far mentioned have perseverance. Part of the (reason) is we should know how to win."

The experts believe the NHL's ultimate power resides in the Eastern Conference. Lemieux, Messier and Philadelphia Flyers' center Eric Lindros finished 1-2-3 in voting for Eastern all-star team centers, the Eastern Hart Trophy and the league-wide Hart Trophy.

The Penguins, Rangers and Flyers dominated Eastern Conference all-star voting by taking 12 of 18 spots.

"Right now," Messier said, "I feel like I can play as well as I ever have. I feel as good as I ever have in my career."

In league-wide Norris voting, Chelios won a three-way race with Bourque and the Rangers' Brian Leetch.

The Chicago defense pairing of Chelios and Gary Suter were partners on the Western all-star first team. They were joined by Osgood, the Winnipeg Jets' Ukrainian left-winger Keith Tkachuk, Colorado Avalanche center Joe Sakic and Vancouver Canucks' right-winger Alexander Mogilny.

The Blackhawks also have the mid-season rookie of the year in hulking 6-foot-4, 215-pound left-winger Eric Daze. Daze, 20, beat out right-winger Daniel Alfordson of the lowly Ottawa Senators

and center Petr Sykora of the New Jersey Devils.

In the Eastern Conference, Lemieux, Bourque, Jagr at right wing and Flyers' left-winger John LeClair were unanimous first-team selections, while Leetch eclipsed New Jersey Devils' defenseman Scott Stevens for the final first-team defense spot.

It is Super Mario, though, who continues to inspire the greatest awe.

"For Mario to be on a 185-point pace, the way the game is played today, he really is playing phenomenal hockey," said the phenomenal Great One himself, Los Angeles Kings' Wayne Gretzky. The pollsters managed to vote Gretzky in as the Western Conference's third team all-star center.

In Fuhr's case, all he wanted the past couple of years was a chance to play. Playing on five teams in six years, and, for parts of that time, not particularly well, lowered his value. Fuhr claims he feels as good as during his glory years in Edmonton. He's also aware his old teammate helped get him a shot in St. Louis.

"I know he made me a lot of money and won a few Cups for me (in Edmonton)," Gretzky said. "He needed a change to get his confidence back, get in shape. He's a great kid."

A kid? Surely you jest, Wayne. But, there are some of those, too, whom voters singled out for recognition. Twenty-one-year-old Roman Hamrlik of the Tampa Bay Lightning and Sergei Gonchar of the Washington Capitals, born two days apart in April 1974, continue to blossom on their respective bluelines.

Paul Kariya, 21, of the Anaheim Mighty Ducks is the second-team right winger in the Western Conference and finished second behind Mogilny in NHL-wide Lady Bing (most gentlemanly) voting.

Florida rookie coach Doug MacLean is the Adams winner as top coach, finishing ahead of Detroit's Scotty Bowman and the Rangers' Colin Campbell.

Ukes abound after season's first round

At hockey's half-way point of the 1995-1996 season, it's time to grab a capsulized view of every NHL team (in order of current standing), with heavy emphasis on Ukrainian contributions (GP-G-A-PTS-PIM). At the recently completed NHL All-Star game in Boston, two Ukrainians participated: King of Kings Gretzky and Capital sniper Bondra. Here goes:

In the Eastern Conference's Atlantic Division, the Rangers seem to have regained their Stanley Cup desires of two years ago. Joey Kocur (25-1-2-3-33) contributes when not injured. Florida is the surprise team of the year so far. Philadelphia's Legion of Doom will push those Rangers down to the wire. Russ Romaniuk (11-3-0-3-6) just may have revitalized his NHL career in Philly. Two of Washington's top offensive threats are Peter Bondra (33-26-16-42-20) and Steve Konowalchuk (40-17-13-30-40). Lightning strikes a bit more often in Tampa Bay this season. Brian Bellows (43-12-12-24-16) has been relegated to a part-time role. The defending champion Devils have lost a few players and a lot of fire power. Ken Daneyko (45-0-3-3-78) remains a pillar of strength on defense. The Islanders have lately rebounded after a truly pathetic start.

A quick glance at the Northeast Division reveals the awesome Penguins on top. With all due respect to Detroit and the Rangers, this looks like the team to beat. The tradition-laden Canadiens

(Continued on page 13)

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Baseball Hall of Famer seeks Caribbean-Ukrainian donors

by Andrij Wynnyckyj

TORONTO — Since January 10, just over 100 Canadians of mixed Caribbean and Ukrainian origin have called hotlines volunteering to donate bone marrow for leukemia-stricken Michelle Carew, adding to the more than 50,000 who have called throughout North America.

Ms. Carew is the 18-year-old daughter of Rod Carew, the Venezuelan-West Indian Baseball Hall of Famer and now batting coach for the California Angels. His wife Marilynn is of Ukrainian Jewish descent.

The campaign was given impetus in the Toronto area by articles in the local newspapers, notably by Marty York of the Globe and Mail, highlighting the situation.

According to Mr. York's original story, "As of [January 9], there had been no match with any of the more than 3 million volunteers registered worldwide to donate bone marrow." Even Michelle's two elder sisters couldn't provide the necessary match.

Mr. Carew, a prolific hitter and one of the few men to flirt with a .400 season batting average since the 1940s, brought his appeal to Toronto based on its reputation as a tolerant, multicultural city, and on the advice of local entertainment entrepreneur and friend Rose Rosa.

