

**INSIDE:**

- Case study: Ukrainian child adopted from Russian orphanage — page 3.
- Polish scholars at Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute — page 6.
- Ivano-Frankivsk celebrates Ukraine's independence — page 9.

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## Helsinki Commission examines volatile developments in Belarus

by Orest Deychakiwsky

WASHINGTON — Over the past year, observers have noted increasing signs of serious political and economic deterioration as President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's increased authoritarianism and human rights repression have become subjects of concern — both within and outside Belarus. A briefing held by the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe examined the volatile political and human rights situation in Belarus, focusing on the scheduled November 24 referendum on extending the president's powers.

Witnesses included: Zyanon Paznyak, chairman of the Belarusian Popular Front who was recently granted political asylum in the U.S.; Jack Segal, director of Ukrainian, Belarusian and Moldovan Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Jan Zaprudnik, leading expert on Belarus and former editor, Radio Liberty Belarusian Service; and Antti Korkeakivi, legal advisor on the CIS, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights.

Mr. Paznyak characterized President Lukashenka as lawless and against all things Belarusian — even his own people. He cited the drastic decrease in Belarusian language schools, persecution of people wearing the traditional national flag or insignia, and the arrests at last spring's demonstrations merely for speaking Belarusian. Citing specific instances, he stated that human rights are "totally ignored" and that Mr. Lukashenka, by ignoring the law, is acting as a dictator.

Mr. Segal outlined official U.S. positions on the situation in Belarus, asserting that "the political character of Belarus as a nation hangs in the balance, with the issues of freedom of expression, human rights and separation of powers at the center of the debate."

While recognizing Belarus' worsening human rights record and unsatisfactory progress in building a democratic system, he argued that the U.S. should not turn its back on the country, but should cooperate where possible to assist Belarus, including engaging "in a dialogue on political reform."

He noted that the U.S. has repeatedly expressed its dissatisfaction with the Belarusian government's intolerance of opposition and exercise of a virtual information blockade against its critics in the electronic media, and will continue to seek Belarus' compliance with the democratic principles it undertook to uphold as a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Mr. Zaprudnik reflected on political and daily life in Belarus based on his most recent visit. He characterized President Lukashenka's method of running Belarus as relatively simple: "Blame the enemy — the Parliament, the opposition parties, the liberal Russian media, the West, the CIA

— through the monopolized media and press" and castigate and fire various public officials. As a result, according to Mr. Zaprudnik, "Folks in the country blame bad officials who get in the way of a good president for their misery."

On the other hand, young people are resisting Mr. Lukashenka's political course and becoming "increasingly active on behalf of democratization, freedom of speech, Belarusian nationhood and cultural rebirth."

Mr. Korkeakivi commented on Mr. Lukashenka's controversial draft constitution — scheduled for a the November 24 referendum — from the human rights perspective, concluding that it "puts forth a system that really undermines the other two branches of power so effectively that the president can interpret human rights provisions without any real check."

He also pointed out that in addition to the content of the draft constitution deserving criticism, the referendum process itself can also be challenged as illegal. Indeed, following the commission briefing, the Belarus Constitutional Court, Parliament and Central Election Commission (CEC) all said the vote should be advisory and have no legal force. President Lukashenka, not surprisingly, has "overruled" the Constitutional Court verdict and related parliamentary decisions, and has removed the chairman of the CEC.

## Ukraine's Communists get involved in negotiations on Black Sea Fleet

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — With the division of the Black Sea Fleet at an impasse, although leaders of negotiations had said they were "virtually complete" a little more than a week ago, the Communist Party of Ukraine has stepped into the fray.

At a November 18 press conference, Communist Party Leader Petro Symonenko said that, thanks to efforts by Verkhovna Rada members of the party such as himself and Borys Oliynyk, leaders of the Russian lower house of Parliament, the Duma, were convinced not to go for a final vote to declare Sevastopol a Russian city.

"Due to our efforts, the matter of the Black Sea Fleet (BSF) has not come up in the Duma," he said, explaining that representatives of the party and members of the Duma had held secret talks in Kyiv in the preceding days.

He went on to state that because the executive levels of both countries had not been able to resolve the issue in recent meetings, talks should proceed at the parliamentary level.

Deputy Oliynyk added, "They sign documents, drink champagne and two days later there are confrontations. It is all useless without ratification by the Verkhovna Rada."

On November 19, Mr. Symonenko announced he will meet with a Russian

Duma delegation in Moscow, which he said is tentatively slated for November 25. He also said he is pushing for a meeting on the BSF between Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz and Russian Duma leader Vladimir Seleznev.

In the last month the Duma first voted in favor of financing the budget of Sevastopol, which is the home to the rusting fleet contested by Russia and Ukraine, and then on March 13 introduced a declaration that Sevastopol "always has been and will be a Russian city." The declaration has not been brought to a vote.

The actions by the Duma, as well as pronouncements by Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov and former National Security Council Chairman Aleksander Lebed that Sevastopol is a Russian city, have thrown into turmoil secret negotiations held between the two countries at the ministerial level.

Ukraine's Vice Prime Minister Vasyl Durdynets and his Russian counterpart, Valeriy Serov, have had a series of meetings over the last month, which had been called productive and peaceful, and led both men and Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma to call a BSF settlement imminent, with only details to be worked out.

However, since the Duma's moves, Ukraine has acted to bring world attention to what it considers Russian tinker-

(Continued on page 14)

## Long-awaited Kyiv center processes foreign adoptions

by Marta Kolomayets

KYIV — On October 22, John and Hanna D. — a married Canadian couple with Ukrainian roots — became the proud parents of 18-month-old Sashko from Zhytomyr after the Kyiv City Court approved their adoption.

They are the first foreign couple to adopt a Ukrainian child since the moratorium on adoptions in Ukraine by foreigners was lifted on January 30 and Ukraine's code on civil procedures was amended and went into effect on July 25 of this year.

"I think it is truly symbolic that the first foreign couple to adopt one of our children is of Ukrainian ancestry," commented Tamara Kunko, the chairwoman of the newly created Center for Child Adoptions, a centralized monitoring agency in Kyiv that is a division of Ukraine's Ministry of Education.

Within the next few days, a couple from Minnesota is hoping to make their long-awaited dream a reality. They are in the process of adopting a 6-year-old girl from Khmelnytskyi, a girl they had their hearts set on when the Ukrainian Parliament levied a moratorium on foreign adoptions in July 1994.

Both couples are now pilot cases in the new rules and regulations for foreign couples wanting to adopt children. According to Ms. Kunko, once their papers were in order, they were able to go through Ukraine's red tape in less than one month.

She also understands that there are still quite a few kinks in the new system, much gray area, and many questions that only time and experience can answer.

But, she remains optimistic about the future of Ukraine's orphans, hoping that the center will provide these children with new, loving families, and stable and secure homes.

Although the info-bank at the center was officially opened on October 1, already more than 1,300 children — ages 2 months to 10 years — from 17 of Ukraine's 25 regions are on the register waiting to find a new home. About 50 percent of these children suffer from illnesses and congenital defects, and they are on the priority list for adoptions — both foreign and domestic.

"But, you won't find too many Ukrainian citizens wanting to adopt the invalids, the sickly and the older children," said Elyzaveta Shypaliuk, who runs an orphanage in Uzhhorod. "We don't have the finances or the medical facilities to help these children," she said.

She and many of her colleagues from all around Ukraine were in Kyiv recently to acquaint themselves with the work of the center, to see how the info-bank works and to discuss the new adoption procedures through this centralized system.

The procedures, created to supplement the January 1996 law on adoptions, are now regulated by law to combat an illegal baby business that began in Ukraine after it declared independence in 1991. This criminal activity forced the Ukrainian Parliament to put a ban on foreign adoptions for two years, until the civil code on adoption procedures was put into force on July 25, 1996.

This code provided for the establishment of the Center for Child Adoptions, which began accepting documents from both Ukrainians and foreigners on October 1. Despite the fact that it has not been widely publicized, the center's list of possible adoptive foreign parents grows every day; as of November 15 there were 50 names in the databank, including 16 couples from the United States and two from Canada.

(Continued on page 3)

## ANALYSIS: To run and when to run — that seems to be the question

by Markian Bilynskyj

KYIV — Speaking at a November 6 press briefing, Volodymyr Horbulin, chairman of the constitutionally created Council on National Security and Protection of Ukraine, declared that “a great deal of tension had appeared within society” over approximately the past month and a half.

He attributed this development to the fact that ever since President Leonid Kuchma's September 16 announcement that he would seek a second term, some politicians have started behaving as though the campaign season had already begun, particularly as regards the presidency. (According to Ukraine's Constitution, parliamentary and presidential elections are not due to be held until March 1998 and October 1999, respectively.) As a result, policy was being distorted by blatant electioneering.

Mr. Horbulin lamented the behavior of some members of the Verkhovna Rada, such as the maverick head of the Committee on the Fight Against Organized Crime and Corruption, Hryhorii Omelchenko, who has recently been leveling a stream of accusations against President Kuchma and top administration officials alleging all manner of violations.

Indeed, a few days ago, the Verkhovna Rada, in what Mr. Horbulin considered a further show of political posturing, had voted on whether to consider impeaching the president for his role — he was prime minister at the time — in facilitating legislation allowing trust companies to work in an unregulated manner. Many of them later collapsed, owing depositors the equivalent of approximately \$35 million. The motion failed by 45 votes.

What seemed to irk Mr. Horbulin most in this case, however, was that the number of deputies who had voted “for” clearly did not correlate with the number physically present. But the fact that voting occurs illegally in the Rada is nothing new and is well documented. Moreover, the administration has always turned a blind eye to this reprehensible behavior whenever it has facilitated passage of favored legislation — including the Constitution.

Mr. Horbulin's mood could not have been helped by the fact that he was speaking the day after reports before the Rada by the heads of Ukraine's security agencies had made it clear that the government's 1993-1995 campaign against organized crime had little impact: this, following the November 3 assassination of Yevhen Scherban, a Verkhovna Rada deputy, prominent businessman and brother of the recently removed Donetsk Oblast Council chairman.

Rumor had linked Mr. Scherban to the July attempt on Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko's life. Immediately following Mr. Scherban's murder, hints were made in some quarters alleging that the prime minister might have somehow been behind Mr. Scherban's demise. Mr. Horbulin categorically dismissed this rumor, identifying it as yet another potentially fertile field for speculation and posturing.

Mr. Horbulin added that the current situation also had a foreign, principally Russian, dimension. The Russian Duma's

October 23 passage of a law calling for halting the division of the Black Sea Fleet (BSF) plus the likelihood that in mid-November it will adopt legislation declaring Sevastopol a Russian city, has complicated relations at a time when Ukraine and Russia are negotiating new arrangements over 1997 gas deliveries and trade; the implication being that, with winter approaching, any Russian linkage of the two issues was bound to affect Ukrainian society negatively.

Most disturbing for the Ukrainian side has been that this time the initiative in the Duma was taken not by the usual suspects but by the “Our Home is Russia” faction of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, whom most Ukrainians see as the most pragmatic and predictable Russian leader.

That the BSF issue continues to go a round in circles like a ship with a broken rudder is no surprise. That it might soon also get drawn into the vortex of Ukrainian domestic politics to a greater degree than before seems fairly inevitable.

There is considerable merit behind Mr. Horbulin's interpretation of recent events. But there is also evidence that the administration must shoulder much of the responsibility for domestic political developments. Thus, Mr. Horbulin's continual inference that the president had acted out of genuine altruism and concern for the country while his prospective opponents are little more than opportunists, fails to conceal the fact that, given the current Ukrainian political environment, President Kuchma's September 16 decision merely opened up something of a Pandora's Box. Time might tell whether Mr. Horbulin was spin doctoring and searching for scapegoats, or whether he was simply displaying symptoms of the kind of self-deception all too common in politics.

Soon after President Kuchma's September 16 announcement, his chief domestic policy adviser, Volodymyr Lytvyn, explained the decision “as an objective process that introduces clarity and an element of stability into ... state and society.” Policy-making and economic stability were being affected by an air of uncertainty that had permeated all levels and branches of state activity. President Kuchma's declaration, Mr. Lytvyn argued, would help overcome this pervasive and “persistent feeling of impermanence.”

Clearly, it has not. Why, then, have things turned out so differently? Moreover, why did President Kuchma feel compelled to announce his intention to seek re-election with three years still to go? Retrospectively, Mr. Kuchma's decision may seem like a mistake, unnecessarily premature. Certainly, President Kuchma appears to have an impulsive streak that occasionally shows and belies his generally laid-back public image. However, it is quite possible that in this case his options were somewhat limited by circumstance.

