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Polish, Ukrainian presidents sign concord declaration

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Poland's President Alexander Kwasniewski spent three days in Ukraine on May 20-22 on an official state visit during which he signed a document with President Leonid Kuchma to put aside historical animosities and conflicts between the two neighboring countries.

Poland and Ukraine have had amiable relations since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, but in the years surrounding World War II strained relations existed. Wars and land grabs have marked their co-existence for centuries.

On May 21, in a move to alleviate past misunderstandings and differences, the two presidents signed a Declaration on Concord and Unity.

The declaration addresses the two major points of contention between the countries in the 20th century: Operation Vistula (Akcja Wisla) of 1947, in which 150,000 ethnic Ukrainians were forcibly moved from homes in southeastern Poland to the northwest by the Polish Communist government, and others killed for refusing to do so; and the killing of Poles in the Volyn region in the Ukrainian struggle for independence during World War II.

"We pay tribute to the innocent Ukrainians and Poles — the tormented, the dead and the forcibly uprooted," read a joint statement released by the presidents at the Institute of International Relations in Kyiv.

The purpose of Mr. Kwasniewski's visit, as Anatolii Ponomarenko, chief of the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry's Department of Europe and America, put it, was "to continue to move for the political reconciliation of the peoples of Poland and Ukraine in the present-day context."

Speaking before Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada on May 21, President Kwasniewski expressed his sympathy for the "tragic destiny of Ukrainians who suffered because of Operation Vistula."

"The profoundly human formula 'we forgive and ask for forgiveness' is meaningful even when people are not under the pressure of responsibility for what happened in the past," said the Polish president.

In Mr. Kwasniewski's statement before the Verkhovna Rada, as in

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Kuchma, Gore convene first session of U.S.-Ukraine commission



President Leonid Kuchma (right) and Vice-President Al Gore sign a joint statement of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission at the White House on May 16.

by Khristina Lew

WASHINGTON — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Vice-President Al Gore presided over the first full session of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission at the White House on May 16 before meeting with President Bill Clinton in the late afternoon to discuss security issues and Ukraine's commitment to economic reform.

The daylong meeting of the commission culminated in President Kuchma and Vice-President Gore signing a joint initiative on gas sector reform (for full text, see page 10) and a far-reaching joint statement on the work of the commission in the areas of foreign policy, security, trade and investment, and sustainable economic cooperation.

In a separate meeting on May 16, Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadii Udovenko and Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright signed a joint statement welcoming the entry into force of the CFE Flank Document, noting that the document "does not give any state party the right to station or temporarily deploy conventional armaments and equipment limited by the [Conventional Forces in Europe] treaty on the territory of other states parties to the treaty without the freely expressed consent of the receiving state party."

The joint statement also reiterated Ukraine's position that "the temporary

presence of foreign troops on Ukrainian territory may be based only on a duly concluded agreement with Ukraine according to its Constitution and in conformity with international law and relevant multilateral documents, or otherwise be pursuant to decisions of the U.N. Security Council and be consistent with the U.N. Charter."

President Kuchma and his delegation of senior Cabinet ministers arrived at

Andrews Air Force Base for a two-day working visit to the nation's capital on the afternoon of May 14 and were greeted by Vice-President Gore.

Capitol Hill focuses on corruption

On May 15, the day before co-chairing the inaugural plenary meeting of the

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Congress tells Ukraine to shape up

by Michael Sawkiw Jr.

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON — As President Leonid Kuchma was completing his official visit here, the U.S. Congress was sending the president and his government a direct message: speed up reform and reduce corruption, or risk a reduction in U.S. assistance next year.

Several weeks ago, on April 30, the House Committee on International Relations, began to prepare the final draft of the foreign assistance authorization bill for Fiscal Year 1998. The authorization bill is an enactment by the Committee on International Relations to provide recommendations upon which the House Committee on Appropriations can base their spending decisions, and includes amounts rec-

ommended for Ukraine.

Of particular note was an amendment offered by Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-Fla.) to reduce the amount of foreign assistance to Ukraine. The amendment provided that "not more than an amount equal to one-third of the amount appropriated for Ukraine for Fiscal Year 1997 [\$225 million] may be provided to the Government of Ukraine for each of such Fiscal Years 1998 and 1999." Had the amendment passed, Ukraine would have received no more than \$75 million per year for the next two years.