The Carews had helped Ms. Rosa in her own battle with cancer some years ago, and now she hoped to return the favor. "Toronto has not only been a melting pot, but has been full of big hearts, and we've always been quick to run and help people," she told Mr. York.

Mr. York quoted an Associated Press story in which Marilynn Carew spoke about the difficulty in finding matches in the U.S. "A lot of minorities aren't in the donor pool to begin with, let alone someone who's like Michelle," Ms. Carew said.

"In 1970, when we got married, interracial couples weren't very popular [in the U.S.]. So there aren't too many products of those marriages old enough [at least 18] to be a donor," Ms. Carew added.

Ms. Rosa related, in another article, that a man from Etobicoke (a suburb of Toronto) called to say there were three black-Ukrainian families with Jewish background at his church. "He said he intended to ask them to get tested," Ms. Rosa told Mr. York.

Mr. York wrote that Mr. Carew is now spearheading a drive to right the imbalance in the bone-marrow donor pool for ethnic minorities, including blacks. "Surprising matches show up in the genetic melting pot," Mr. York wrote, "so Carew is encouraging everyone to volunteer for testing."

Contacted by The Weekly on January 24, Andrea Pronk, a media relations official at the Children's Hospital of Orange County, California, said an exact match for Ms. Carew has yet to be found, and encouraged all potential donors to call in.

Additional information can be obtained by calling Ms. Rosa at Entertainment Management International, (905) 430-5995; the Canadian Red Cross bone marrow registry, 1-(800) 668-2866, and the Children's Hospital in California, (714) 997-3000.

Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 12)

have a new G.M., new coach and a new No. 1 goalie (Patrick Roy has been banished to Colorado). Boston has been devastated by poor defense and poorer goaltending. Buffalo has dumped most of its payroll, going with cheap youth. Among their few positives is Alexei Zhitnik (42-5-17-22-36). The Whalers continue to try new combinations off-ice (head coach) and on-ice (the players still shuffled and dealt). Ottawa has played 43 games and boasts a whopping 17 points.

Out West there are two teams that jump right out as potential Stanley Cup favorites. The top performing squad of this season is once again in Detroit (many competent Russian Red Wings). Chicago started slowly with a rookie coach; Belfour in net, Chelios on defense and Roenick on the forward line should be enough. Toronto is one of many definite disappointments thus far. Dave Andreychuk (40-12-21-33-38) has severely underachieved and is on the trading block. No takers because of his \$2 million salary. Dictator Mike Keenan's iron hand has been felt by one of 20-plus guys who has suffered through Keenan's wrath. The Winnipeg Jets have been cleared to move to Phoenix next year. The Southwesterners should fall in absolute love with Keith Tkachuk (42-27-25-52-71) and greatly admire the rebirth of Eddie Olczyk (31-18-12-30-24). The woeful Dallas Stars seem to be spinning their collective wheels with no plan in place. Richard Matvichuk (40-2-10-12-47) is but one of three hopeful Ukie Stars. Back-up goaltender Darcy Wakaluk (26GP-1316MIN-75GA-6W-12L-5T) and recently acquired winger Brent Fedyk (39-14-7-21-26) are the others.

The Pacific Division of the Western Conference consists of a clear favorite

(the aforementioned Avalanche), four clubs of the same ranking, Anaheim and the retreating San Jose Sharks. Colorado has made great strides in the past couple of years. Curtis Leschyshyn (46-2-8-10-36) is the Avalanche version of Daneyko plus a bit of offense. Vancouver lost superstar Pavel Bure months ago. Dave Babych (26-3-9-12-16) and returning Jim Sandlak (18-2-1-3-6) are but two of several other oft-injured Canucks. Thanks to a mediocre crop of division mates, the Kings of L.A. have managed to stay in the thick of the playoff battle. Wayne Gretzky (46-13-54-67-30) was fourth in the league in total scoring at the all-star break. Dimitri Khristich (43-15-22-37-26) has contributed in his first year here. Kelly Hruby (16GP-901MIN-42GA-3W-6L-5T) has rebounded from a severe ankle sprain to reclaim the top netminder slot. Gary Shuchuk (13-0-6-6-4) has come up from Phoenix to add playmaking. If not for mighty-mite Theo Fleury, Calgary's Flame would be barely flickering. Yet another small-market Canadian team in turmoil is located in Edmonton. Disney's Mighty Ducks are up-and-coming with the exciting Paul Kariya and Oleg Tverdovsky (46-7-15-22-31).

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Harvard Summer Institute announces Ukrainian program

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The Ukrainian Research Institute, in conjunction with the Harvard University Summer School, announces the 26th annual Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute, to be held on June 24-August 16. The intensive eight-week program offers accredited university instruction in Ukrainian studies and provides an opportunity for students to meet faculty and research associates and become familiar with the work of the institute.

Intensive Ukrainian language courses will be offered once again, including: Beginning Ukrainian, Intermediate Ukrainian and Advanced Ukrainian. These language classes, under the overall direction of Halyna Hryn, the institute's new Summer School director, will meet for three hours per day, Monday through Friday, and are offered for eight credit units each.