It is no secret that the contemporary Ukrainian political environment is rather unstructured, even immature. Generally speaking, then, in the absence of political parties and, consequently, lacking the support of any one broad-based party, President Kuchma's chances of re-election will depend in no small measure on his effective control of the executive branch hierarchy, particularly in the localities. The evidence suggests that President Kuchma has been trying to consolidate just this kind of politically reliable and accountable structure. Thus, not only has he over the

*Markian Bilinskyj is the director of the Pylyp Orlyk Institute for Democracy based in Kyiv, which is supported by the Washington-based U.S.-Ukraine Foundation. The Pylyp Orlyk Institute for Democracy was established in 1991 by the USUF as an independent public policy, research and information center.*

(Continued on page 12)

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Caucuses in uproar over draft law

KYIV — Leaders of all caucuses in Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada have signed a statement condemning a draft law on the withdrawal of Ukrainian military from Sevastopol. The bill was proposed by Ivan Symonenko of the Soyuz caucus, who demanded that the Ukrainian “occupational forces” pull out of Sevastopol by July 1, 1997. Mr. Symonenko described Crimea as a Ukrainian colony and Sevastopol as a temporarily occupied city. The Rukh caucus has demanded that Mr. Symonenko be stripped of his parliamentary immunity and prosecuted. It also called for the dismissal of Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz and his first deputy, Oleksander Tkachenko, for “turning a blind eye to the anti-state activities of some deputies.” (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Parliament concerned about Belarus

KYIV — The Verkhovna Rada expressed “deep concern” over rising tensions in neighboring Belarus, where President Alyaksandr Lukashenka and the Parliament are in conflict over a referendum to greatly extend his powers. A resolution passed in Ukraine's Parliament called on “the representatives of executive and legislative authority in this friendly state to display mutual understanding and act exclusively in a constitutional way to maintain democracy and security in the region.” An initial draft of the resolution accused Mr. Lukashenka of undermining the Constitution, but a majority of the national deputies said they should avoid taking sides in the dispute. Nationalist deputies had wanted a stronger statement

mentioning concern about the 300,000 Ukrainians living in Belarus. (Reuters)

### Three neighbors comment on Belarus

WASHINGTON — A joint statement issued by Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine expressing “deep concern over the development of events in the Republic of Belarus” was released in Washington on November 20 by the Embassy of Ukraine. The statement noted: “As the closest neighbors of the Republic of Belarus and with concern about its future, while fully recognizing its sovereignty, we call for resolution of the conflict via constitutional means, while maintaining human rights and civil freedoms in accordance with generally accepted international norms and principles of democracy.” (Embassy of Ukraine)

### Demonstrators clash with police in Miensk

MIENSK — Between 5,000 and 10,000 people took part in a “March of Silence” in Miensk on November 17 to protest President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's proposals to increase his powers. Ten people were arrested, and some 20 were slightly injured. The demonstrators, carrying red and white Belarusian flags, marched on the Parliament building. Mr. Lukashenka dismissed Central Electoral Commission Chairman Viktor Ganchar on November 14, thereby violating the Constitution by interfering in the powers of the Parliament. Meanwhile, First Deputy Parliamentary Speaker Vasil Novikau said the Supreme Council has begun impeachment procedures against the president. By November 18 the Parliament had collected 75 signatures (five more than

(Continued on page 6)

## Kyiv hopes Romania will recognize borders

KYIV — The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry's envoy for special assignments, Volodymyr Vasylenko, stated that Kyiv hopes Romania will recognize Ukraine's territorial integrity following the election of Emil Constantinescu as president, reported the Jamestown Monitor. Mr. Vasylenko noted that Mr. Constantinescu's campaign emphasized the goal of Romania's early accession to NATO and the European Union as a high priority.

The two organizations require countries aspiring for membership to drop territorial claims on their neighbors and to sign treaties of good-neighborly relations, Mr. Vasylenko pointed out. He expressed hope that Bucharest would now move “as expeditiously as possible” to recognize Ukraine's borders and finalize the negotiations toward a bilateral political treaty.

Ukraine's first deputy foreign affairs

minister, Anton Buteiko, speaking to the North Atlantic Assembly, also expressed hope for an improvement in relations with Romania. But Mr. Buteiko asked NATO to defer consideration of Romania's accession to the alliance pending its recognition of Ukraine's borders in a bilateral treaty.

The Western-oriented Mr. Constantinescu and his Democratic Convention defeated incumbent President Ion Iliescu and his leftist coalition in this month's presidential and parliamentary elections. Bucharest until now has directly or indirectly affirmed its perceived title to parts of Bessarabia, Bukovyna and to Serpents' Island, which have been part of Ukraine since the dissolution of the USSR. Negotiations toward a Ukrainian-Romanian bilateral treaty are stalled over Bucharest's demand that the document reflect its position on those territories.

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## Ukraine's most precious resource: Ukrainian child adopted from Russian orphanage

by **Khristina Lew**

FARMINGTON, Conn. — For most American families wanting to adopt a child from Ukraine, the country's extended moratorium on adoptions by foreigners proved an insurmountable hurdle. Some chose to wait out the 18-month ban. Others resigned themselves to adopting a child from Russia.

Natalie and Lee Pollock chose to pursue the Russian route in January of this year, with the stipulation that the child be of Ukrainian parentage. Working against all odds, their agency, the Cradle of Hope Adoption Center, an international adoption agency in Washington that had placed Ukrainian children with American families prior to the moratorium, managed to identify a Ukrainian child in a Moscow orphanage in the spring. By July, 17-month-old Nina had found a home in this affluent suburb of Hartford.

"Only someone with a great deal of tenacity could accomplish what Natalie accomplished," said Mr. Pollock of his wife's determination to adopt a Ukrainian child. "Everyone was trying to talk us out of finding a Ukrainian child in a Russian orphanage, but Linda [Perilstein, executive director of Cradle of Hope] and Natalie kept it going."

Mrs. Pollock had reasons of her own for wanting a Ukrainian child. Born Natalie Korsheniuk, she grew up in the Ukrainian community of Hartford. "Not having participated in Ukrainian community life for some time, I felt that adopting a Ukrainian child was my way of giving something back. If I could take all the children in Ukrainian orphanages, I would," she said.

The Pollocks had tried to adopt a child from Ukraine in the summer of 1995, only to find that the July 1994 moratorium on adoptions by foreigners was still in place. They waited six months, hoping that the ban in Ukraine would be lifted. In January they asked Cradle of Hope to find them a Ukrainian child in a Russian orphanage.

"For any agency, the more narrow you are, the more difficult their job is. We were very narrow — we wanted a child with at least one parent who was Ukrainian. Linda really felt for us," said Mrs. Pollock.

Ms. Perilstein recalls the Pollocks being very clear on

wanting to adopt a Ukrainian child. "Fortunately, Nina was living in a Russian orphanage, so we were thrilled to match her with a family of Ukrainian ancestry," she said.

Nina, whose birth mother is from Ternopil, was identified in the spring. In June, the Pollocks and their 7-year-old daughter, Talia, traveled to Moscow to meet her.

The Pollocks talked of their fear of meeting Nina for the first time. The medical report provided by the orphanage said she had rickets of the third degree. Her feet turned purple when her socks and pants were taken off. She weighed 13 pounds at the age of 16 months.

"We had some unsettling moments. It was a tough experience for all of us. She couldn't walk, she couldn't hold her weight. She was so undernourished. We kept wondering what condition she really was in, whether we could take care of her. It was a big leap of faith," Mrs. Pollock said.

Oddly enough, it was Talia who sealed Nina's fate as a member of the Pollock family. "She never hesitated for a second. She never wavered," said Mr. Pollock.

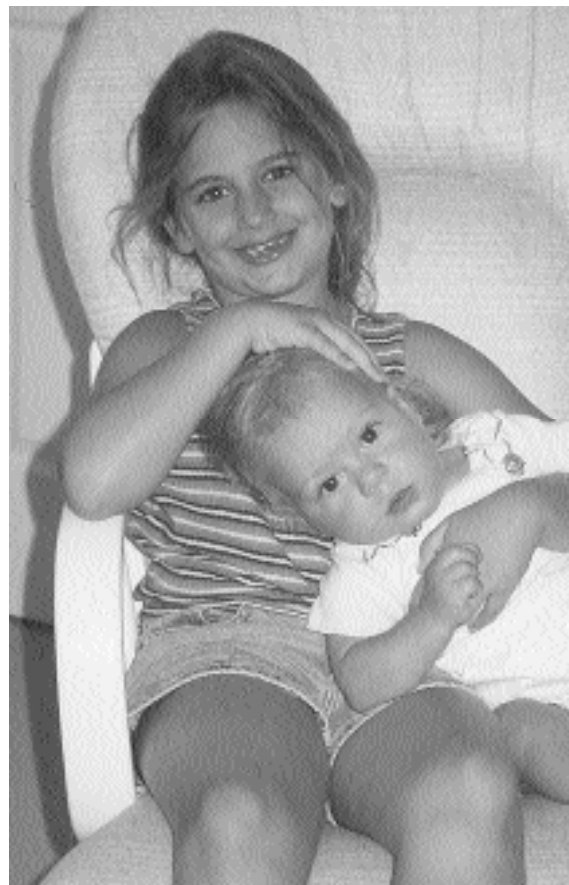
The Pollocks returned to Farmington to await the processing of adoption documents in Moscow. One month later, in July, Mrs. Pollock traveled back to Moscow for nine days to conclude the adoption.

Cradle of Hope provided her with an adoption coordinator, an interpreter, a driver and a place to stay. She was allowed to visit with Nina for one hour, four out of six days. "In that one week of feeding her and giving her vitamins, her appearance changed drastically," she recalled.

A week after Nina arrived in Farmington she had gained 2 pounds. Subsequent X-rays of Nina's wrists and knees revealed she never had rickets. Mrs. Pollock explained that Nina's medical records exaggerated potential physical problems in order to expedite her adoption. Those who work in international adoptions agree this is common practice.

At 20 months Nina weighed 22 pounds. According to her parents, she eats "everything," plays "peek-a-boo" with Talia, and in early October began walking. "It's like watering a flower and watching it bloom," said Mr. Pollock.

*Cradle of Hope Adoption Center, in conjunction with Family Service of West Chester, will hold an informa-*



**Talia and Nina Pollock**

*tion meeting on international adoptions in White Plains, N.Y., on February 3, 1997. For more information call (914) 948-8151. Additional information meetings will be held in New Jersey, Chicago, Kansas City and St. Louis in the future. For more information call Cradle of Hope, (301) 587-4400.*

## Long-awaited...

(Continued from page 1)

Besides Ms. Kunko, herself an orphan who has worked as a teacher in orphanages and foster homes/dormitories ("internaty") for 25 years, the government-funded center also includes Dr. Oksana Hudz, a pediatrician/consultant, a psychologist and two lawyers, who help both Ukrainian citizens and foreigners with the legal paperwork and the court hearing associated with the adoption procedure.

Newborns who are given up for adoption are registered at the info-bank after they turn 2 months old. Prior to that they are registered at the raion (district) level for one month, after which they are turned over to the oblast registers for another month. If, at that point, they are not adopted by Ukrainian citizens, their names are transferred to the central agency in Kyiv.

The Kyiv databank also accepts information from both Ukrainians and foreigners looking for an "adoptable" baby.

Priority is given to potential parents of a specific child in the following order:

- relatives of the child (including relatives who live outside Ukraine);
- citizens of Ukraine;
- the family with which the child is currently living;
- families also adopting blood brothers or sisters of the child;
- citizens of foreign countries having bilateral agreements with Ukraine on protecting the rights of the adoptive child; and
- citizens of foreign countries that do not have such bilateral agreements.

Foreigners married to Ukrainian citizens follow the much less complicated procedures for Ukrainian citizens wishing to adopt Ukrainian children.

The center's employees make sure the documents (eight in all) are in order, and the process of matching up an orphan with new parents begins. The parents can specify the sex and age of the baby they are looking for, as well as the region the baby comes from.

When a match is made, the center noti-

fies the potential parents that they may travel to Ukraine to meet the child; if both sides take to each other, it is all a matter of time before the child joins its new parents — after a court date is set for a hearing.

The eight documents — as well as a letter of intention to adopt a Ukrainian child — must be translated into Ukrainian and notarized by Ukrainian consular divisions in the U.S., Canada or the native country of the prospective parents. They include:

- a home study, including biographical data, immediate family composition, living space, etc.;
- permission from local (domestic) authorities allowing the child to live with the couple. (Here Ukrainians have applied Soviet laws — i.e. the system of registering a person at a specific address in a specific city, known in Ukraine as a "propyska" — to foreigners);
- a document outlining the family's financial status, including income and savings;
- medical reports on the status of the prospective parents' health;
- a copy of the parents' marriage license (if they are married);
- a copy of the parents' passports;
- a document which shows that neither prospective parent has a criminal record;
- a guarantee from the prospective parents that the adopted child will be registered with the Ukrainian Consulate in their region within a month of the adoption and the promise that information about the child will be periodically (no less than once a year) reported to the consular division until the child turns 18. This last document should also grant permission to Ukrainian consular officers to keep in contact with the child, who, according to the law, should remain a Ukrainian citizen until age 18.

"Some of these demands are totally unrealistic and hardly feasible," said Brian Naranjo, who served as vice-consul for two years at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv until September of this year.

For example, he said the demand that Ukrainian consular officers visit with the

adopted children contradicts a person's right to privacy in the United States.

It is also unlikely that an American will be understood when he/she goes to the mayor of the town where he/she resides to ask for permission to have their prospective child registered in that town.