As word began to spread about the Hastings amendment, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), along with several other Ukrainian American organizations, quickly engaged

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Belarus: some reflections during the spring of 1997

The following are the author's reflections, written in a journal format, on his most recent trip to Belarus.

by David R. Marples

PART I

Miensk, April 17

I had no problems at the airport in Miensk, which I cannot say for an American companion I met on the plane. His suitcase was being ransacked as I went through customs. My friends met me, along with a driver. The airport road is under repair so only one side of the dual carriageway is in use for part of the way into Miensk. It looks like it has rained here for weeks. The road outside is a quagmire of mud and huge puddles, huge holes in it all over the place.

This morning I have to give up my passport to the woman at the Chernobyl Fund. She will then take it to the OVIR office and I have to get officially registered as a guest in Miensk. It is a tedious procedure and costs about 200,000 Belarusian rubles (a bit less than \$10 U.S.), but it is dangerous not to do it. One of the justifications for deporting the chair of the Soros Foundation last month was that he had never got himself registered. The fund itself is in the hands of the KGB. Tonight is the opera. Tomorrow I am going to the northern city of Polatsak, the oldest part of Belarus, where a principality was formed in the 10th century that may have been part of, or autonomous of, Kyivan Rus'. A trip to Lithuania is also possible.

April 19

Yesterday I went to Polatsak, the oldest city in Belarus. There is no easy way to get anywhere in this country. It isn't a matter of simply getting a bus or a train, or even driving. In any case, the latter is impossible because you cannot rent a car other than at the airport and I don't imagine that is a simple undertaking. The trains run at very odd times. It's a legacy perhaps from the Soviet period when no one was supposed to see anything while traveling. Anyway I opted for the bus and one left at 7:40 a.m. There were only about 10 people on it and the road was very bumpy. As we traveled north the weather deteriorated, so that by the time we stopped at the second or third village there was blowing snow and it had become bitterly cold.

At the first stop the passengers scrambled to get off and headed for a tiny market where old women were selling oranges. I found a coffee shop. There, two young fellows, whom I took to be Georgians, enjoyed a mug of beer. One well-dressed woman was accosted by an old man, who had been sitting quietly in the window seat. He pointed to her fur coat and asked her to give it to him. She left hurriedly. The man soon followed.

Then the bus broke down. It had been struggling all the way but finally it gave up the ghost and collapsed once it had reached an official bus stop. The driver, who had been non-communicative throughout, got off with some very ancient looking spanners (I saw little in ancient Polatsak that appeared to be older), and started banging around ineffectually. The passengers sat and froze until a regular bus came to pick us up (about 45 minutes later). This one

David R. Marples is professor of history at the University of Alberta in Edmonton and director of the Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, which is based at that university.

stopped at every stop and was very crowded by the time we reached Polatsak.

However, after that everything improved. The city has a population of about 80,000 and is a mixture of old and Soviet. Further to the north is the more modern industrial center, Novopolatsak. Every town here has a Soviet facade, the sky-rise apartment blocks and Socialist Realism of the World War II period. But Polatsak also has monuments to the defense of the city against Napoleon and on the site of the old St. Sophia Cathedral now stands a building renewed in the 17th-19th centuries, though you can still see some of the old stones and relics dating to the 10th century. It stands on a hill high above the Western Dvina River that runs to its mouth at Riga, Latvia, the next city to the northwest.

The area by the river is very pleasant. And though the people in this most ancient of Belarusian towns all speak Russian (at least all those with whom I spoke), they are much more open and friendly than in Miensk. There is none of the city bustle. There is a museum by the river located in a church (19th century by the look of it), which contains a fascinating depiction of the history of Polatsak with relics, maps and paintings. I found the whole city really interesting.

Finding a place to eat was a serious operation. There were plenty of coffee bars but almost no restaurants. However, the Hotel Dvina opened up at 5 p.m. The food was adequate and very cheap. The service was pure Soviet, with preparations under way for a large table and little attention being paid to individual guests or smaller numbers.

Then there was no way to get back to Miensk. One couldn't buy a bus ticket until 30 minutes before the bus arrived and, given the hordes around, that was going to be difficult. It seemed in any case very restricting. So I bought a train ticket instead, for a train that left at 8:20 p.m., but got into Miensk at 5 a.m. Times are established, as noted above, for the inconvenience of passengers. I couldn't imagine for the life of me how a train could take nearly nine hours to get to Miensk. It would almost have been quicker to walk.