This year the institute will be offering three courses in addition to the language courses. These are: "Modernism, Feminism and Their Reception in 20th Century Ukrainian Literature" taught by Solomea Pavlychko, senior research fellow, department of literary theory, Institute of Literature, Academy of Sciences of Ukraine; "Modern Ukrainian History: Culture, Church and Society" taught by Borys A. Gudziak, director, Institute of Church History, Lviv Theological Academy; and "Ukrainian Politics in Transition" taught by James Clem, post-doctoral fellow, Russian Research Center, Harvard University.

Each non-language course meets twice weekly for a total of five lecture hours and is granted four credit units. Participants are required to register for a minimum of eight credits and may register for as many as 12 credits.

The Ukrainian Summer Institute's course offerings are enriched by a calendar of special events. The program for

1996 will include screenings of Ukrainian films, a wide variety of cultural events, guest lectures by prominent faculty and guests, and round table discussions on current events in Ukraine. In addition to the institute's offerings, a wide range of activities are available through other programs at Harvard.

The Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute draws a wide range of participants, including undergraduate, graduate and continuing education students, government specialists and businesspeople. In past years participants have come from all over the United States and Canada, as well as from Europe, Latin America, Africa and Australia. Last year nine students from Ukraine participated in the program.

Applicants to the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute must be at least 19 years of age or have attended one year of college. Admission is based on the applicant's academic record, a letter of recommendation and a personal statement.

The program is offered for a reduced fee of \$1,850 (regular Harvard Summer School tuition for eight units of credit is \$2,820). A limited number of students who demonstrate financial need may qualify for a further fee reduction. Students who wish to live on campus may apply for housing through the Harvard Summer School. Full room and board for the eight-week program costs \$2,360.

Applications for the 1996 summer session may be obtained by writing to: Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138 or by calling (617) 495-7833. Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis. Applications are due by June 1; applications received after this date will be assessed a \$50 late fee. Since the number of dormitory rooms is limited and language class size is restricted, candidates are advised to apply promptly.

New Jersey math competition honors Seton Hall professor

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. — More than 150 students from 22 high schools in New Jersey participated in a mathematics competition, named for the late Joseph W. Andrushkiw, professor and past chairman of the mathematics department at Seton Hall University.

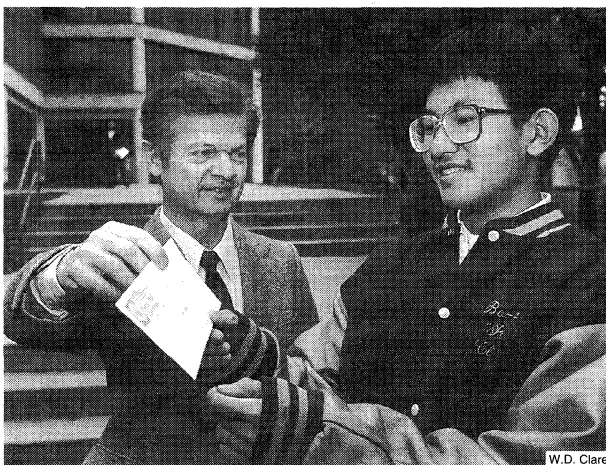
The winner with the highest score this year was Paul Hsu, a student at Hillsborough High School. He also helped his team achieve the highest over-all score in the grueling 90-minute competition, which required solving problems in algebra, geometry, probability, combinatorics, number theory and other topics in mathematics.

The supervisor and coach of the winning team was Maria Hafikovych-Szjij, head of the mathematics department at Hillsborough High School.

The Joseph W. Andrushkiw mathe-

matics competition is sponsored by the mathematics and computer science department of Seton Hall University. The competition has been held annually since 1985 and has attracted many students from high schools in the state. Prizes are awarded to three students and high schools teams that win in the competition.

Jeffery Greenstein of Livingston High School and Robert DelGreco of Fairlawn High School were the winners of the second and third individual prize, and the teams from Fairlawn and Livingston high schools won the second and third places, respectively. The awards were presented by Dr. Roman Andrushkiw, professor of mathematics of the New Jersey Institute of Technology, son of the man in whose honor the competition is held.



W.D. Clare

Prof. Roman Andrushkiw presents award to Paul Hsu, winner of the Joseph W. Andrushkiw mathematics competition.



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Send new releases and information (where publication may be purchased, cost, etc.) to: The Editor, The Ukrainian Weekly, 30 Montgomery St., Jersey City, NJ 07302.

Will the West...

(Continued from page 6)

Like the Communists, Vladimir Zhirinovsky also is committed to the restoration of the Russian Federation to the old boundaries of the Soviet Union. Therefore, on issues involving opportunities to draw Ukraine into Russia's orbit, the Communists can expect cooperation from the 51 members of Mr. Zhirinovsky's LDP. Thus, there is a comfortable majority in the Duma to support imperial ambitions.

In response to the changed composition of the Duma and with an eye on the presidential election of June, President Boris Yeltsin has made significant changes in his administration. Gone is the pro-Western foreign minister, Andrei Kozyrev. His successor is a hard-liner, former spy chief Yevgeny Primakov. He is likely to cooperate with the ambitions of the Communists and nationalists in the Duma to expand the Russian Federation to the old boundaries of the USSR. Key remaining reformers in the Russian government have also lost their jobs; Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais and the president's chief of staff, Sergei Filatov.

This turn of Boris Yeltsin to the right is ominous in itself, and yet it does not preclude the possibility of even more serious consequences: the election of a Communist or a nationalist to the helm of Russia and a turn of Russia to autocracy.