Given the costs of traveling to and from Ukraine, Ms. Kunko has said that the preliminary paperwork does not have to be delivered to the center in person. It can be mailed, or the responsibility of turning over the paperwork can be given to a person in Ukraine notarized by the prospective parents to handle the logistics. The new law also allows for a foreign facilitator to represent the interests of the parents until they receive a court date.

Despite the fact that Point 11 in the January 1996 law forbids any commercial agencies to take part in adoptions, Ms. Kunko said that in the future the center may work with legitimate adoption agencies. She made it very clear during a recent interview, however, that priority would be given to working directly with the prospective parents.

"Adoption agencies can provide consultations, but we want to know the people who are adopting our children. And, I must stress, at least one of the parents, and preferably both, must be present at the court hearing," she added. No third parties may take custody of the child before adoption.

She also emphasized that the waiting period for prospective parents who want a healthy child is one year, giving Ukrainian citizens the priority to adopt a healthy child. Once the one-year waiting period is up, the prospective parents can expect a call or a letter from the center; they can then travel to Ukraine to meet their new son or daughter and proceed with the court hearing.

Ms. Kunko emphasizes that the center does not take any money for its services; the lawyers take an administrative fee for processing the paperwork. (Foreigners have a choice of using either their own lawyer or the center's employees.)

Both the Canadian and American cou-

ples mentioned at the beginning of this article have adopted children that suffer from congenital problems. Little Sashko has been diagnosed with a congenital developmental birth defect that requires immediate surgery. (He is currently in England undergoing such an operation.)

The 6-year-old girl adopted by the American couple also has some cardio-vascular problems and needs medical attention.

Ms. Kunko noted that by December 1, the Ukrainian Ministry of Health is to produce a new list of medical problems that cannot be treated in Ukraine, thereby setting priorities in adoption procedures for children suffering from various illnesses.

Currently, the list includes everything from the very serious illnesses such as cardio-vascular diseases, congenital birth defects and respiratory tract illnesses to deformities that can be easily corrected by cosmetic surgery, a field not well developed in Ukraine.

For information, prospective adoptive parents can contact the Ministry of Education's Center for Child Adoptions in Kyiv by writing to the center: 27 Taras Shevchenko Blvd., Kyiv, Ukraine 252032, or calling (380-44) 246-5431, 246-5432, 246-5437, 246-5449 or 246-5452.

Interested individuals should also be advised that it is important to contact their embassies in Ukraine to be clear on adoption/immigration procedures.

For example, U.S. citizens who want to adopt Ukrainian children must follow a three-step U.S. process. Generally speaking, the first step involves pre-approval by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (domestically), and includes a home study, medical examinations, a police check, etc. The second step takes place in Kyiv, after the child is already adopted; typically this is a one-day orphan investigation to check if the circumstances of the adoption are legitimate. Finally, the third step is the actual immigrant visa processing at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw. (The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv is not equipped to handle this paperwork.)

## Exhibit and program focus on "Chornobyl: Our Tainted Future"

BALTIMORE – With generous contributions from sponsors, and donations of photographs from within and outside the Ukrainian community, an exhibition, "Chornobyl: Our Tainted Future," was organized here by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (Chapter 80).

The exhibition was made possible through the generous contributions of individual and corporate sponsors, and in part with funds from the Maryland Humanities Council, through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The photographs and drawings are on loan from individuals and organizations such as Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist, The Chornobyl Committee of Washington, the Embassy of Ukraine, Alexander Sich, UNWLA Social Welfare Fund, the Ukrainian Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (courtesy of the Bilyk family) and The Ukrainian Weekly.

The exhibit featured photographs of the exploded reactor, the abandoned communities and the faces of those who suffered the effects of radiation, and depicted the lives of some of the 250,000 people who still live within the contaminated zone.

In addition, children's drawings from a larger collection of commissioned works by school children in Kyiv – those who lived in the contaminated zone – showed the children's sorrow over this tragedy.

The exhibition opened with a Saturday evening reception hosted by the UNWLA and attended by a diverse audience of more than 160 people. Yaroslav Voitko spoke on behalf of Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, who acknowledged the significance of such exhibitions in conveying the message of this disaster.

Guest speaker Dr. David Marples of the University



Guest speaker David Marples with members of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

of Alberta and the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies eloquently reflected on the history of the accident of April 26, 1986, and effectively described the many trials and tribulations that resulted from this accident. The high radiation levels released by this explosion have had significant health, economic and environmental impacts on the lives of the people who

remain in the region, as well as on the entire international community.

The exhibition is on display in a public space at the top of Baltimore's World Trade Center, 401 E. Pratt St., until November 30.

For more information about the exhibit, contact Sophia Caryk, (301) 854-2062.

## Ukrainian American Veterans convention prepares for 50th anniversary

by Stephen M. Wichar Sr.

PHILADELPHIA – With a clarion call for a 50th anniversary convention at Soyuzivka in 1997, Ukrainian American Veterans who served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf gathered in the City of Brotherly Love on September 20-22 to mark their 49th year of activity.

Under the leadership of Chairmen Edward Zetick and Lubomyr Tryciecky, assisted by Walter Senyshyn, the three-day agenda was efficiently conducted.

With military standards raised, the UAV began its 49th Convention after registering all delegates on Friday morning. Probably the most disappointing aspect of this conclave was the ever declining attendance of delegates from key states, both from the East and Midwest. Representatives voiced their concerns and expectations about veterans' problems, the need for a greater commitment to Ukrainian American communities and seeking ways to foster a growth in membership.

After the general business was completed (minutes, credentials, reports by outgoing officers and the like), delegates were assigned to the following committees:

Auditing, Constitution and By-Laws, Research and Documentation, Future Convention Sites, Ways and Means, Membership, Welfare, Resolutions, Rites and Rituals, and Nominations.

National Commander Dmytro Bondarczuk then suspended the afternoon plenary session so that the committees could meet in conference and prepare reports for the following business day.

On Friday evening, a traditional Hospitality Night was held for all delegates and guests, courtesy of the Philadelphia Convention Committee. There was an excellent choice of buffet, and the refreshment bar was always abundant. The party was enhanced by a volunteer "chorus" that sang and sang. It was a memorable evening.

On Saturday morning, the committee chairmen presented their findings and recommendations. After lengthy deliberations, the Nominations Committee presented a list of candidates for the 1996-1997 term.

The following were nominated and elected: National Commander Bodnarczuk (New City, N.Y.), Senior Vice-Commander Steven Szewczuk (King's Park,

N.Y.), Financial Officer Michael Wengryn (Clifton, N.J.), Judge Advocate Matthew Koziak (Highland Park, N.J.), Adjutant and Historian Vasyi Luchkiw (New City, N.Y.), Quartermaster Roman Didycki (Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich.), Chaplain and Service Officer Myroslaw Pryjma (Warren, Mich.), Welfare Officer Bohdan Samokyszyn (Parma, Ohio), Scholarship Officer Michael Demchuk (Seven Hills, Ohio), Publications and Public Relations Officer George Miziuk (Windsor, N.J.).

Simultaneously with the UAV's deliberations, the National Ladies Auxiliary conducted its own business sessions. A Nominating Committee proposed the following women to the Auxiliary Executive Board: President Rosalie Polche (Sunnyside, N.Y.), Senior Vice-President Irene Pryjma (Warren, Mich.), Junior Vice-President Ann Bezkorowajny (Monroe, N.Y.), Secretary Olga Wengryn (Passaic, N.J.), Treasurer Harriet Dusanenko (New City, N.Y.), Assistant Treasurer Amelia Berezowsky (Philadelphia), Judge Advocate Pauline Pender (Farmington, Conn.), Chaplain Pauline Pender (Plainville, Conn.), Historian Jean Elnick (Warren, Mich.), Service Officer Alberta Baitinger (Warren, Mich.), Sergeant-at-Arms Nadia Wichar (Clinton Township, Mich.) and Welfare Officer Helen Drabyk (West Palm Beach, Fla.)

A large number of delegates and guests attended the convention banquet at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center. The presentation of colors was executed by the United States Navy Color Guard, and both the American and Ukrainian national anthems were sung by the audience led by members of Michigan's Zoloti Dzvony.

Past National Commander Zetick provided the welcoming remarks. After thanking the audience for a successful turnout, Mr. Zetick declared that Philadelphia was proud to host the 49th Convention as a preface to the UAV's forthcoming 50th birthday in 1997. He then introduced Past National Commander (PNC) Luchkiw as the master of ceremonies.

After briefing the audience about issues and conditions in Ukraine, Dr. Luchkiw called on PNC Eugene Sagac to act as the evening's installation officer with PNC Atanas Kobryn assisting as the aide-de-camp. The newly elected officers of both the UAV and Ladies Auxiliary were installed during a formal military ritual. Acceptance speeches for both units were delivered by Commander Bodnarczuk and President Polche.

The first speaker for the evening was Ted Zenuk. He enumerated the beginnings of the UAV when



Keynote speaker Anna Krawczuk addresses the UAVets convention. To her left are officers and honored guests who were seated on the dais.

(Continued on page 13)

# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## Longtime secretary of Branch 29 retires

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. — Olga Alice Malischak secretary of UNA Branch 29, retired after 57 years of service to the UNA.

In 1938 to 1950 she worked alongside her late husband, Michael Malischak; and after his death, she took over the secretary's duties.

Mrs. Malischak was very active in Ukrainian affairs throughout the valley. She was also the first woman district chairperson of the UNA and was re-elected to chair the district committee that embrace branches in the Anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania. She was also a delegate to the last 11 UNA conventions.

During the Malischak reign, and with the help of the late Gregory Herman and the late Katherine Lukacz, there was much activity, such as bringing the Ukrainian Bandurist Choir to the Irem Temple for the first time, a big banquet with about 400 people in attendance for the late Gregory Herman, a Mothers' Day banquet and numerous other parties to mention. The meetings at that time were held at the Malischak and Lukacz homes.

Members of Branch 29 wish Mrs. Malischak a healthy and long life.

As of December 31, Branch 29 will merge with Branch 282. The new secretary will be Mary Bolosky, 311 Wright Ave., Kingston, PA 18704-4613; telephone, (717) 288-4056. It should be noted that Mrs. Bolosky comes from a long line of UNA activists.

## UNA Detroit District concentrates on organizing matters



Participants of the organizing meeting of the UNA's Detroit District Committee.

by Stephen M. Wichar Sr.

WARREN, Mich. — A mandated all-day organizing meeting of the Ukrainian National Association's local districts took place here on October 27. The UNA District Committee of Detroit/Windsor/Toledo, hosted Alexander Blahitka, UNA treasurer, the visiting officer from the Home Office.

About 22 delegates attended the conclave. After brief welcoming remarks, Dr. Alexander Serafyn, the district chairman and a UNA advisor, introduced Mr. Blahitka. Instead of following a rigid and formal agenda, Mr. Blahitka opted for a short summation of statistical data as they relate to Detroit, and then moved on to an

open meeting of questions, commentaries and answers. This relaxed dialogue proved to be refreshing and elicited an aggressive discussion.

Mr. Blahitka began by underscoring the highlights of Michigan's UNA activities. He especially applauded the UNA Family Day held last August. The speaker pointed out that on the roster of 30 UNA districts in America and Canada, the Detroit area placed fourth, reaching 40 percent of its assigned quota. Fourteen branches, enlisted 46 new members for cumulative insurance coverage of \$468,041.

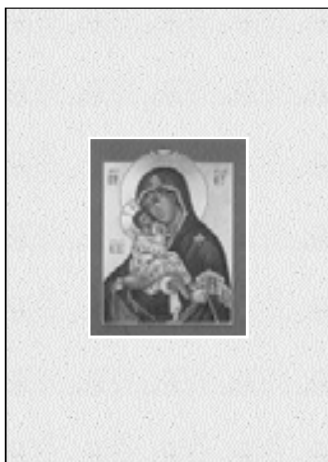
Many other issues also were discussed. In a free exchange of comments between the speaker and district's UNAers, Mr.

Blahitka ably and skillfully fielded the more complex questions, including the sale of the UNA building, the employment of professional life insurance sales staff, the progress of merger talks with two other Ukrainian fraternal associations, expensive student scholarship programs and lack of reciprocal UNA involvement by recipients, the merger of defunct branches, and the late reporting of local UNA activities by both Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly. Equally important, but of a technical insurance nature, were questions by branch secretaries.

After a summary by Dr. Serafyn, the workshop was adjourned. A light repast and refreshments were served to all participating delegates.

I wish to support the Ukrainian National Foundation Inc.  
of THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
and enclose herewith my contribution and donation for the Christmas cards.

(Consider sending a box of Christmas cards as a gift to a friend.)



The Ukrainian National Association has published new Christmas cards for the 1996-97 season. The faces of the Christmas cards depict six different Ukrainian icons painted by Ukrainian artists from the USA — Mychajlo Dmytrenko from Warren, Mich.; George and Yarema Kozak from Detroit; Andrij Maday from Cleveland; Lidia Piasecky, E. Northport, N.Y.; and Halyna Tytla from Tuckahoe, N.Y. These artists continue to promote the art of Byzantine icon painting.