Tonight there will be a party, a belated birthday party for Liuba, a friend of mine from the Chernobyl Fund. Her sister and niece will be coming and possibly Vitalii, Nadia's husband. Politics have rendered this situation rather strange. The brutality carried out by the militia against the democratic opposition takes on a new meaning when I remember that Vitalii was one of the militia throwing his weight around in the main square, doubtless using his truncheon on anyone within the vicinity. All militia are being called up for such operations, as if a national emergency were in place. Thus the vast majority of troops in the square were called in from other duties.

April 20

I just talked this morning with Yelena Gapova from the State University. She and I had met last November in Boston and she has been working on a translation of my book. She told me that the book has just been reviewed by Adam Maldis, whom I have cited several times in the text. The man is a defiant defender of the national language at the present time and I am really quite thrilled by this news. On Wednesday I am to meet both Ms. Gapova and Mr. Maldis. Yelena has a heavy flu at present and can barely talk. She is also writing a review of the book for the U.S. Russian-language journal Demokratizatsiya.

Most of my day has been spent in the National Library in the reading room of the

(Continued on page 20)

NEWSBRIEFS

Crimean privatization chief murdered

SYMFEROPOL — Serhiy Holovizin, chairman of the Crimean State Property Fund, was shot dead on his doorstep on May 16, a press spokesman for the procurator's office said. An investigation was under way but there were no immediate indications as to who was responsible for the killing, although Crimean Police Chief Mykhailo Korniyenko said the following day that it was highly probable Mr. Holovizin's death was tied to his professional dealings, and that the killer was likely a professional, although sloppy, contract operative. Investigative teams had been dispatched from the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Kyiv, and the Security Service may become involved as well. Since January 1995 Mr. Holovizin, 59, had been in charge of the privatization process which got going early last year after a three-year moratorium ended. He also managed President Kuchma's 1994 campaign for office in this region and had been expected to work on the 1999 Kuchma re-election bid. (Reuters/Easter Economist)

Poll shows time is ripe for reform

KYIV — Some 60 percent of Ukrainians think the pace of market reforms is too slow, according to a new opinion poll released by the Ukrainian Market Reform Education Program, which is sponsored by USAID and the government of Ukraine. "The survey showed that the Ukrainian

population fully understands the concept of fundamental economic reforms and supports the decisive structural and political changes which are necessary for implementing a market economy," said Iryna Novytska, the president of the non-profit Ukraine Free Economy (UFE) Foundation. The foundation conducted a survey of 1,600 Ukrainians along with the GLS research firm of San Francisco, Kyiv-based Socis-Gallup and the PBN company. The main line of questioning concerned the attitude of Ukrainians towards government power and economic reforms. About 70 percent of respondents said they do not trust the Ukrainian government and think its decisions are taken "secretly, dishonestly and with corruption in mind." Approximately 40 percent supported the free market, while another 40 percent thought the state should control the economy. Seventy percent supported the beginning of economic reforms. "Conditions in Ukraine are now more suitable for economic reform than ever before, and Ukraine is ready to start moving," UFE director Peter Nekarsalmer said. (Eastern Economist)

Another embassy opened

JAKARTA — The Embassy of Ukraine to the Republic of Indonesia was officially opened here on May 16. Ambassador Ihor Lytvyn presented his credentials to Indonesian President

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Reaction to NATO-Russia accord is varied

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Following weeks of intensive negotiations, NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana and Russian Foreign Minister Yevgenii Primakov on May 14 announced the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between NATO and the Russian Federation. Almost immediately, the document evoked strong reactions within the countries most affected by the alliance's expansion plans, as well as disputes between Russia and the U.S. over interpretation of the document.

The act creates a Russia-NATO joint council that will meet semi-annually to consider common problems, according to wire reports. Other provisions of the document call for strengthening the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and revising the Conventional Forces in Europe troop reduction agreement. The key provisions call for NATO to not deploy sizable conventional forces or nuclear weapons in the new member states, the first tier of which is expected to

include Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Former Polish President Lech Walesa, writing in *Zycie Warszawy* on May 19, called the agreement a huge blunder and said NATO had missed a great opportunity to explain to Russia in clear terms that it would have no say and could not place any conditions on the alliance's eastward expansion. Polish Foreign Minister Dariusz Rosati was more positive in his assessment, but said Poland would seek representation on the Russia-NATO joint council.