Conclusion

Given the above political develop-

ments in Russia, the close ties between Ukrainian and Russian Communists, and the spread of the cosmopolitan trend in the Ukrainian government and society, Ukraine's independence — or, at least, its internal stability — is at risk. Ukraine has 11 million ethnic Russians (out of a total population of 52 million) within its borders, and millions of Ukrainians are Russified. Although the nation's excellent legislation on minorities has been successful in helping to prevent inter-ethnic conflicts, among many the pull to Russia is strong. Equally strong is the determination of those who want to see their country remain free from Russian domination.

The present focus of U.S. and Western policy on economic reforms in Ukraine is understandable and must continue, but greater attention to subsurface political trends is in order. In particular, an antidote to the cosmopolitan trend needs to be found. This requires not only closer attention to the nuances of Ukrainian domestic politics, but a better understanding of the influence of cultural and linguistic elements within Ukraine than our policy-makers appear to display. A government-to-government relationship alone does not meet America's national interest in present-day Ukraine, especially since its fate is pivotal for the entire Eastern and Central European region. It may be appropriate to be reminded of the case of Iran. U.S. policy-makers closely interacted with the shah and his government, but paid little attention to the mullahs and societal trends. We learned to regret it.

NOTES ON PEOPLE

Physician selected for "Who's Who"

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. — Michael P. Lewko, M.D., chief of geriatrics at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Paterson, N.J., is one of the newest professionals selected for inclusion in International Who's Who of Professionals.

The International Who's Who of Professionals recognizes the achievements of qualified professionals while simultaneously providing a practical, reference-quality business-to-business directory of its exclusive membership. Membership and a biographical listing in this directory is a highly selective process as new members are selected following an in-depth interview and biographical review.

Dr. Lewko has an impressive professional background. St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, established in 1867, is a 792-bed teaching hospital and medical center serving the large urban population of Paterson, Passaic and Clifton, N.J. As chief of geriatrics, Dr. Lewko is responsible for all administration, clinical care and teaching of medical residents, as well as the supervision of 10-15 people.

Concurrent with his position at St. Joseph's Hospital, Dr. Lewko operates his own geriatric-rheumatology practice in Clifton that provides diagnosis and treatment of patients with arthritic and rheumatic conditions. At St. Joseph's Hospital he is the medical director of a 38-bed Geriatric Special Care Unit. He was also instrumental in setting up a subacute care unit in the hospital.

In an outpatient office he runs an interdisciplinary Geriatric Assessment



Dr. Michael Lewko

Program and serves as medical director of a 141-bed nursing home affiliated with St. Joseph's Hospital. Additionally, Dr. Lewko holds faculty appointments at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Seton Hall University School of Graduate Medical Education.

The International Who's Who of Professionals also puts special emphasis on members' professional and civic achievements. Some of Dr. Lewko's accomplishments include: membership in the American Geriatrics Society, American College of Rheumatology, American Medical Directors Association and Ukrainian Medical Association of North America.

He is also a board member of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Alumni Association and is active in the Ukrainian youth organization Plast. Dr. Lewko is a member of UNA Branch 170.

Tamburitzans to hold auditions

PITTSBURGH — The Duquesne University Tamburitzans will hold auditions for their 1996-1997 season on February 7 and 8.

Founded in 1937, the Tamburitzans are America's oldest university-based performing folk ensemble. The 40-member troupe specializes in East European music and dance, including Ukrainian selections, and entertains annually throughout the United States.

Auditions will be held at the Tambu-

ritzan Cultural Center, located at 1801 Boulevard of the Allies in Pittsburgh, and are open to dancers, singers and instrumentalists planning to pursue a college degree after graduating from high school. Duquesne University provides scholarships for accepted students.

For more information about the Tamburitzans and their upcoming auditions contact: Duquesne University Tamburitzans, 1801 Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh, PA 15219; (412) 396-5185.

A postscript...

(Continued from page 9)

Not surprisingly, corruption is widespread. Policemen, for instance, regularly stop cars on the road for the sole purpose of exacting a bribe. Perhaps this is their only source of income. Of course, bribery, embezzlement, nepotism and the like were long-established practices of the Soviet administration.

These are now augmented by the nefarious strategies of a new class of "entrepreneurs" who consider a free market to be the playing field for business, mafia-style. This malaise seems to be epidemic now in all the former Soviet states and republics. To experience it in the real world, as we did, was a considerable shock and raised some nagging questions about the viability of capitalism. Unfortunately, the need to protect innocent people does not allow me to go into the details of our encounters.

For all that, we enjoyed our visit thoroughly. We were treated with embarrassingly generous hospitality by a people suffering severe deprivations graciously. And Kyiv, situated as it is on the banks of the Dnipro river, is a beautiful city. It harbors

many cultural treasures, including several magnificent cathedrals and monasteries. Our tireless guide made sure that we saw as many of them as possible.

Most memorable were the 11th century Lavra (Cave) Monastery with its collection of fine, golden-roofed buildings, and the Byzantine St. Sophia Cathedral with its incredible frescoes from the same period. We also learned about some of Ukraine's great artists, such as the 19th century composer Mykola Lysenko and the poet Taras Shevchenko whose "Testament" I was privileged to recite in the house in which he lived, which is now a museum.