All proceeds from the sale of these Christmas cards are designated as a donation to aid Ukraine. Contributions are tax-deductible through our Ukrainian National Foundation. Your donation and participation enables you to unite in the Christmas spirit with family and friends throughout the world.

Order your Christmas cards today and they will be mailed out to you immediately. Remember: spread the spirit of Christmas giving by sending these cards and thus aiding our brothers and sisters, family and friends in Ukraine.

1 Box — (12 cards) ..... \$12.00      Donation \$.....  
Additional Order .....@ \$12.00      \$.....  
Total Amount Enclosed \$.....

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please type or print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Ukrainian National Foundation Inc.  
of the Ukrainian National Association  
30 Montgomery Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302  
Tel. 201-451-2200

501 (c) (3) status — All donations are tax-deductible.

Should you wish to order a larger quantity of Christmas cards, please call us directly.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### The UNA takes stock

The Ukrainian National Association's General Assembly recently concluded its annual meeting at Soyuzivka. After the quadrennial UNA convention of delegates (who are elected by UNA members on the local level), the Assembly is the most important decision-making forum for this oldest and largest Ukrainian fraternal benefit insurance company. Thus, it is worthwhile to take a minute and examine the ramifications of the General Assembly's latest meeting.

It may seem, at first glance, that there was not much to report from this meeting, that there were no monumental decisions as there were, say, at the May 1995 session, which made several difficult decisions in order to ensure the financial strength of the UNA. However, this year there were intense discussions at plenary sessions, at committee deliberations, and in discussions among the UNA's officers, advisors, auditors and honorary members of its General Assembly. These were a much needed follow-up to the Assembly's November 1995 special meeting at which members checked on progress made in implementing the decisions made six months earlier.

The 1996 General Assembly session reviewed the status of proposed mergers involving the Ukrainian Fraternal Association and the Ukrainian National Aid Association of America. Though stalled by certain technicalities and requirements of various insurance departments, these mergers — which will result in an even larger and stronger Ukrainian fraternal organization — are still on track.

The 1996 annual meeting was a session at which the UNA began to take a serious look at itself, where it stands today and where it hopes to be tomorrow. The resolutions and recommendations proposed by the Assembly's committees, and subsequently adopted by the entire body, reflected that atmosphere. (The full texts of the resolutions and recommendations will be published in *The Weekly*.) To wit, as a result of a proposal by the Resolutions Committee, the General Assembly resolved that the UNA consider and adopt "a concise mission statement setting forth with specificity the role the Ukrainian National Association intends to play within the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities," and it advised that a specific time slot be set aside at the 1997 meeting of the General Assembly to compose that statement.

At the same time, the Assembly passed a resolution that recommitted the UNA "to supporting and working with Ukrainian Americans and Ukrainian Canadians, Ukrainian educational institutions and religious and civic organizations" in "preserving, promoting and developing our rich Ukrainian heritage, language, culture and the arts."

For that same reason, the Assembly voted to continue supporting and subsidizing the UNA's most important fraternal assets, its two newspapers, *Svoboda* and *The Ukrainian Weekly*, and its year-round resort, Soyuzivka. Assembly members also approved continuation of the UNA's support for schools of Ukrainian studies and pedagogical courses for their teachers, student scholarships and the Kyiv Press Bureau, as well as projects that provide aid to Ukraine.

Indeed, these resolutions jibed with a statement made by the UNA's president, Ulana Diachuk, who had pointed out in her opening remarks to the General Assembly that the UNA must proceed in its activity, but that it must take note of the spirit of the times, while staying true to its time-honored tradition — its 102-year record — of caring for the well-being of its members and the Ukrainian community at large.

Therein lies the strength of the UNA: it cared and it cares. It is and will remain more than an insurance company, for a fraternal organization's *raison d'être* is to provide for its members and to act on their concerns.

And that, dear readers, is why the UNA will remain strong for years to come. As long as the Ukrainian community exists, as long as there are Ukrainians who join the UNA and work on Ukrainian projects, there will be a UNA to stand behind them like a caring father figure, known as "Batko Soyuz."

Nov.  
26  
1852

### Turning the pages back...

Yosyp Tymchenko was born on November 26, 1852, in Okip, a village about 50 miles northwest of Kharkiv, and worked in the machine shop of Kharkiv University, where he

taught himself the fundamentals of mechanical engineering.

Eventually settling in Odesa, he worked in the factory of the Russian Society for Steamships and Trade, and in 1880 established a physical-optical machine shop at that city's university.

A tireless inventor, his creations included a signalling device for railroads, an apparatus for detecting defects in rails and cranes, and an assortment of new types of devices ranging from atmospheric pressure meters to seismographs.

Tymchenko also built a working model of the first telephone switching station in the world. However, his most important invention was a "stroboscope," which he assembled together with the physicist Nikolai Liubimov and the inventor Max Freidenberg.

This device, which projected "live pictures," was first demonstrated in Odesa in November 1893 and in Moscow the following January at the ninth All-Russian Congress of Naturalists and Physicians. Although the invention was met with acclaim in the scientific community, Tsar Nicholas II refused to give the project the necessary financial support.

A similar device was patented by the brothers Lumière in France in 1885, and a year later they toured the Russian empire with it. In the early 1920s, Tymchenko's students formed Kinap, the Soviet Union's first movie company. The inventor died in Odesa on May 20, 1924.

Source: "Tymchenko, Yosyp," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. 5 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993).

## Delegation of Polish scholars visits Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard

by Margarita M. Balmaceda

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The emergence of independent Ukraine is changing the geopolitical map of Europe, and this fact has not escaped Ukraine's neighbors to the West. A proof of this has been the establishment of the Institute of Eastern Studies (Osrodek Studiów Wschódnych) in Warsaw.

Three members of the IES visited the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute for a week this month at the invitation of HURI's new director, Prof. Roman Szporluk. The three visitors were Dr. Marek Karp, director of the IES; Dr. Mariusz Sielski, editor of its journal *Eurazja*; and Dr. Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska, director of the IES's Russian program.

The visitors participated in a roundtable organized by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute on "Current Polish Research on the Former Soviet Union and Independent Ukraine." During the seminar, the three guests gave an overview of the history and activities of the IES and discussed Polish policy towards independent Ukraine.

As Dr. Karp highlighted during his presentation, building economic links with Ukraine and other newly independent states is a priority for Poland. Indeed, the establishment of the IES, and the economic support it receives from the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, is proof of this. This is not surprising, because after the collapse of "cooperation by decree" under the old Soviet system and the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance, establishing new forms of economic cooperation from below has required detailed research and information. Monitoring the economic and political situation in Ukraine and the other newly independent states is indeed the main area of the IES's activity.

Dr. Sielski pointed out that the Institute of Eastern Studies not only conducts research projects, but also acts as an information clearinghouse for possibilities for economic cooperation. The institute publishes several biweekly and monthly newsletters in Polish, Ukrainian and Russian on the economic, legal and political situation in the countries involved. The IES's flagship publication, the quarterly journal *Eurazja*, published since 1993, provides in-depth analysis of the political and international situation in the former Soviet Union. Recent issues of the journal have focused on Ukraine,

*Margarita M. Balmaceda is assistant professor of political science, University of Toledo in Ohio, and visiting fellow, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute.*

## Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

needed) to start the impeachment process. That same day Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir resigned in protest over the president's proposed referendum, and President Lukashenka promptly named Syarhei Linh as acting premier. Meanwhile, in Russia, though the government had not taken a position on the crisis in Belarus, its minister for CIS affairs, Aman Tuleyev, had insinuated that Western opposition to Mr. Lukashenka's staunch support for integration with Russia had triggered the crisis. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Ukraine may restart a Chernobyl reactor

KYIV — Ukrainian nuclear authorities prepared plans to restart Chernobyl reactor No. 2, which was shut down in 1991 after a fire. Valerii Idelson, spokesman for

the Caucasus and Russia. (For more information, the journal may be contacted at [eurazja@uxa.osw.waw.pl](mailto:eurazja@uxa.osw.waw.pl))

Dr. Magdziak-Miszewska, former deputy chief of the Polish Mission in Moscow (1991-1995) and a Solidarity activist, focused her presentation on Poland's policies towards independent Ukraine. As she emphasized, Ukraine's independent statehood is essential for Poland's future. Thus, the support of Ukraine's independence is one of Poland's foreign policy priorities, and both countries have started to work on a "strategic partnership" that includes economic cooperation, high-level political contacts and confidence-building measures in the military area.

As emphasized by Dr. Magdziak-Miszewska, the Polish-Ukrainian partnership is not aimed at isolating Russia, but rather at helping build a more stable and democratic international system in the area. From the Polish perspective, it is essential to prevent Ukraine from becoming isolated internationally or even becoming a "buffer state" between the West and Russia in the wake of NATO expansion (which is expected to include Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary, but not Ukraine). Thus, a variety of links must be established, both at the political and at the grassroots economic level.

All the speakers emphasized the tremendous interest in Ukraine that exists in Poland, especially among young people. This interest goes beyond security issues, but extends to all things Ukrainian: the country's language, culture and history. Such interest helps overcome historical disputes between both countries, and bodes well for the future of Polish-Ukrainian relations.

In addition to their presentations at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, the guests from the Polish institute participated actively in the annual convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, which took place on November 14-17 in Boston.

Dr. Magdziak-Miszewska made a presentation on "Ukrainian-Russian Relations: The Polish View" at the panel "On the Difficulties of Negotiating the Russian-Ukrainian Partnership Treaty." This panel brought together HURI associates Drs. Zenovia Sochor, Lubomyr Hajda and this writer, as well as HURI's director, Dr. Szporluk, for a discussion of the future of Ukrainian-Russian relations.

The visit of the Polish researchers is part of the ongoing efforts of the Ukrainian Research Institute to put the study of Ukraine in a broader and more international context, especially with regard to its relationships with neighboring countries.

Chornobyl, told Reuters that technical documents have been sent for approval to the Ukrainian government. Chornobyl reactors 1 and 3 still function, contributing 5 percent of Ukraine's electricity. Ukraine promised to close reactor No. 1 on November 30 and to close the entire plant by 2000 in return for \$3.1 billion in grants and credits from G-7 countries. Ukrainian officials say the country faces severe energy shortages and complain that Western help is coming too slow. (OMRI Daily Digest)

**CORRECTION:** The OMRI Daily Digest has posted the following correction to a news item it had reported: An item titled "Ukraine tightens citizenship requirements" should have said that the Ukrainian Parliament had only preliminarily approved a new bill on citizenship that would bar dual citizenship in the country. The bill must still be approved in a second reading before the changes go into effect.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

## Perth Amboy veterans recall shared times, community service

by Tom Hawrylko

PERTH AMBOY, N.J. — The way Perth Amboy resident Mike Ekalo tells it, they were neighbors in north Amboy — young Ukrainian kids who grew up along the railroad tracks near their old church off of State Street in Perth Amboy.

But over half a century has passed from those carefree days of playing ball down in the tank fields across the tracks. World War II came and those kids became men. They enlisted, some died in action, others came back heroes, but serving together, the American Ukrainian Veterans of Perth Amboy made sure that Hitler and his cohorts were knocked back on their Axis.

In the 1940s, many of the gang married their hometown sweethearts, built homes in Perth Amboy, went to work in the factories. They became fathers and eventually grandfathers.

Some of their sisters married guys that weren't "Ukes," and new friendships began. Since then, generations of their families have been baptized or buried in our church, yet through it all, the Uke boys from north Amboy stayed together.

Back in their heyday, the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, you could find them hanging

*At 39, Tom Hawrylko is the youngest member of the American Ukrainian Veterans of Perth Amboy. A U.S. Navy veteran, he is originally from Perth Amboy and now resides in Clifton. He was the master of ceremonies for the club's 50th anniversary celebration.*

out at the Ukrainian American Democratic Club on State Street. Days when these veterans hosted great parish picnics and helped raise money for the new church and school on Alta Vista Place.

So here they are now, celebrating the 50th anniversary of their club. The Uke boys from north Amboy are still together. What kept these guys together over the six or seven decades since their youth? What is the glue that binds decades of friendships? How do you describe their "right stuff"?

"Born and raised with him," is how Spike Kosmyna, Perth Amboy's most decorated World War II veteran sums it up, pointing across the table at no one in particular, but the whole gang of them. "That means we were together from the beginning, and we'll always be together, to the end."

"We were neighbors, school kids. 'We're like cousins,'" said Mike Ekalo, another veteran. "We're a close-knit unit, and we've been through a helluva lot together." Or like the Audie Murphy story, they've been "To Hell And Back."

These guys saw war, the Perth Amboy boom, the bust. Now they're watching their hometown and their church grow in different ways again. "That's why we're still active in the church and in the community," said Steve Koval of Carteret. "Born and raised, like Spike said. We care what happens here."

Born and raised. It's a magnetism that

(Continued on page 14)

## Ukrainian traditions permeate the way of life in Winnipeg

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

WINNIPEG — It all started on our very first visit to Winnipeg, a few decades ago, on a frigid late-December evening, on Portage Avenue near the old Birk's building. As this bear of a man approached us [later we learned the policeman was wearing a buffalo-coat], we asked him where the closest Ukrainian church was, since it was Christmas time, and we wanted to visit. With a big smile, the bear says, in Ukrainian, "Ta ya vam pokazhu!" (I'll show you).