Reaction from Hungary and Romania was generally positive, with Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Severin telling Romanian Radio on May 15 that Bucharest hopes the agreement refers only to relations between NATO and Russia, and would not constrain choices by other countries, according to RFE/RL Newline.

The Baltic countries were less positive in their assessments, with Lithuanian

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American Friends for Ukraine launches activities in Washington

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON — The American Friends for Ukraine Inc. (AFU), a new cultural and educational foundation established last year in New York, launched its Washington activities with a reception on May 14, the first day of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's visit to the U.S. capital.

Among the guests at the reception were the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, William Green Miller, and his wife, Suzanne, representatives from the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, from the administration and Congress, and from the Washington business, cultural and Ukrainian American communities.

The goals of the foundation, said AFU President Richard Murphy in his welcoming remarks, "are to increase the American people's awareness about Ukraine, its history, culture and importance in world affairs, and to promote friendly ties between our two nations and their people."

The foundation is starting its program with two major cultural events, Mr. Murphy said: it is bringing the Kyiv Chamber Choir to the United States later this year and organizing a large Ukrainian folk costume exhibit at the Museum of American Folk Art in New York and taking it on a national tour in the fall of 1998.

The Kyiv Chamber Choir will perform in Washington on December 20, under the aegis of the Washington Performing Arts Society and the George Mason Center for the Performing Arts, and at Carnegie Hall in New York the following day. Mr. Murphy said a tour of other North American cities is being planned.

He said that AFU will be organizing study tours to Ukraine for professional people, particularly Congressional staffers and journalists, "in an effort to increase their awareness of Ukraine."

Also addressing the reception guests, Melanne Verveer, deputy chief of staff to the first lady, noted that Ambassador Miller had approached her a few months ago about getting the Kyiv Chamber Choir to perform at the White House during their stay in Washington. "I don't have an answer yet," she said, "but he's hard at work."

Ms. Verveer said that with AFU's planned exchange programs, "We can help to build democracy at the people-to-people level, where it really gets built."

Ambassador Miller admitted to becoming "a hopeless addict" of Ukrainian choral music, especially sacred choral music. "There is no place in the world that sings so well," he told the audience.

Of his and his wife's favorite, the

(Continued on page 15)



Yaro Bihun

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller describes the richness of Ukrainian choral music at a reception launching the American Friends for Ukraine foundation operations in Washington. AFU President Richard Murphy is seen on left.



Deputy Chief of Staff of the First Lady Melanne Verveer speaks at the reception, as AFU President Richard Murphy (left) looks on.

"Decisive week" fizzles as Verkhovna Rada fiddles

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — It was to have been a decisive week in the work of the Verkhovna Rada as it headed into the home stretch of its eighth session. Parliament Vice-Chairman Viktor Musiaka said so on May 18. Fifteen major bills would come to the Parliament floor for a vote.

"It's going to be one of the toughest weeks I remember," he told journalists at a press conference that Monday.

Was a legislature that can be characterized as one of the most deliberative such bodies in the world up to the task? Could national deputies in fact pass two tax reform bills, an election law and also begin reviewing a new civil and commercial code all in one week, as well as a series of lesser bills? Deputy Musiyaka even proposed the possibility that the budget, which has been stalled somewhere in the never-never land between the Verkhovna Rada and the Cabinet of Ministers, might finally come to the floor for a second reading — if the tax reform package was approved.

Yes, it was too much to ask for. After gearing up for the week with coalition meetings and committee sessions on Monday, the deputies got right down to work on Tuesday ... and acted on two lesser bills; they approved the appointment of a Verkhovna Rada human rights commissioner and rejected three variations of a bill aimed at re-nationalization of property.

The afternoon session proved a dud because Chairman Oleksander Moroz was receiving an honorary diploma from the town of Slavutych and visiting the Ukrainian Stock Exchange.

You can say what you want about Mr. Moroz, and much has been said regarding his loose play with parliamentary procedure, but without him at the helm this legislative ship that rarely steers a straight course comes to a halt.

One thing was decided that afternoon, however. The budget would not be presented for a second reading that week. Chairman Moroz released a

statement in which he said that because the Cabinet of Ministers had only supplied the Verkhovna Rada with only "materials for work on the budget" rather than the entire package, the budget would not be discussed until June at the earliest.

He also announced that, with no budget package, no general session would take place the last week of May, and the deputies would spend the week in their constituencies, which to many of them becomes a week off or a week to take care of their individual business concerns.