One afternoon, we were able to relax on a hydrofoil boat ride down the Dnipro. Looking back at the city built against and up over a steep and high embankment, its skyline dominated by the spires and golden domes of many churches, one got a sense of more illustrious ages now gone by. It is reassuring to know that in the new, independent Ukraine there is a growing number of energetic and committed people determined not only to make democracy work, but also to restore the country's former glory. They have a long and rocky road ahead of them.

Teaching English in Ukraine Project, sponsored by the UNA, ran successfully for over 4 years. It was one of the first teaching English programs in Ukraine. Over 270 volunteers participated and taught well over 4,000 students in 70 cities throughout Ukraine. Among our volunteers we had architects, businessmen, engineers, judges, lawyers, musicians, pilots, professors, retirees, students and teachers who contributed their expertise, time, funds and most important their good will to aid Ukraine. Presently there is a great need for professional teachers to teach English in Ukraine. It is without a doubt that programs that teach English in Ukraine are necessary and beneficial. The UNA feels it is imperative to support such projects. The focus of the project this year will be somewhat different to best reflect the special needs in Ukraine. Our program this year will be called **English Teachers for Ukraine**. We wish to entice teachers and educators to participate in this project. If you are a professional educator and have the time and willingness to participate in the UNA project, call us for an application. If you approve of projects such as these and wish to aid Ukraine, please make a contribution to the **Fund for the Rebirth of Ukraine — UNA**.

English Teachers for Ukraine

- This New 1996 Project will focus on sending professional teachers to teach English in Ukraine.
- Our co-sponsor in Ukraine is the Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian Society "Prosvita". They will provide room/board and travel arrangements to final teaching destination in Ukraine.
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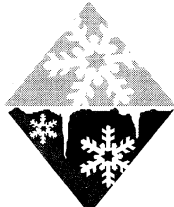
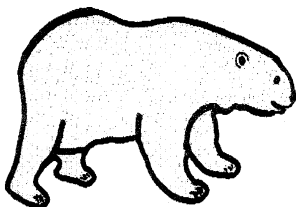
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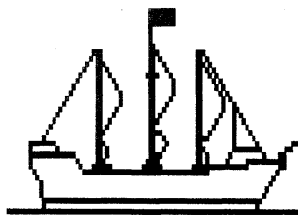
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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

command the BSF, UNIAN reported on January 27. A fleet spokesman told the agency that neither the Russian Defense Ministry nor the Russian Navy Headquarters had received any documents calling for Adm. Baltin's dismissal. (OMRI Daily Digest)

EU levies anti-dumping duty on Ukraine

KYIV — In December 1995 the European Commission introduced provisional anti-dumping duties on imports of unwrought magnesium originating in Ukraine. The commission, governing body of the European Union, is empowered to set uniform tariff rates and act on behalf of injured parties in Union member states. The complaint in this case was brought on behalf of Pechiney Electrometallurgie, a French concern. The commission decided after a two-year investigation that, although Ukraine has been exporting technically to non-Union members, the end users of the magnesium have nonetheless been within the European Union, of which Ukraine was well aware, and that the concomitant effect was to undercut Union producers of magnesium by as much as 40 percent, thereby producing "material injury" to Union industry. According to the commission, Ukraine has captured 7 percent of the Union market, while Union producer shares had declined significantly. In bringing its preliminary order the commission set minimum price per ton for Ukrainian and Russian magnesium at Ecu 2,735, in comparison with a standard EU border price of Ecu 2,701. The commission also decided on allowing Ukraine a 64 percent dumping margin, meaning that any magnesium imports from Ukraine into the EU in a given year above the 64 percent level would be subject to the anti-dumping duty. The commission's preliminary order took effect on December 24, 1995; a final order will be issued within four months thereafter. (Council of Advisors to the Parliament of Ukraine)

Russia, Ukraine call time-out in oil talks

KYIV — The controversy surrounding Ukraine's unilateral increase of transit fees for shipments of Russian petroleum exports to Western Europe has not subsided. The

two sides agreed on January 26 to take a pause in negotiations aimed at ironing out differences between them. Recently Ukraine raised transit fees by 10 percent, a move that has led to temporary shutdowns of the Druzhba pipeline, which traverses Ukrainian territory and is the main conduit for Russian petroleum exports to Western Europe. At the last round of talks, no progress was made. Similar results are expected after talks are to have resumed on February 2. (Respublika)

Ukrainians consume fewer food staples

KYIV — Ukrainians ate less meat, fish and dairy products in 1995, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and reported by City-terelate on January 26. Since 1990, the consumption of meat and meat products has decreased by 43 percent, milk and dairy products by 35 percent, fish and seafood by 82 percent, fruits and vegetables by 27 percent and even bread by some 9 percent. In all categories the minimal daily allowance, as set by the authorities, was not even met. Through the past year, the average daily caloric intake was 2,630 calories (a 5 percent decrease in 1994), of which 44 percent consisted of complex carbohydrates and 13 percent of simple carbohydrates. Protein intake experienced a 3 percent decline from 1994 to 1995. The decrease in tracked food consumption was attributed chiefly to inflation, a decrease in real consumer income and imperfect statistics gathering. (Respublika)

Belarus officials meet with Primakov

MIENSK — Newly appointed Russian Foreign Minister Yevgenii Primakov arrived here on January 30 to meet with Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, his Belarusian counterpart Uladzimir Syanko and Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir, Russian and Belarusian media reported. The leaders focused on Russian-Belarusian integration. Mr. Syanko worried that the pace of economic integration has fallen behind that of military and political integration. President Lukashenka asserted that 90 percent of the Belarusian population supports unification with Russian and that Belarus has made a number of moves in this direction. It is Russia's turn to take the next step, he commented. Mr. Primakov said integration among former Soviet republics did not threaten any country's sovereignty and that the process was irreversible.