This was the first person we met in Winnipeg and, for me, was an indication of what I would later discover — that Winnipeg and Manitoba were secretly Ukrainian!

Where should this list start? What about your neighbors, co-workers, or in-laws? Is there anyone out there whose family doesn't include at least one Ukrainian baba [grandmother] or brother-in-law? The one who cooks so well or who sings so beautifully, for any occasion?

In your daily walk around the neighborhood, you can usually tell it's a Ukrainian house because of the glorious flowers and the vegetable garden, instead of just greenery.

Have you been to a Ukrainian wedding recently, or wished you had? Not the 15-minute "English" one with the understated stand-up reception afterwards, but the minimum two-to-three-day party, with a full sit-down dinner, dancing, singing, and the reception the day after — you know, one of the "normal" Ukrainian weddings.

If you visit a Ukrainian home, are you ever not fed? The Ukrainian hospitality really hit home, because on that first visit

to the city, my husband and I were simply not permitted to stay at the hotel, and were taken in for a few days, fed, driven around, and made to feel at home by people we had only met that day.

Now that we're on food, is there any Winnipegger who doesn't know what a perogy [i.e., varenyk] is? Or where to get the best ones? At the churches, of course, usually on Thursdays and Fridays.

(Do try to avoid the cardboard ones sold commercially.) Is there any time of day when Alycia's and Sevala's aren't crowded with diners? For Ukrainian Christmas, those not celebrating at home crowd these restaurants in shifts.

The city's Christmas lights don't get turned off until after "Ukrainian" Christmas (called this even though others also celebrate by the Julian calendar). Where else would you find wheat and poppy seeds at the check-out counter of any supermarket for Ukrainian Christmas? Paska and kolach (Easter and Christmas breads) are sold in every bakery and supermarket, and the customers are not just Ukrainian.

The intellectual, business, political, and especially cultural life of the city has been enriched by Ukrainians. What a treasure we have in Leo Mol (just spend a few hours in his sculpture garden), and in so many other acclaimed visual and performing artists of Ukrainian descent.

We have the Olexander Koshetz memorial choir, the Hoosli men's choir, Rusalka Dance Ensemble, the many other excellent dance groups, such as Orlan, Rozmai and Troyanda. The Hopak

(Continued on page 14)

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



## Reflections of a "whiner"

Long before the GOP had a presidential nominee, I produced a column titled "Will the comeback kid come back?" The article was about Bill Clinton, written at a time when the president's approval rating was low.

I listed many of the reasons favoring Mr. Clinton's re-election. A growing economy, low interest, a low inflation rate, apparent successes in the foreign policy arena.

I even suggested the possibility that the president might receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Since Nobel prize candidates can be nominated by past laureates, I was convinced that the presence of Elie Weisel next to Hillary Rodham Clinton during Mr. Clinton's State of the Union address was no accident.

Although it was the last thing I expected, Julian Kulas and Andrew Fedynsky wrote a letter to The Ukrainian Weekly using my own arguments to promote Bill Clinton for "four more years." I have to admit it was an inspired "gotcha."

Mr. Clinton didn't win the Nobel Peace Prize, but he did win the election for many of the reasons I listed in my article.

On October 13 I wrote an article titled "Read his pen, not his lips." I compared Mr. Clinton's promises with his delivery. Eugene Iwanciw also wrote a critical article. Even though there was nothing in any of our articles that was untrue, Stephen Wichar of Clinton Township, Mich., was so incensed he wrote a letter to The Ukrainian Weekly calling Mr. Iwanciw and me "bashers" and "whiners."

Dr. William Lazaruk of Fairfield, Conn., also penned a letter to The Ukrainian Weekly. In his letter he wrote that he was upset that The Weekly published my column. He mentioned that he really enjoys The Ukrainian Weekly and he gives his issues to local libraries where they are welcomed. "I could not give the October 13 issue," he complained, "because it would be a disgrace to the Ukrainians to have non-Ukrainians read the trash and lies Mr. Kuropas wrote." Like many of his ilk, Dr. Lazaruk probably supports censorship of contrary opinions.

Later in his letter Dr. Lazaruk wrote: "I am curious to know of the extent of education Mr. Kuropas does have." Next to his signature he wrote: "B.Sc.; B. Ed; M.A.; Ph.D." Since I have a B.S., an M.A. and a Ph.D., I am not any more impressed with Dr. Lazaruk's credentials than I am with his ideas.

What troubles me about the two letters is not that they were written nor that the authors disagreed with me. Many people have taken umbrage with my opinions over the years and that's fine. I don't expect everyone to agree with my views. I have occasionally been accused of being uninformed, biased, homophobic and reactionary. Most of the time, however, my detractors have offered evidence, facts, if you will, to support their perspective.

Unfortunately, neither Mr. Wichar nor Dr. Lazaruk bothered to do that in their letters. Their approach was simply to name-call, a technique used so effectively by the Clinton White House. When you don't like the message, attack the messenger.

In most of my articles I try to buttress

my views with facts. Much of the time I cite sources. In my October 13 article, for example, I cited FBI Director Louis Freeh, columnist David Horowitz, and author Ben Wattenberg. I don't write "on my knee" as Ukrainians say. Nor do I succumb to personal name-calling.

The reader shouldn't think that Mr. Wichar and Dr. Lazaruk were the only people to write me about my October 13 article. Olga Kereluk of Plano, Texas, for example, thanked me for writing it. "I have been showing this [my article] to neighbors," she wrote. "Too bad it was not printed in our news media throughout our country." Like Mr. Wichar, she also voted for Franklin Delano Roosevelt. So there you have it. Two Ukrainians of the same generation with two differing opinions regarding the election. America!

Although I have the highest regard for Bob Dole's character and legislative record (I know of what I speak because I was once his legislative assistant), the man lost because he mounted one of the worst campaigns in memory (again I know of what I speak because I've been actively involved in GOP national campaigns since 1960). The ethnic vote was almost totally ignored; the campaign staff was inept; there was no direction, no vision, no coordination, little discipline. As early as late September we in Illinois heard that Dole's people had conceded the state to Mr. Clinton. That's never happened before.

Mr. Clinton, on the other hand, ran a superb campaign. Personally charming, he was surrounded by a disciplined staff that projected confidence and coordination. They wooed the ethnic vote and the Reagan Democrats for almost four years. Every time I turned around, it seemed, there was a picture of Messrs. Kulas or Fedynsky or both with President Clinton or Al Gore or some other high-ranking Democrat. White House officials were visible at Ukrainian functions. That, combined with the state visits of President Clinton to Ukraine and President Leonid Kuchma to the United States, had an impact on our community.

We need to remember, however, that there are two political parties in the United States and it is important that Ukrainians be represented in both. That's been our tradition and that's the way it should remain. We may try to outsmart each other during campaign years but for the other three years we need to work together on issues of concern to our community.

Yes, President Clinton will remain in the White House, but Republicans will remain in command of Congress. Ukrainians need to have a voice in both branches of government.

One final note. When I was a special assistant to President Gerald R. Ford, I went out of my way to make sure that both Ukrainian Republicans and Democrats were represented at White House functions. Why? Because I believed that both parties had articulate leaders that could represent our community. President Ford had an open door for all Ukrainians. In his conclusion Mr. Wichar wrote: "After November 5, Ukrainian Democrats will have an open door. I don't know about the bashers." Does that mean Mr. Iwanciw won't be invited to any more state dinners?

## Innovative stage director Roman Hurko expands horizons

In the late summer and early fall, Roman Hurko, 34, a Toronto-born Ukrainian Canadian musician was back in his native city, working on a collaborative adaptation of Richard Strauss's opera "Salomé" with Armenian Canadian film-maker Atom Egoyan (director of the Cannes-acclaimed feature "Exotica"), for a staging produced by the Canadian Opera Company.

This graduate of the University of Toronto (B.A., music history and theory, 1987) and veteran assistant director at the COC (on staff from 1988 to 1993), has since worked as an assistant stage director on 13 works produced by the Washington Opera at the Kennedy Center, the Salzburg Festival, the Royal Opera House (Covent Garden) in London, L'Opéra de Monte Carlo, the Teatro de Zarzuela in Madrid, and celebrated his directorial debut at the Spoleto Festival in Italy in June, overseeing the production of Handel's "Semele."

Mr. Hurko has also shared duties as conductor of the St. Evtymiy Church Choir at the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toronto, an ensemble he was instrumental in founding in 1985.

### CONCLUSION

#### How was your transition from school to the working world?

Fairly smooth. After a year as apprentice director at the University of Toronto Opera School [in 1987], I did an audition for the Canadian Opera Company, and they picked me for their apprentice program.

#### You had a possibility of going to the Juilliard School of Music in New York, right?

I was trying to set things up there, but then I was working in the real thing, with people who actually do it, so why stay in a school situation?

#### What did you do after your stint as staff assistant director at the COC?

I've been travelling for the past three years, working at Covent Garden in London, in Madrid, Monte Carlo, the Salzburg Festival, the Spoleto Festival. I've also been in the U.S. often — Washington, Costa Mesa in California, and Detroit.

#### You were going to do some work in Ukraine, weren't you?

I was supposed to direct [Richard Strauss's] "Elektra" at the Lviv Opera, but that fell through. They had considerable internal problems. I wanted to bring in a surtitle screen and all sorts of new technology, just so they could be exposed to it. I managed to get a \$10,000 grant from CBIE [the Canadian Bureau for International Education], but they folded on me.

#### Because of internal politics?

Some of that, and a lack of resources. It's probably too ambitious for them.

#### Would it have been easier to do in Kyiv?

Potentially, because they do have more resources at the Kyiv Opera, but unfortunately it isn't run by forward-looking people. [Baritone Anatoliy] Mokrenko and [baritone Dmytro] Hnatiuk are miscast in their positions. For example, Hnatiuk might be a great singer, but he's now head of directing and he seems not to have a very good grasp of the tasks he faces. It's frustrating.

It seems that they're more interested in touring and earning hard currency than developing their own art and have the country's musical scene progress.

#### The heavyweights could tour, couldn't they, and simply let somebody else take over things back home?

Sure, that would be the best of both worlds. Of course, I don't want to be too harsh, because they do have to contend with very difficult times economically. But then I look at the opera in St. Petersburg, and I see a director with vision there.

#### Isn't it because, under the Soviet regime, the best were drawn from throughout the USSR, then were gathered in Moscow and Leningrad in order to be paraded before the West?

True, but the current director of the St. Petersburg opera [the Kirov] is exposed to the West because he's got something to show. What are we doing? Old Italian operas. And going out on tour to make money, practically begging for it.

In classical music, there are many Ukrainian composers right at the forefront of the modern repertoire, so why not work at what we've got? Put it to use in opera, find our own niche and build up our own art.

In St. Petersburg, they do travel to the West, but then they come back because they feel they have a stake in what goes on at home. I went out to a hard currency bar after a show with a director there, Valeriy Giorgiev, and after two beers he said, "Well, there goes my fee for the night." So he also gets paid a pittance when he's in Russia.

But he's making \$10,000 a night conducting at the Met in New York, so he doesn't care. He comes home and works basically for free, but he does it because he feels a sense of responsibility for the culture.

#### You were also in Odesa, right?

Well, yes. Together with Roman Terleckyj, a director with the Washington Opera. We were invited a few years ago, about three now. We went there, and it was in such disarray.

We had an interview with the head of the company, and he was terribly ill with cancer. It was sad. But it was also a cruel metaphor for the state of things. We saw a performance of [Giacomo Puccini's] "La Bohème" — no chorus, no children, a puny little set, the orchestra sounded terrible.

The man who sang Marcello, one of the leads, he took me to a restaurant where he had to sing until three in the morning, first dressed as a cowboy, then in some sort of Jewish outfit — a bizarre cabaret act.

Imagine having to sing an entire performance of "La Bohème," then having to go singing in a restaurant, just to

make a living. That's the situation I saw in Odesa. As far as I know, everybody who could, left.

In St. Petersburg, there are people like Vasyl Gerelo, who is from around Ivano-Frankivsk. He sang "Onegin" here [in Canada] last year. He speaks Ukrainian beautifully, but he's gone, as far as Ukraine is concerned.

Another guy, this big bass "from Moscow," named Motorin. I was working with him in Madrid last year. During a break, we were walking around town and he breaks into a Ukrainian folk song, and I said, "Oh so you know that," and he answered, "Sure, half of our theater is made up of Ukrainians."

Then again, it's very easy for me, who is quite comfortable materially, to go to Ukraine, and say, "Why aren't you going forward artistically?"

There are people in Ukraine who face the basic questions of how to live, how they are going to get something to eat. So if that means staging a traditional Italian opera and touring with it, well, I guess that's what they have to do to survive.

On the other hand, if I hadn't seen St. Petersburg where people are doing something new, it would trouble me less. Of course, the Russians had more of a reputation already, which allows them to push the envelope.

#### Then again, how are Ukrainians going to establish a reputation? By doing traditional stuff, or by staking out new ground?