So, on Wednesday, at the morning session, it was time to get to work, right? But hold on, here was Poland's President Alexander Kwasniewski, who appeared for a scheduled speech before the assembly. That blew any plans for moving a few bills across the floor early on. After the Polish president's remarks, the Parliament voted in an amendment to the State Property Fund Statute and a ban on the increase on prices and tariffs for housing and utilities. It must be noted that these were both political votes and reactions to presidential decrees. And, lest it be misunderstood, the Verkhovna Rada always moves quickly to react to the president, especially when deputies do not agree with him.

In the afternoon the deputies decided they had to reconvene in committees, and no general session took place.

With two days left in the week, the deputies had not voted on any of the major bills that Mr. Musiyaka had mentioned. The only notable action was their approval of President Leonid Kuchma's annotations (some of them, anyway) to the bill on local self-government, which should allow the president to remove a veto he had imposed.

So the agenda announced for Thursday was obvious and impossible, and the deputies proved themselves up to the task.

They were to examine in one day drafts of the civil and commercial

(Continued on page 17)

Lazarenko responds to New York Times

OTTAWA — Prime Minister of Ukraine Pavlo Lazarenko sent a letter to the editor-in-chief of The New York Times on April 25 in response to the article "Ukraine Stagers on Path to the Free Market" published on April 9. Information about the prime minister's letter was released here by the Embassy of Ukraine.

Mr. Lazarenko emphasized that the article misrepresented the situation regarding the Ukrainian government's purchase of domestically produced grain, as well as his association with the company United Energy Systems. The article also created the impression that foreign companies are fleeing Ukraine, instead of entering in ever increasing numbers.

The New York Times quoted an American businessman as saying that the government of Ukraine last fall confiscated all grain produced in Ukraine.

According to Prime Minister Lazarenko, the government decided early last year that it needed to purchase grain to ensure that the Ukrainian people would have enough of this staple. The government bought 5 million tons at an average price that was close to world

prices, not at the lower price that the newspaper cited, and any business was free to buy the rest.

In response to the charges repeated in the article that the Ukrainian prime minister used a stake in United Energy Systems to reap millions of dollars, Mr. Lazarenko said those charges were false. He has no stake in United Energy Systems.

Prime Minister Lazarenko also underlined that Ukraine is far from being the economic disaster portrayed by The New York Times. Foreign investment now stands at about \$1.5 billion. From 1995 to 1996 foreign investment in Ukraine increased by 50 percent. According to the United States Department of Commerce, within the same time frame total foreign imports into Ukraine increased by 21.5 percent.

To improve access for foreign investors, an Advisory Board on Foreign Investments was created in March. This board is headed by President Leonid Kuchma and includes top Ukrainian leaders, as well as representatives of many multinational corporations. The board allows foreign companies and Ukrainian leaders to work together to create a more hospitable climate for foreign investment.

Canadian Jewish Congress' "Rat on a Nazi" approach to war criminals issue is denounced

by Christopher Guly

OTTAWA – Despite having its method of tracking down war criminals in Canada criticized by both members of its own, as well as the Ukrainian-Canadian communities, a representative of the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) insists its goal is to rid the country of suspected Nazi collaborators involved in the murder of civilians during the Second World War.

"I'm not sure what kind of justice there could ever be for such incredible murders," said Bernie M. Farber, the national director of community relations for the CJC in an interview from Toronto. "Capital punishment might not even be justice enough ... we don't want these people to go to their deaths peacefully."

However, John Gregorovich, head of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, said that if a suspected war criminal is deported, rather than be subject to Canadian justice, the potential for punishment is lessened. "They will go back to their village in Eastern Europe and live on a lucrative pension," he said.

Canada's Justice Minister Allan Rock has identified 12 suspected war criminals living in Canada against whom the federal immigration department denaturalization and deportation proceedings have begun. The Canadian government argues the accused lied about their past when they were admitted to Canada. The ages of the dozen suspects range from 75 to 85.

Mr. Farber said three of the 12 men are "believed" to be of Ukrainian descent. The CJC activist singled out Wassily Bogutin, accused of being involved in the murder of civilians near Donetsk between 1941 and 1943; Vladimir Katriuk, allegedly involved in Nazi atrocities in Belarus; and the most recently named individual, Serge Kisluk, who is alleged to have collaborated with the Nazis as a member of the Ukrainian Auxiliary Police in the Turlusk region.