Canada's new...

(Continued from page 1)

in Ukrainian success." He continued, "I am guided by the vision of a strong and secure Ukraine with room to grow and prosper, and to fulfill the rich promise of its new, precious freedom."

Ukraine's president was clearly impressed with the new Canadian ambassador, and after formally welcoming the representative of one of Ukraine's special partners, said, "I am pleased to welcome a truly exceptional individual who has learned the Ukrainian language in a short time." He added with a smile, "You could be an example to those in Ukraine who have yet to learn our language."

Clearly warming to the man, after the formalities, President Kuchma spent 45 minutes chatting with Ambassador Westdal in a private wing of the palace, much longer than ceremony requires.

Ambassador Westdal is no stranger to Ukrainian affairs. During his speech he explained that, having grown up in Swan Lake, Manitoba, he met many Canadians of Ukrainian descent. He paid tribute to Ukrainian Canadians, saying "Canada and Ukraine have a special relationship, largely due to the efforts of Canadians of Ukrainian ancestry."

This charming Western Canadian

comes to his new job with an impressive background. His previous posting was as Canadian ambassador for disarmament, in which he participated in the negotiations during which Ukraine agreed to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

He also has served as Canada's ambassador to South Africa, Bangladesh and Burma, as well as director general of International Organizations at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and various positions at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Since being appointed ambassador to Ukraine last July, Mr. Westdal and his wife, Sheila Hayes, have been studying the Ukrainian language.

His new language skills impressed all present at the ceremony, including Ukraine's First Deputy Foreign Minister Anton Buteyko and Ambassador-designate to Canada Volodymyr Furkalo, Canadian Embassy Consul Roman Waschuk and the head of the Canadian Trade Mission Dennis Goresky, as well as the handful of Ukrainian journalists. Mr. Kuchma's translator was the only one who seemed put out, not having anything to do.

In the evening the ambassador and his wife hosted a reception for Canadians living in Kyiv, thanking everyone for contributing to make Canada's reputation in Ukraine a fine one.

Parliament cancels...

(Continued from page 4)

worsening demographics and the 1986 Chernobyl disaster," she said.

Though Ukraine is economically depressed at this time, Ms. Karpachova noted that the majority of Ukraine's 1 million infertile couples have expressed a desire to adopt Ukrainian children. She said that Ukrainian citizens from the Zhytomyr and Dnipropetrovske regions, and the city of Sevastopol have had the longest wait - some over six years - to adopt children.

"The year-and-a-half-long moratorium on foreign adoptions imposed by our Parliament was unprecedented in world practice as a means to resolve this problem. Indeed, it left many orphans unattended," explained Ms. Karpachova, who added that she was not a supporter of the moratorium when it was declared in 1994.

"I knew that this temporary ban would not be a solution to our problems, concerning not only foreign adoptions, but adoptions by Ukrainian citizens as well. Our working group understood that in issues of adoption, permanent laws to monitor adoptions, keep data banks, etc., would have to be endorsed."

Some new adoption procedures

According to Ms. Karpachova, the new law is good news for prospective parents both in Ukraine and abroad.

"Of course, Ukrainians have the prerogative in adopting Ukrainian children," noted Ms. Karpachova, but when a home for children is not found in Ukraine, then the alternative is adoption by foreigners.

"We are not depriving foreigners of the right to adopt Ukrainian children," Ms. Karpachova told a press conference on January 30. "Indeed, we are trying to adhere to the International Convention on the Rights of Children," ratified by

Ukraine in 1991.

Among the list of countries whose citizens can adopt Ukrainian children are those which have signed bilateral agreements with Ukraine (most states have done so). However, she told reporters during a press conference that citizens of countries that have agreements with Ukraine concerning family and adoption matters would be first on the list as prospective parents (after Ukrainian citizens).

The next day she told The Weekly that the United States, Italy, Israel and Canada over the last four years had adopted the most Ukrainian children (471, 155, 70 and 43, respectively), and none of them have family and adoption agreements signed with Ukraine.

"And such documents will be necessary, either on an inter-state, inter-government or inter-ministry level, if citizens of these countries want to adopt Ukrainian children legally," she noted, adding that her parliamentary committee had already forwarded such information to Ukraine's ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice. (Ms. Karpachova was unavailable for further comment, and the issue will be interpreted in detail by April 1, when the law comes into power.)

According to the new provisions, children eligible for adoption are those whose parents have died, whose parents have been stripped of their parental rights or whose parents have given written consent for their adoption. If parents abandon their child in the hospital and do not claim it within two months of the baby's birth, the children can be given up for adoption. Birth parents cannot be coerced into giving up a child for adoption. No child can be given up for adoption before it is born.

Adult citizens of Ukraine, either married or single, can adopt children. Priority is given to family members of orphans and citizens of Ukraine. Others who are given priority are people who

have already adopted a sibling, and people who already have an adopted child.

Adoption facilitators, or commercial agencies, are not allowed to take part in an adoption process, however, Ms. Karpachova explained, this does not include lawyers for the family or notary publics.