Exactly. The opera tradition isn't really ours, to the same extent that it's Italian and French and Russian and German; we have no Verdi, Wagner or Mozart, but let's go and make it. Maybe now is our time. Maybe now the great star of Ukrainian opera culture is waiting, so let's go forward, create something that is in our style, rather than trotting out pale provincial imitations of what other people do.

Then again, let's keep in mind that my comments are based on observations from 1993, so maybe the situation has changed dramatically for the better, and modern opera is being staged in Ukraine, in a new style. I don't simply want to stand smugly to one side and pass judgement.

#### In the late 1980s, you helped set up a youth church choir in Toronto, right?

At St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, right, although now it's mostly run by Adrian Iwachiw. I love it. That's one of the things I really like — our liturgical music. I'm actually collecting it these days. Scores and arrangements.

#### When you were in Ukraine, were you collecting arrangements?

No, not at that point. I looked around for choirs. I lived in Kyiv for a bit, in 1993, trying to get things happening at the Kyiv Opera. No success there, unfortunately, but I'd sing at the Vydubychi Monastery, with a group of excellent singers. Some were professionals, some just came out of a love of their ritual. There was also bunch of

(Continued on page 10)

## Barvinsky Project reports results of centennial commemorations

CRANFORD, N.J. — A decade ago, a trio of musicians, namely organist and pianist Michael Grill (Munich), pianist and educator Marta Shlemkevych-Sawycky, and media specialist/music scholar Roman Sawycky Jr. decided to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of the distinguished Ukrainian composer, pianist and educator Vasyl Barvinsky (1888-1963).

After a successful interview in the offices of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly (Jersey City), the resulting publicity enabled the initiators of the "Barvinsky Project" to go forward with their plans. The following events became possible after a fruitful fund-raiser.

- A festive Jubilee Concert was held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, New York, on the exact day of the 100th anniversary, namely February 20, 1988. The program included fundamental Barvinsky works for piano, the rarely performed "Ukrainian Suite" and the world premiere of the Piano Sonata (1909-1911).

- Digital stereo recordings of the "Ukrainian Suite" and the Sonata were

made at the prestigious RCA Studios in New York (February 1988). These were world premiere recordings of the two works.

- A series of broadcasts from WQXR, the "radio station of The New York Times" (1987-1988) was hosted by Robert Sherman, New York Times critic and executive producer at WQXR.

Following scheduling difficulties, the cassette recording of the "Ukrainian Suite" and Sonata has finally been issued, first with German text, intended for distribution in Germany and Austria. The Ukrainian and English issues will follow, along with the ultimate CD format. A special companion booklet in all languages is already being prepared.

Within the period of 1985-1995, members of the Barvinsky Project also completed the following:

- a detailed and illustrated article titled "International Aspects of Vasyl Barvinsky" — published in several installments by The Ukrainian Weekly;

- an entry on Barvinsky in the International Encyclopedia of Music and Musicians (10th and 11th editions, as

prepared by Bruce Bohle, New York and London);

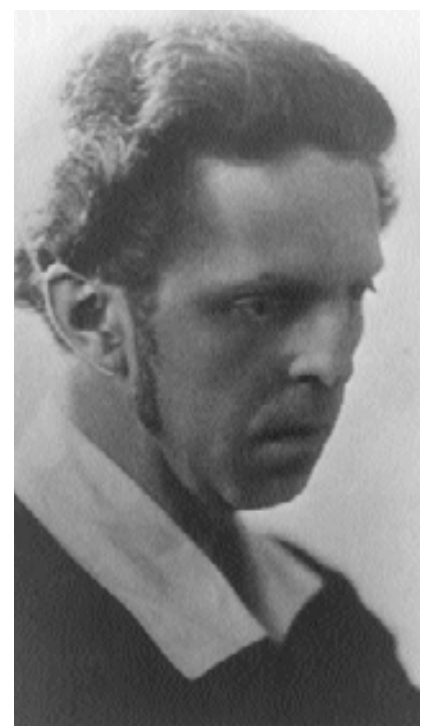
- a number of transcriptions from miscellaneous compositions by Barvinsky for organ and also for chorus (performed, broadcast and recorded by a German chorus in Munich);

- the discovery in 1993 of the Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in F Minor and other musical works by Barvinsky, up to now considered lost, and the return of all these works to Ukrainian publishers and concert halls.

- a collection of the legacy of Barvinsky (music, recordings, writings, photographs, video programs, etc.).

Should additional funds be forthcoming, the "Barvinsky Project" could be continued with: a monographic bibliography and discography of the Barvinsky legacy (complete with editing and printing), an extensive article on the composer and his times in the noted German newspaper Die Zeit; and new recordings of works and/or re-issues of older ones.

For further information contact: The Barvinsky Project, c/o Roman Sawycky, 205 Casino Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016.



Vasyl Barvinsky (1888-1963)



## DATELINE IVANO-FRANKIVSK: A celebration of independence

by Helen Smindak

*The Ukrainian Weekly correspondent Helen Smindak took an eight-week excursion last summer through the Carpathian Mountain foothills in southeast Poland, eastern Slovakia and western Ukraine. Traveling solo, she visited Lemko and Rusyn folk festivals (see Dateline Zdynia, September 15, for the Lemko festival), toured museums, art galleries and vintage wooden churches, and celebrated the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence with the residents of Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. Her description of the Ivano-Frankivsk celebration follows.*

IVANO-FRANKIVSK — For two days last August, the citizens of western Ukraine's second largest city reveled in the ecstasy of Ukraine's fifth anniversary as a free nation, setting aside worries about unemployment, unpaid pensions, inflation and the lack of hot water.

Thousands of residents, many of them in embroidered shirts, and a clutch of visitors from the United States and Canada joined civic and regional officials at a viche (rally) outside the regional administration building on the morning of August 24. During the afternoon, they strolled through the streets of the town center, browsing through crafts exhibits, taking in an outdoor stage program presented by the city's choral and folk dance ensembles, and nibbling pastries purchased from street vendors. In the evening, they streamed into Rukh stadium to view a theatrical pageant featuring 1,000 costumed performers.

On Sunday, they assembled at two commemorative programs marking the 140th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Franko, western Ukraine's foremost poet and writer, for whom the city and region were re-named in 1962 (they were formerly known as Stanyslaviv). The ceremonial placing of wreaths and garlands of flowers was held at the Franko monument in the afternoon, while a formal program of speeches, poetry, drama and music took place at the Ivan Franko Philharmonic Music and Drama Theater in the evening.

Patriotic sentiment ran high, for this region is part of the heartland of Ukrainian nationalism as well as the center of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), whose soldiers fought both German and Russian invaders during World War II.

Golden sunshine and blue skies, reflected in bright yellow-and-blue banners and national flags bedecking shop windows, squares and streets, embraced the weekend following weeks of wet, dreary weather.

Slava Ukrayini!

While crowds gathered for the rally in front of the white building on Hrushevsky Street that houses Ivano-Frankivsk's administrative offices and cultural organizations and societies, cries of "Slava!" and "Slava Ukrayini!" were shouted repeatedly by bystanders and uniformed contingents assembled around the square.

Large statues of a bandurist and a dulcimer-player, symbols of the unity of central/eastern Ukraine and western Ukraine, looked benignly at dignitaries gathered on stage in front of the "White House," as the administrative building is popularly called.

Main speaker Stepan Volkovetsky, a deputy of the Verkhovna Rada from Ivano-Frankivsk and chief administrator of the Ivano-Frankivsk region, brought greetings from Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and told the cheering crowd: "We will never return to totalitarianism; we will go forward to a better future." His address culminated with the declaration: "Our nation exists, and will exit for ages to come."

Listening to Mr. Volkovetsky and to speakers who referred to August 24, 1991, as a "singular event" that saw "the beginning of a new era for Ukraine," Daria K. Detsyk nodded her head emphatically, tears glinting in her eyes. The septuagenarian, who served as one of Ivano-Frankivsk's deputies to the first Verkhovna Rada of independent Ukraine, has spent years on the national UPA board and with the Memorial Society, trying to bring the reality of Soviet crimes against Ukraine to the knowledge of its newly sovereign citizens. (In October 1992, The New York Times had carried a story about Mrs. Detsyk by Steven Erlanger titled "A Life as Prisoner of Europe's Hatreds.")

Homemaker and embroidery expert Yaroslava Slutsky, secretary of the local Rukh organization since its inception in 1987, had a blissful smile on her face, a smile that said, "We are free."

Elsewhere in the crowd, Ihor Petrovsky, an employed refrigerator technician, and his wife, Oksana, a part-time nurse, held their young sons, Yevhen, 4, and Artur, who was born on Independence Day in 1991. The



Onlookers watch and listen as a band of musicians accompanies a men's chorus at the commemoration honoring poet Ivan Franko. To the right of the poet's monument stands the Ivan Franko Music and Drama Theater.

youngsters, sporting embroidered shirts and bright blue shorts, gazed wide-eyed as dozens of the region's top athletes, including Olympic participants Roman Virastiuk and Serhiy Osovych, jogged into the square to the acclaim of the crowd.

Charging the event with excitement and high emotion were the strains of the Ukrainian national anthem, played by the band several times during the rally; the bright voices of pre-school children reciting and singing patriotic verses, and the rhythmic clatter of soldiers' boots striking the pavement in unison during the parade at rally's end.

Army veterans, former Ukrainian Sich Riflemen and UPA members, Ivano-Frankivsk's police force, the National Guard of Ukraine, Soyuz Ukrayinok members, athletes and a group of young men in Kozak garb joined in the march past the reviewing stand.

Vivid tableaux

As the sun dipped low on the horizon on Saturday evening, the blare of three trembitas resounded across the stands of Rukh stadium, echoing through nearby Shevchenko Park and rippling across the rooftops in the southwest corner of the city.

The plaintive call of the Hutsul folk instruments, an integral part of the people who inhabit the southern portion of the Ivano-Frankivsk region, heralded the entrance of 100 flag bearers and initiated a four-hour pageant observed by some 20,000 persons.

Formal opening ceremonies included the singing of

"Bozhe Velykyi, Yedynyi" by a mixed choir, a reading of the act proclaiming the independence of Ukraine, and the playing of the Ukrainian anthem while the national flag was hoisted into the air.

The history of Ukraine unfolded in a series of vivid tableaux portraying prominent leaders of the past, who appeared on stage and addressed the audience — the early ruler Askold, the Princes Yaroslav Mudryi, Volodymyr Monomakh and Danylo Halytsky, and Hetmans Bohdan Khmelnytsky and Ivan Mazepa, who were accompanied by a group of Zaporozhian Kozaks. They were followed by the Hutsul chieftain Oleksa Dovbush, the Sichovi Striltsi and UPA soldiers, whose appearance on the field drew a standing ovation from the audience.

Woven together by a dramatic narrative, the inspirational portraits were accompanied by presentations from choral ensembles, soloists, orchestras and folk-dance groups from the city and the region, assisted by a guest dance troupe from Zaporizhia. The tableaux were performed on three stages — a large main stage with a raised rear deck and two circular stages set at the ends of the field.

The 1930s famine was depicted by gaunt figures on a darkened field; the period of detention and interment by black-clad men with dogs and groups of people carrying tablets inscribed with the names of concentration camps. The tragedies of Chernobyl and Babyn Yar were mourned

(Continued on page 15)



Pre-school youngsters conclude a program of recitations and songs, waving flags, balloons and wreaths

Helen Smindak

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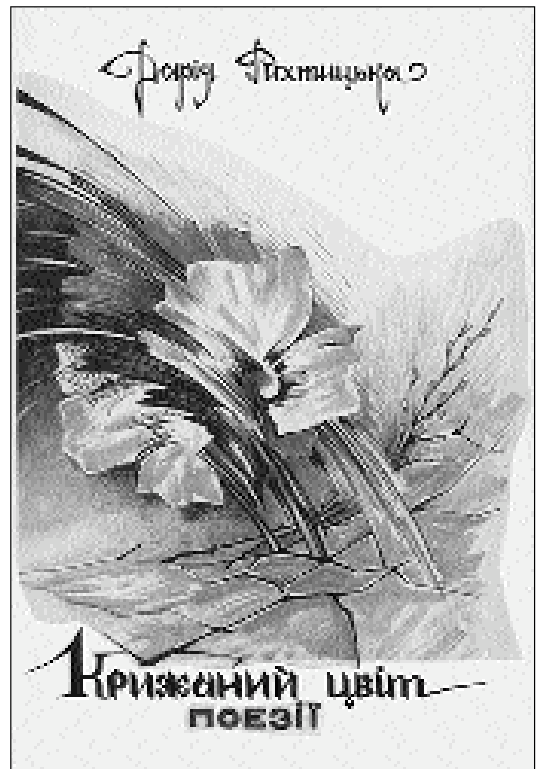
Second volume of poetry by Rychtycka

WARREN, Mich. — Although she's been writing since her teenage years, four years ago Daria Rychtycka acquainted a wider public with her work through the publication of her first book of collected poems, "Shovkova Kosytsia." Since that time, this poet has been busy at work as evidenced by the recent release of her second collection, titled "Kryzhanyi Tsvit."