Mr. Gregorovich said the notion of identifying suspects based on their ethnicity is tenuous. For instance, Johann Dueck, one of the Canadian government's 12 suspects, allegedly served as Mr. Bogutin's superior in the Selidovka district. "He was a German living in Ukraine," said Mr. Gregorovich. "Does that make him Ukrainian?"

Steven Rambam, a private investigator from New York City who has been retained by the CJC and who was recently profiled on a CBS-TV "60 Minutes" episode titled, "Canada's Dark Secret," claims to have found 161 Nazis living in Canada and believes there are even more.

Following a recent visit to Ottawa, Mr. Rambam and officials with the congress unveiled a new strategy to hunt down war criminals. Calling it "1-800-Rat on a Nazi," Mr. Rambam said the congress is even willing to negotiate with suspects in exchange for incriminating evidence against their former colleagues. The move has sparked controversy within Canada's Jewish community.

Winnipeg lawyer David Matas, a spokesperson for B'nai Brith Canada, called the plan "morally repugnant" and "twisted."

The Jewish Civil Rights Educational Foundation of Canada and well-known Nazi hunter Sol Littman, who serves as the Canadian representative of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, also joined in decrying the congress' strategy.

"What is troubling is whether the Jewish community should serve as a protector and defender of the people who give evidence," Mr. Littman recently told The Toronto Star. But Mr. Farber denied the plan amounts to a witness-protection approach for suspected war criminals, and insisted the Royal Canadian Mounted Police would ultimately decide whether to lay charges against informants.

Bert Raphael of the Jewish Civil Rights Educational Foundation of Canada's recently told The Toronto Star that he "violently" disagrees with the Jewish congress' position. "It's repugnant," said Mr. Raphael, whose group includes 700 lawyers and judges. "If [anyone is] guilty of atrocities,

the proper authorities should search them down, charge them and proceed."

Asked to comment the CJC's latest move, Oleh Romaniw, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, said: "They are entitled to pursue whatever avenues they feel they should."

Mr. Romaniw, a Winnipeg-based lawyer, told the Weekly, "They have their perspective, other people have their own perspectives. Canada is a free country, and anybody can do whatever they want as long as it's done according to the law."

Mr. Romaniw added that the UCC's position since the 1985 Deschenes Commission on War Criminals remains unchanged. "Anybody suspected of being a war criminal should be tried and, if convicted, punished in Canada," he said.

But Mr. Farber said the Canadian Supreme Court's 1994 decision on the Finta case ended any hopes of a made-in-Canada solution to war criminals. "What the court said, essentially, is that a suspect could use the defense they were only acting according to the orders they received."

Mr. Gregorovich says that's an inaccurate interpretation of the court decision.

"That's the position the defense took," the UCCLA chairman explained. "What the court said was that there was insufficient evidence to prove [Imre] Finta's guilt."

Mr. Farber contends the only recourse the federal government has is to send suspected war criminals back to the countries from which they emigrated to stand trial. On this front, Mr. Farber said, the Canadian government has dragged its feet. "They should be ashamed of themselves for harboring war criminals," he said.

Mr. Farber, 45, who was raised in Ottawa by Ukrainian-born Jewish parents said he, hoped the CJC's hunt for war criminals wouldn't hurt his community's relationship with Ukrainian Canadians. "This is not an issue of ethnicity," he said. "There are also people from Latvia and Lithuania on our list. But I think that most members of the Ukrainian community would want nothing less than justice since many of these collaborators murdered their own countrymen."

Mr. Romaniw said the relationship between the UCC and the Canadian Jewish Congress is a good one.

New manager named for Parliamentary Development Project

by Olenka Dobczanska

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Ukraine Foundation has announced that Natalie Melnyczuk has been selected by to carry the three-year Parliamentary Development Project (PDP) to completion as project manager in Kyiv. The PDP was launched in April 1994 by Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation (USUF) under a \$3.45 million grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development. Its purpose is to provide direct and long-term assistance to strengthen the institutional mechanisms of the Verkhovna Rada in keeping with democratic reforms.

Ms. Melnyczuk went to Kyiv in January to take over the duties of Bohdan Radejko, whose contract expired at the end of that month. The Parliamentary Development Project, which has been well received by the Verkhovna Rada and positively evaluated by Western experts, will end on May 31. Upon completion of the project, Ms. Melnyczuk is planning to stay in Kyiv to work on other government reform projects with USUF.