Data bank to list orphans

According to the new law, a data bank in Kyiv, which will be up and running within the next year, will collect the names and ages of orphans throughout Ukraine.

Citizens of Ukraine can submit their names and requests for adopting an orphan; they will be matched up with available children. Appropriate papers must then be filed on the basis of which Ukrainian courts will then grant custody.

In the case of foreigners who want to adopt, the, too, will be put into a data bank; according to Ms. Karpachova, their adoption process may take up to a year. They can submit their requests to the data bank, and will be informed by the Ukrainian government when a child becomes available. Then, the prospective parents must travel to Ukraine to submit documents and meet their future child. Prospective parents should expect to spend up to a month in Ukraine when submitting documents, and they must appear in person for the court hearing.

Basically, the difference between Ukrainian citizens and foreigners adopting Ukrainian children is the time frame involved. No newborns will be allowed to leave the country, and the process may take up to a year from the actual date of a request's filing. Also, while Ukrainian citizens who adopt children may wish to seal the child's birth record, adoptions by foreigner will always be a matter of public record.

In cases where a foreigner is married to a Ukrainian citizen, an adoption will be treated as an adoption by a Ukrainian citizen.

Those foreigners who began the adoption process before the moratorium, said

Ms. Karpachova, may be regarded as special cases in Ukraine. She also said the cases of the Ternopil children who now live in Chicago also would be re-examined. This time, "however, they will not be reviewed as a list of names. Each case will be reviewed individually, because now four years have passed, and I'm sure many have found their fate - happiness in a family circle," said the lawmaker.

"But, I think the organizers of this trip in 1992 should be held criminally accountable," she added. "Every child has the right to embrace a family. This is critical. And our parliamentary Committee on Human Rights regards the protection of the rights of a child to be of the utmost importance," she concluded.

Ukraine's coal...

(Continued from page 1)

the leaders of the Coal Mining Workers' Union.

The strike committee announced that the protest action would continue until miners receive back pay.

Coal miners in Russia also went on strike on February 1 to demand payment of back wages. Reuters reported that up to 500,000 miners were participating in the nationwide work stoppage.

But, the miners are not the only ones dissatisfied with the state of affairs in Ukraine. Teachers also have not been paid for months, and more than 2,000 teachers from all of Ukraine's regions picketed the Parliament on January 31.

"We have no political demands, but we are raising questions vital for all of Ukraine's residents," said Leonid Sackhov, chairman of the Educational Workers' Trade Union.

He said the teachers are demanding that their overdue salaries be paid, that the law on "Remuneration for Labor" be put into effect and that the Cabinet of Ministers resolution raising the price of utilities be overturned.

Primakov...

(Continued from page 3)

visit to Kyiv.

News of the dismissal of Adm. Eduard Baltin, the commander of the Black Sea Fleet, by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, will also "bring about a relaxation of tensions which emerged in the leadership of the Black Sea Fleet," said Ukraine's Foreign Minister Udovenko.

The Black Sea Fleet press center reported that Adm. Baltin had been relieved of his duties by presidential decree on January 27, and ordered to turn his duties over to the fleet's deputy commander, Vice-Adm. Gennadiy Suchov, within a 10-day period.

Answering questions regarding the signing of a treaty of friendship and cooperation between Ukraine and Russia, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Dubinin, who traveled to Kyiv with Mr. Prymakov, told reporters that the large-

scale agreement "has been prepared for signing from the very first to the very last page - and this was confirmed by President Yeltsin last April."

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk confirmed that he saw no obstacles to the signing of a comprehensive treaty between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

Mr. Primakov, a native of Kyiv, was originally scheduled to spend a full day in Kyiv on February 1, but cut his stay short, leaving in the early afternoon. Officials of Ukraine's Foreign Ministry said that he was returning earlier to celebrate Russian President Yeltsin's 65th birthday, which fell on February 1.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Udovenko, who was invited by Mr. Primakov to visit Moscow before President Yeltsin comes to Ukraine, had one wish for the Russian leader on his birthday: victory in the presidential elections in Russia scheduled for June.

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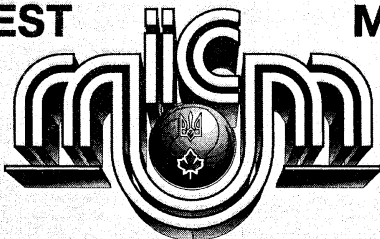
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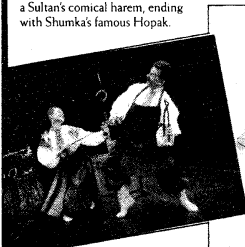
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Wednesday, February 7

ALBANY, N.Y.: The Veryovka Ukrainian National Dance Company will make a stop at the Empire Center at The Egg for a rousing performance featuring Ukrainian folk dance, song and scenic compositions. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for this performance are \$25 for adults, \$22 for senior citizens and \$15 for children 12 and under. For further information and reservations, contact the center, (518) 473-1845.

Thursday, February 8

WASHINGTON: The International Foundation for Electoral Systems presents "Ukraine Roundtable: Constitutional Reform in Ukraine." Speakers include Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak; and IFES legal experts and outside counsel to the Committee on Legal Policy, Law and Judicial Reform of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge Bohdan A. Futey and Steven B. Nix. The roundtable begins at 10 a.m. at IFES, 1101 15th St. NW, third floor. RSVP to (202) 828-8507; fax (202) 452-0804.