Over 100 poems fill the pages of this new collection, ranging in topics from magical, almost surreal images that abound in a nightly visit from an imagined, or perhaps all too real, windborne visitor to poems of yearning — long-gone faces, the touch of a brother's hand.

Ukraine, the homeland she was forced to flee while still a child, is at the forefront of Ms. Rychtycka's work. Behind the images that recall battles, fallen heroes, political dissidents, there is a sense of power, fortitude even, but most of all, a call to arms to continue the legacy of her culture.

After a 47-year absence, Ms. Rychtycka has spent many months traveling and living throughout Ukraine. With the publication of her new book, Ms. Rychtycka will embark once again, on an extended journey to her homeland. Last summer she also traveled to London, Munich, Paris, Rome and



Vienna, where she had the opportunity to interact and share her work with these Ukrainian communities in those cities.

"Kryzhanyi Tsvit" (Ukrainian-language text; 311 pages) includes a foreword by the noted dissident, professor and poet Vasyl Barladyanu-Byrladnyk, a closing note by the Kyiv poet and journalist Svitlana Koronenko and illustrations by Olha Iasni. The book may be ordered for \$12 (postage included) by writing to: N. Rychtyckyj,

Innovative director...

(Continued from page 8)

expatriate North Americans, including my cousins, the Deychakiwskys from the U.S., and Boris Balan from Toronto, people like that.

Did this choir look for "napivy" and other liturgical material that might have been lost, or sift through the canon?

Not really, they would simply sit atop their mountain of culture, metaphorically speaking, and pick flowers. There's quite a lot to draw on, both from the recent and the distant past, so you don't really have to go digging.

At the moment, it's more of a hobby of mine, but I would very much like to study to be a "diak" (cantor). Not so much to hold the position, but to know the meaning of all the elements in the liturgical dialogue between the priest and the choir. To learn the meanings of all the icons in the church.

There's one fresco in the St. Nicholas Church, right behind where the choir stands, and there's someone cutting off a man's hand. I always think of him as "the bad conductor" being punished. It would be great to learn what all that means.

Then, the next step would be to expand outward, not just sing on Sundays, but do vespers and all the other things for which music exists.

For me, without singing, it's not prayer. There's an entirely different atmosphere when there's someone singing beside you. Not just singing, but singing beautifully. That affected me powerfully in my childhood.

When the singing is beautiful, you really want to be there. It's "Vidlozhim Pechal" (Let Us Cast Off Our Daily Cares) and just concentrate, or just be.

I wish that the Church would put more resources into our choirs. All the other

choirs in the city, in all shrines, synagogues included, they have musicians on the payroll who serve as anchors, section leaders.

Many of them have people from various faculties of music, so you have somebody very strong to hold it together. When I went to school in Toronto's faculty of music, many of my friends worked for church ensembles, and that's an example I think Ukrainian churches could learn from.

It's not a matter of support for the conductor. When I do it, they pay me well enough. It would be great if there were a few people who were aspiring professional singers in the choir, holding it together.

It shouldn't even be a matter, strictly speaking, of having Ukrainian-speaking anchors. Because after all, if you sing opera, you learn languages, or at least the phonetics.

In a sense, it would be a sacred concert that happens every week, on Sunday.

Sure. Many churches do that. It would be a great draw, particularly now that many of our churches are emptying out, the congregations seem to be getting thin.

Some people love it when the entire congregation sings. That's lovely, too, but for me, when there's a beautiful choir, it takes the music, the feeling of the rite, and elevates it to a higher level.

When you do opera, do you have a sense of communing with a higher level of beauty?

Oh yes. Sometimes I'm in rehearsal and I just have to close my eyes. It's just so beautiful, and I close my eyes and think, "Wow, they're paying me to do this."

This summer, when I was directing the Handel piece [the "Semele" oratorio at the Spoleto Festival in Italy], in a beautiful little baroque theater, with all this wonderful music spilling over me. I couldn't believe my luck that I ended up in this job.

## Fulbright teachers from Ukraine warmly received in DeKalb, Ill.

DE KALB, Ill. – Natalia Karpenko from Kirovohrad, and Marianna Sulkina from Kherson, two Fulbright teachers from Ukraine, recently began their year of teaching in the public school system of DeKalb, Illinois.

Mrs. Karpenko is team-teaching with Lesia Kuropas at the Lincoln School. She arrived with her husband, Ihor, and her two sons: Stanislav, who is attending the local high school, and Rostislav, who attends the middle school.

Miss Sulkina team-teaches American history at the high school with John Nakonechny in the morning. During the afternoon she teaches English literature.

The two teachers are in DeKalb largely as a result of the efforts of Rostyk Chomiak, formerly of the United States Information Agency, who informed Dr.

Myron and Mrs. Kuropas of the two teachers' availability. DeKalb School District No. 428 formally accepted them as part of the teaching staff last May, and they began their teaching duties in August. A reception welcoming them was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Kuropas soon after their arrival. They will live in DeKalb for the remainder of the school year.

"I never thought I would have an opportunity to be working in DeKalb alongside a teacher from Ukraine," noted Mrs. Kuropas. "Both of us are learning a lot about each other's school systems, and our school children are benefitting. This would never happen if Ukraine was still confined to the Soviet yoke."

The American Fulbright exchange program recently celebrated its 50th year of existence.



Seen during a reception at the home of Myron and Lesia Kuropas honoring Fulbright teachers from Ukraine (from left) are: Yuriy V. Lazaryev, Consulate of Ukraine; Tom Burski, principal, Lincoln School; Dr. Bob Healey, personnel director, DeKalb Schools; Dr. Jerrold H. Zar, Graduate School dean, Northern Illinois University; Jed Dunbar, principal, DeKalb High School; Marianna Sulkina; Natalia Karpenko; Dr. Glenn Davis, DeKalb School superintendent.

## Manor Junior College's board unanimously reappoints president

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – Upon the recommendation of the Provincial Council of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great, the board of trustees at their October 15 meeting unanimously voted to reappoint Sister Mary Cecilia Jurasinski OSBM for a third term as president of Manor Junior College.

"The board had the option to vote on the recommendation from the Provincial Council at the next meeting," said board Chairman Joseph E. Toner III. "But they didn't need the time. They voted immediately and unanimously in support of Sister Cecilia."

In a letter informing the Provincial Council of the board's decision, Mr. Toner wrote: "Of interest, the discussion surrounding this motion of the board was filled with admiration, deep respect and thanks for the commitment and contribu-

tions of Sister Cecilia. Manor Junior College is certainly a better place for her gifts and leadership as president.

"The board of trustees looks forward to working with Sister Cecilia on the challenges ahead as we shape Manor Junior College for this next century. We ask for God's blessing for all of Manor's extended family."

A native of Reading, Pa., Sister Mary Cecilia entered the Order of Sisters of Saint Basil the Great in 1960. In 1963 she joined the faculty at Manor Junior College as a history instructor, and in 1976 became the dean of students at the college.

Sister Cecilia was elected to her first six-year term as president of Manor in 1985. Currently serving her second term, she will enter her third term in July of 1997.

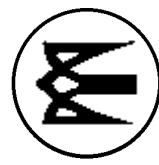
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**To run and when...**

(Continued from page 2)

past several months appointed new oblast chairmen in approximately half of the oblasts, but he has also created a position of deputy chairman for political affairs at this critical level.

However, under contemporary circumstances, loyalty tends to be conditional in the sense that traditional center-periphery differences emerge quite spontaneously and agendas – as well as ambitions – begin to diverge. Under such circumstances, regional officials begin to follow developments at the center with a view to identifying the most likely pretender to that position upon which their long-term political survival ultimately depends – in this case the presidency.

President Leonid Kravchuk had failed to get re-elected in 1994 not least because he could not maintain the confidence of regional officials formally subordinated to him – particularly following his disastrous attempt to get the presidential elections somehow postponed by bluffing relatively late in the game that he would not actually run.

With factions and parties within the Verkhovna Rada coalescing around prospective candidates – such as Rada Chairman Oleksandr Moroz, Prime Minister Lazarenko, and former Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk – almost as soon as the Parliament reconvened after the summer recess, the pressure obviously increased for the president to begin consolidating his forces. By publicly declaring his intention to run again, therefore, President Kuchma might well have been trying to pre-empt any doubts among his principal constituency as to where their loyalties should lie. It is in this context that Mr. Lytvyn's comments about overcoming a persistent sense of impermanence might best be understood.

Commencing preparations for re-election in the hope that such a move has little negative fallout is clearly a risky trade-off. In the event, it seems to have initiated a kind of action-reaction process on the part of other potential presidential candidates, albeit thus far only on the informal level. In many respects, President Kuchma has been like that sprinter who jumps the gun and takes some of the other runners with him. The difference between the analogy and reality, however, is that there is no going back to the starting blocks.

Circumstantial evidence seems to support the above interpretation.

Mr. Marchuk, for example, is moving ever closer toward formal identification with the wealthy Liberal Party (he already leads the Social Market Economy faction in the Rada, which is closely affiliated with that party).

Chairman Moroz denies that his campaign has opened, but is striving to cultivate the more moderate image he devel-

oped in playing his vital role in the adoption of what the Left refers to as the "bourgeois" Constitution. Chairmanship of the recently created consultative council of political parties represented in the Rada provides a convenient platform from which to publicize this more centrist persona.

Prime Minister Lazarenko has stated that he is not interested in running for the presidency. Today, there is no reason to disbelieve him. But three years is virtually an eternity in politics. Besides, he could not have been unaware of the fact that his predecessor had been dismissed for supposedly breaking ranks with the president by cultivating his own political image. With the administration so sensitive to even the slightest hint of disloyalty, discretion is clearly the better part of valor.

Further evidence is provided by developments around key legislation. For example, because they address structure and procedure, the law on local government and the election law will clearly help determine the outcome of the next parliamentary and presidential elections. Two drafts of the local government law were presented for the Rada's consideration recently: the one favored by the president and the other proposing a regressive, quasi-Soviet model preferred by the Left. The president, in a somewhat unusual move, asked that the Rada not waste time considering the latter. But under Mr. Moroz's guidance, that version has been adopted as the reconciliation committee's basic text.

Moreover, recent Rada debates and resolutions on emotive issues, such as the minimum level of welfare payments and compensating all kinds of depositors for savings devalued through inflation since independence, indicate that the Rada will have plenty of opportunity to make life uncomfortable for both the government and the administration – if only because populist rhetoric and measures are cheap and the resources for implementing them non-existent.

And the Black Sea Fleet problem? Given the very real possibility that Ukraine might have to yield more today in order not to have to make greater concessions in the future, the Rada has taken a more high-profile interest in the BSF issue. Responding to the Russian Duma's recent moves, Chairman Moroz simply said that the Duma's actions were not binding on Ukraine and that there was no need for the Rada to return to the BSF and Sevastopol issues because it had already made its view on these matters clear some time ago.

In short, Mr. Moroz and probably the overwhelming majority of the Rada have taken – and will continue to display – a more nationalist line than circumstances might allow the executive to negotiate. The position adopted by the Rada might not be without considerable merit. But, if current trends persist, the temptation to politicize the BSF issue – not least for electoral purposes – would likely prove irresistible.

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# Ohio Boychoir to perform concert at special White House reception

PARMA, Ohio — The Ohio Boychoir, as part of its 23rd holiday concert program, will perform at a special reception at the White House on Monday, December 9. This is the second time the choir will sing there, having appeared at the White House in 1993.

Under the direction of Alexander B. Musichuk, Ohio Boychoir will present holiday selections in six different languages, including "Shchedryk" by Mykola Leontovych in Ukrainian. Comprising the concert program are works by G.B. Pergolesi, Bach, Gounod, Stuart W. Raleigh, Cesar Franck, Adolphe Adam and Benjamin Britten.

The community choir, founded in 1974 by Mr. Musichuk, has developed into one of Ohio's prized cultural assets and has toured extensively throughout the world.

During the summer of 1995, the choir participated in the first International Music Festival of Munich on the 100th anniversary of Carl Orff's birth in that German city, where they were awarded a coveted Gold Award.

Ohio Boychoir was one of the first groups to tour Ukraine in 1989 while Ukraine was still part of the former Soviet Union and once again in 1991 in independent Ukraine. The tours included performances in the historic opera houses of Lviv and Kyiv. Ukrainian audiences were quite surprised to hear an all-American boychoir sing works in their language.

Director Musichuk is Ukrainian and frequently directs the boys in Ukrainian selections.

The choir's holiday concert schedule in Ohio is the following: Sunday, December 1 — Hudson, First Congregational Church of Hudson, 47 Aurora St., 3 p.m.; two concerts on Sunday, December 8 — Youngstown, Butler Institute of American Art, 524 Wick Ave., 1 p.m.; and Boardman, St. Charles Church, 73245 Westview Dr., 6 p.m.; Sunday, December 15 — Cleveland, St. Ignatius Church, 10205 Lorain Ave., 3 p.m.; and Sunday, December 22 — Parma, St. Francis de Sales Church, corner of State and Snow, 3 p.m.