Wednesday, February 14
 and Sunday, February 18

WASHINGTON: The American Film Institute is presenting a premier of two recent Ukrainian feature films: Castell's "Onward, in Search of the Hetman's Treasure," and M. Ilienko's "Fuchzhou." The screenings, sponsored by the Cultural Fund of The Washington Group, are at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. on February 14 and 1 and 3 p.m. on February 18. Both screenings are at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. For further information, contact Slavko Nowytski, (202) 219-9733

(daytime) or (202) 338-7636 (evenings).

Thursday, February 15

NEW YORK: The New York Grand Opera/Discovery will present a concert at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, 881 Seventh Ave., at 8 p.m., featuring Olena Heymur, Oleh Chmyr and other artists. For further information call Ala Nowicky, (212) 836-8862.

Friday, February 16

NEWARK, N.J.: The Rukh Educational Foundation of New Jersey will host a public forum with guest speaker Prof. Vitalij Keis of Rutgers University, who will speak on the topic "Donbas: The Neglected Battlefield for Ukrainian National Identity." Prof. Keis will share his observations on teaching Ukrainian literature at the State Pedagogical Institute in Slovianske, where he was a visiting professor in fall 1995. The event will take place at St. John Ukrainian Catholic Church Auditorium, beginning at 7 p.m. For further information contact Dr. Roman Andruskiw, (201) 762-0211.

Saturday, February 17

PEMBROKE PINES, Fla.: The Ukrainian Dancers of Miami will be featured in their fourth "Ukrainian Montage" at the Jim Davidson Theater of the Performing Arts, Walter C. Young Resource Center, 901 N.W. 129th Ave. (just east of I-75 off Pines Boulevard). The concert program will also include bandurist Yarko Antonevych and soloist Bohdan Kryvko. Tickets for the event are available by calling (305) 434-4635. Advance sale prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children age 16 and under; door prices are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children age 16 and under.

PLEASE NOTE: Preview items must be received one week before desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Preview items will be published only once (please indicate desired date of publication). All items are published at the discretion of the editorial staff and in accordance with available space.

Re: Mail delivery of The Weekly

It has come to our attention that The Ukrainian Weekly is often delivered late, or irregularly, or that our subscribers sometimes receive several issues at once.

We feel it is necessary to notify our subscribers that The Weekly is mailed out Friday mornings (before the Sunday date of issue) via second-class mail.

If you are not receiving regular delivery of The Weekly, we urge you to file a complaint at your local post office. This may be done by obtaining the U.S. Postal Service Consumer Card and filling out the appropriate sections.

Harriman course augmented by cultural events

NEW YORK — During the spring semester, the course "Cultural Currents in 20th Century Ukraine," taught by Prof. Yuri Tamawsky at Columbia University's Harriman Institute, will be augmented by two important cultural events.

During the months of February and March, the renowned Lviv-based Les Kurbas Theater will be in residence at Columbia University, invited by the Harriman Institute and the Oscar Hammerstein II Center for Theater Studies. Les Kurbas, the brilliant avant-garde Ukrainian stage director of the 1920s and 30s, perished in a Soviet concentration camp during the purges in 1937. The Kurbas Theater was founded in 1988 and is under the direction of Volodymyr Kuchynsky, a student of the well-known Russian director Anatoliy Vasilyev.

A number of the members of the company have studied at the Jerzy Grotowski Work Center at Pontedera, Italy. The company has also been working closely with the Gardzienice Center of Theater Practices of Wludzin, Poland, under the direction of Wlodzimierz Staniewski.

While at Columbia, the company will conduct a workshop at the Hammerstein Center as well as at the New York-based Saratoga International Theater Institute headed by Anne Bogart. They will give two performances at Columbia's Kathryn Bache Miller Theater, at Broadway and 116th Street in Manhattan, on February 23 and March 22, both at 8 p.m.

The February 23 performance will be "Games for Faust," a play based on Fyodor Dostoyevski's famous novel

"Crime and Punishment," which stresses the Faustian theme underlying the story.

The March 22 performance will be "Grateful Erosdy," a staging of a parable by the 18th century Ukrainian philosopher Hryhoriy Skovoroda, dealing with the issues of upbringing and the parent-child relationship. Both of the plays will be in Ukrainian, with English synopses provided for the public.

The admission price for each performance will be \$15; \$5 for students and senior citizens. For more information, please call the Miller Theater, (212) 854-1633/854-7799; or the Harriman Institute, (212) 854-4623.

On March 19, Virko Baley, the internationally known Ukrainian American composer, pianist and conductor, will give a lecture on Ukrainian avant-garde music. Mr. Baley is the founder, conductor and artistic director of the Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra, the principal conductor of the Kyiv Cammerata and the Kyiv Music Festival, and the producer of the International Ukrainian Music Festival.

His most recent engagements include performances with the St. Petersburg, Moscow and Kyiv Philharmonics, the Kyiv Opera Orchestra, the Young Russia State Orchestra and many others. He has devoted a lot of energy to promoting Ukrainian classical music, especially that of the avant-garde composers.

The lecture will be given as part of the Columbia Music Department's Composer Colloquia series and will be held in 708 Dodge, on the university campus at 116th Street, at 4-6 p.m. The lecture is open to the public.



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