## Ukrainian American...

(Continued from page 4)

Philadelphia veterans established Post No. 4 in 1946. The speaker proceeded with historical highlights that defined this unit for the next half-century. Mr. Zenuk concluded his talk by affirming, "I was very proud to have served in the United States armed forces during World War II. I am also proud of my Ukrainian heritage. I feel these are strong bonds which hold veterans together."

The keynote speaker for the 49th Convention was Anna Krawczuk, formerly with the United States Medical Corps, and currently serving a second term as the president of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

Her address, titled "The Role of Ukrainian Women in the Military," was compelling and delivered with procession. The audience was impressed with Mrs. Krawczuk's grasp of facts relating to women in war, beginning with the first millennium (Princess Olha).

"Will we ever know," she asked, "how many Ukrainians fought and died during the turmoils of the 20th century, under so many flags in as many different countries — often, unknowingly, brother against brother? We shall never know the exact number of fallen heroes, men and women of Ukrainian heritage, who gave their lives so that we and the world could live in freedom, democracy and peace."

Mrs. Krawczuk concluded her address

by declaring, "from the time I served in the U.S. Army, the role of the women in the military shifted from support services to that of equality with men, including combat." The address was greeted with a standing ovation.

The third speaker was Robert Gulay, the prime mover of the UAV Adopt-a-Hospital program in Ukraine. He expounded on the potential avenues of charity that could evolve from this kind project. He focused on the efforts of New Jersey veterans who have been able to deliver more than \$11 million in medical aid in two and one-half years. "I strongly urge that all veterans' groups in America take part in this humanitarian project," Mr. Gulay concluded.

After the invocation, dinner was served. At the close of the banquet, Dr. Luchkiw introduced dignitaries and announced greetings from organizations. The most notable guest for the evening was Philadelphia Mayor Edward Rendell, who emphasized how ethnic groups have made a difference in American politics.

Mr. Tryciecky took several minutes to thank all delegates, guests, and especially the Convention Committee, for making the 49th Convention a success. Following the benediction, the Ukrainian orchestra Vodohray provided music for dancing.

On Sunday morning, as delegates and guests departed for home and churches, the new UAV board conducted a transition meeting where they laid plans for the immediate future.

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## **Perth Amboy veterans...**

(Continued from page 7)

keeps pulling you back, said Charles Kosmyna, Spike's cousin. Back in 1937, he left for the U.S. Army Air Corps and didn't really stay active in the club until rejoining some 40 years later. "When I started coming around again, it was like I never left," he said.

Another so-called prodigal son is John Fetichin of Fords. After the war, he got married in St. John's Church, moved to Fords, but said he also got a warm welcome back into the fold of the guys he grew up with when he returned.

Joe Markow was a medic during World War II. Now he's the club's chap-

lain and also associate cantor of the Ukrainian Assumption Church. Perhaps he summed it up best for the whole gang: "The Lord kept me safe during the war, and I'm happy to serve Him here now."

That's what American Ukrainian Veterans from north Amboy have been doing for the past 50 years: serving the Lord, serving our church and serving our community.

On November 10, the American Ukrainian Veterans hosted a 50th anniversary celebration. It was a time to look back at their contributions, recall times they shared and a chance to remember friends and family no longer with them. It was a good day to be an American Ukrainian Veteran!

## **Ukrainian traditions...**

(Continued from page 7)

is a finale to any multicultural concert. Try buying dancing slippers for your child in the mall shoe store, and getting asked if you want the slippers for ballet, or for Ukrainian dancing.

The Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, Oseredok, offers its exhibits, classes and lectures. Pysanky — the exquisite Ukrainian Easter eggs — are a normal component of anyone's Easter. The Kyiv Pavilion at Folklorama, with its vibrance and vitality, and the unbelievable zabava (dance) at the end are widely known.

Then there are the daily Ukrainian radio program on CKJS Radio, with its many non-Ukrainian fans; the late beloved Mayor Steve Juba; and Mayor Bill Norrie, an adopted Ukrainian, who wears his embroidered shirt with pride,

and knows how to sing "Mnohaya Lita" (all two words of the lyrics). And without the domed churches dotting the horizon, the city would not look the same.

Wearing an embroidered Ukrainian shirt, you barely get a second look in Winnipeg. You have to be careful what you say in public, because you never know who's around and who understands Ukrainian — and at the same time, you'll sure learn a lot about others! "Chekai" [wait or stop], "dai Bozhe" [may God grant] and "na zdorovia" [to your health] are phrases most everyone understands.

From foreigners in sheepskin coats a century ago being admonished to "talk white" and change their surnames, Ukrainians have become an integral part of Canada, of that unravelable, spectacularly woven tapestry that especially makes up western Canada, Manitoba, and "Ukrainian" Winnipeg.

## **Ukraine's Communists...**

(Continued from page 1)

ing in its back yard.

On November 13, at a weekly press briefing, President Kuchma's chief of staff, Dmytro Tabachnyk, pointed out that if the Duma's games continue, Ukraine could ask members of the international community that have pledged to support Ukrainian independence to condemn the Russian actions. "I personally think that what is going on in the Russian Duma is political games between the political elites of our neighbors," he explained. "But I think that Russian leaders know the possible reaction of the world community."

Ukraine had signed agreements to guarantee the integrity of its borders and its sov-

ereignty with the United States and Great Britain in 1994 in exchange for giving up its nuclear arsenal. Later France and China signed similar agreements with Ukraine.

On November 14 Verkhovna Rada members belonging to the Republican Party of Ukraine, including National Deputy Lev Lukianenko, announced they would introduce a bill that would require all "foreign armies to leave Ukrainian soil by the year 2000" should the Duma pass a resolution declaring Sevastopol Russian territory.

Republican Party leader Bohdan Yaroshynsky also questioned the response to the situation by the United States, Great Britain and France: "They have not given the appropriate guarantee for the integrity and security of the territory as they had agreed."

## **Chernomyrdin plays the Kyiv game**

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, like his ailing boss, President Boris Yeltsin, has now also played the game "now I am going to Kyiv, now I am not."

Mr. Chernomyrdin was scheduled to be in Kyiv sometime before November 15 to finalize papers on the Black Sea Fleet and prepare documents for a comprehensive treaty on friendship and cooperation between Ukraine and Russia. On October 1 he had announced, soon after a meeting with Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma, that he would be in Kyiv in mid-October, plans that were delayed for a month when President Yeltsin's heart surgery was postponed.

The new date came and passed without a visit, and no one in the Ukrainian government would comment except to say, "the plan is for the prime minister to travel to Kyiv." These were the

words of President Kuchma's chief of staff, Dmytro Tabachnyk, uttered on November 23 at a regular presidential press briefing.

On November 20 the Kremlin finally responded to the status of the visit. According to an Interfax report, presidential foreign policy aide Dmitri Riurikov said, "Progress on the Black Sea Fleet issue will take time and is the determining factor on a visit." He said no new date has been set.

The presidential aide went on to say that "thus far no close political, economic and military-political unity is visualized for the near term."

Mr. Riurikov said the Black Sea Fleet should have a single base in Sevastopol and that "we are working on that issue."

The presidential aide also said Ukraine-Russia relations have been marked by controversy for centuries, but that "we are going to have a greater degree of closeness than we have now."

# A celebration...

(Continued from page 9)

by three women in black and white clothing to the accompaniment of tolling bells.

Actors portraying poets Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko and Lesia Ukrayinka, quoting their own works, voiced their conviction that the Ukrainian people could not be vanquished.


The compelling production concluded on a high note with a half-hour extravaganza of Hutsul dancing and a mass scenario representing the freedoms and bene-

fits enjoyed by Ukrainians today, presented by hundreds of dancers, singers, teenage acrobats, children, army bands and a column of National Guard soldiers.

Directed by Merited Artist of Ukraine Volodymyr Nesterenko, who was assisted by Volodymyr Oleksiuk and Roman Bratkovsky, the pageant featured vocal soloists Oksana Domshynska, Lazlo Gabosh, Mykhailo Popeliuk and Yaroslav Krainyk, a host of distinguished actors, and bandurist Pavlo Suprun. Oksana Ivanytska and Oleksander Shymansky, who delivered the narration, gave the production an extra punch.



Stepping along briskly in the line of march at the Ivano-Frankivsk rally is a group of Soyuz Ukrainok members.



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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**Sunday, December 1**  
**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Institute of America presents a pre-holiday concert of classical and popular music featuring Myroslav Skoryk, Volodymyr Vynnytsky and Marianna Vynnytsky in a program of works by Lysenko, Skoryk, Kos-Anatolsky, E. Kozak and O. Kuzyszyn. The concert is being held at the institute, 2 E. 79th St., at 4 p.m.

**Monday, December 2**  
**CHICAGO:** The Friends of Radiology in Ukraine Inc., a non-profit association of professionals in radiology and related fields, is holding its annual meeting at the Radiological Society of North America Conference in McCormick Place, North Building, Room N 133, at 11:30-1 p.m. Guest speakers are Dr. Yakiv Babiy, president, Ukrainian Association of Radiologists (Kyiv); and Prof. Romana Hnatyshak, M.D., chair, radiology department, Lviv State Medical University. Dr. M. Paul Capp, director, American Board of Radiology, and president, FRU, will serve as moderator. Among items on the agenda are: scheduling of radiological conferences and refresher courses in Ukraine; problems of Ukrainian-language radiology publications, and setting up a medical publishing house. A reception/dinner will be held the same evening, with details to be announced at the meeting. For additional information call Dr. Adrian Baranetsky, (212) 423-4445 (day).

**Monday, December 2**  
**SUN CITY, Ariz.:** The Leontovych String Quartet — Yuri Mazurkevich, first violin; Yuri Kharenko, second violin; Borys Deviatov, viola; and Volodymyr Panteleyev, cello — will appear in concert at Sundial Auditorium, 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard, in a program of works by Schubert, Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky. Performance time: 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 5**  
**NEW YORK:** The Harriman Institute is holding a lecture by Dr. Antonina Berezenko, visiting professor at Columbia University, who will address the topic "The Language of Crime in Ukraine and Russia." The lecture will be held at the International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St., Room 1219, at noon-2 p.m.

**Saturday, December 7**  
**TOMS RIVER, N.J.:** St. Stephen Ukrainian Catholic Church is holding a holiday bazaar at the parish center, 1344 White Oak Bottom Road, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be crafts, attic treasures, home-made breads and cakes, as well as Ukrainian food.

**PLAINFIELD, N.J.:** Choral works by Slavic composers, from the Middle Ages to the present, will be presented in a "Gateway to the Slavic Soul" concert by the Summit Chorale, under the direction of Garyth Nair, at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Ave., at 8 p.m. The program will feature works by Part, Nair, Stravinsky, Schnittke, Leontovych and Iatsinevich. The chorale comprises 60 non-professional singers chosen by rigorous audition. Tickets: \$15; \$10 for seniors and students. The evening will also feature traditional audience carol-singing. For more information call (201) 762-8486.

**Sunday, December 8**  
**MAPLEWOOD, N.J.:** A concert of choral works by Slavic composers titled "Gateway to the Slavic Soul" by the Summit Chorale, under the direction of Garyth Nair, will be held in Morrow Memorial Methodist Church, 600 Ridgewood Road, at 4 p.m. The program includes works by Part, Nair, Stravinsky, Schnittke, Leontovych and Iatsinevich.

**YORKERS, N.Y.:** Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 30 invites the public to an exhibit and sale of artworks by the late artist Jacques Hnizdovsky and Wolodymyra Wasiczko to be held at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Shonnard Place at North Broadway, at 9 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information call Nadia Liteplo, (914) 949-4911.

**Saturday, December 14**  
**NEW YORK:** The Music at the Institute Series presents violinist Yuri Kharenko in his New York debut and pianist Vyacheslav Bakis in a program of works by Mozart, Franck, Chausson, Skoryk and Sarasate. The concert will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., at 8 p.m. The concert is sponsored by Alex Rovt and the IBE Trade Corp.

**ADVANCE NOTICE**  
**December 26-29**  
**SOUTHFIELD, Mich.:** A four-day Ukrainian Christmas Carol Workshop, sponsored by the Kapela Bandurystiv, will be held in the fields of voice and bandura at St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral, 2017 Mada-Evergreen Road. The workshop will comprise two seminars geared towards: intermediate and advanced bandura players with an interest in expanding their repertoire, gaining exposure to Ukrainian carols and playing in ensembles; and, individuals with some vocal experience, 16 years of age and older, interested in Ukrainian Christmas carols and gaining basic skills of vocal art. Instruction will be both in Ukrainian and English. Prospective staff to include: Oleh Mahlay, Dr. Mark Farion, Victor Mishalow, Anatoli Murha, Mykola Schidowka and Nadia Tarnawsky. Among the workshop's other sponsors are the Ukraina Bandura Camp, the Kobzarska Sich Bandura Camp, the Bandura Education Commission and St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral. The workshop begins Thursday, December 26, with registration at 4-6 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., to be followed by a rehearsal. The workshop closes Sunday, December 29, with an open rehearsal for the community to be held in the church hall in the afternoon. To register and for more information call Anatoli Murha, (313) 953-0305; e-mail: AnatolUKE1@aol.com. One can also visit the ODUM and Kapela Bandurystiv Homepages for more information.

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