A Ph.D. candidate at the School of International Service at the American University, Ms. Melnyczuk is well qualified for her new position. Her dissertation focused on "Democratization and Foreign Policy Decision-Making in the Parliaments of Russia and Ukraine," so working for PDP closely complements her interests. At the American University she was awarded several fellowships and academic scholarship awards. In addition she was selected for teaching and/or research assistantships with Dean Louis

Goodman, Dr. William Kincade and Ambassador Phillip Kaplan.

After graduating with a B.A. in political science and East European studies at the University of Michigan, Ms. Melnyczuk went on to earn a master of arts at the University of Illinois at Chicago where she also worked for three years as a teaching assistant. In 1991 she designed and taught an undergraduate level course. During her summers she attended courses at the Russian State Humanities University in Moscow and the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and worked at the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute.

Academically and professionally, Ms. Melnyczuk has been engaged since 1987 in the field of democratization in post-authoritarian societies throughout the world. She has published a number of articles, presented papers or been a panelist at numerous scholarly conferences, and was a guest consultant to the Voice of America on the topic of evolving Russian-Ukrainian relations.

She was director of research for Heartland International, a research assistant for the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and director of submissions for Demokratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization. Most recently she spent six months in Kyiv acting as an analyst and liaison for Democratic Initiatives' Educational Research Center.

"Coming from a Ukrainian family, I am culturally, politically and historically sensitive to the Ukrainian situation. This, coupled with an American education which has focused on the political reform process, not only in Eastern Europe, but



Natalie Melnyczuk

also in Russia, Africa, Asia and other transition areas allows me to see the process of political reform from several perspectives," said Ms. Melnyczuk.

"Working for PDP is very exciting for me because it will allow me to see parliamentary reform from the inside after doing so much outside analysis," she added.

For more information about the Parliamentary Development Project contact: U.S.-Ukraine Foundation at 1511 K St., NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005. telephone, (202) 337-4264; fax, (202) 347-4267; e-mail, ukraine@access.digex.net



Awaiting their check-ups at the Nezaburdka Clinic for families of Chernobyl evacuees in the Lufarsk region.

Children At Risk...

To improve the health of women and children in Ukraine, CCRF has launched the Women's and Children's Health Initiative in Dnipropetrovsk, Vinnytsia, Luhansk and Chernihiv. The project's goal is to increase infant survival and to enhance prenatal care for women. For more information or to make a donation that can help save a life in Ukraine, contact us.

Children of Chernobyl Relief

272 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, New Jersey 07078 • 201-376-5140



INTERVIEW: Bohdan Hawrylyshyn on “new Ukraine’s” economic system

Dr. Bohdan Hawrylyshyn recently presented a survey of changes in Ukraine’s economic system and structure over 1991-1996 at a conference, “Towards a New Ukraine,” hosted by the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa.

Dr. Hawrylyshyn has chaired the Council of Advisors to the Presidium of the Ukrainian Parliament since it was established in January 1990 at his request and is also the chairman of the Ukrainian Renaissance Foundation, a branch of the Soros Foundation, chairs the International Center for Policy Studies, and is chairman of the International Management Institute-Kyiv.

He is a member of the American-Ukrainian Advisory Committee, a prestigious body of statesmen, politicians and international experts chaired by President Jimmy Carter’s national security advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski.

Dr. Hawrylyshyn serves on the Club of Rome’s executive board, is a member of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences and is a fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science and the International Academy of Management.

Andriy Kudla Wynnyckyj conducted the following interview with Dr. Hawrylyshyn on March 22 in Ottawa.

CONCLUSION

Throughout your presentations at the “Towards a New Ukraine” conference, your identification with Ukraine and its government was striking. You often referred to matters in terms of “our economic problems” and “our industry.” Is this something you’ve arrived at since your “return,” or is it something that you’ve always felt?

I remember somebody asked me at a press conference, or after a lecture I delivered in Ukraine, “Where do you live?” and I answered, “I reside in Geneva, but I live in Ukraine.” That’s my situation. I’m a citizen of Canada, I reside in Geneva, but I live in Ukraine.

Many people from the diaspora have strengthened my conviction in this regard. In recent years, people would come up to me and refer to Ukrainians as “they.” For me, it has always been “us.” If you feel the affinity — cultural, linguistic, national and other affinity, then it’s not “they,” but “us.” Maybe the fact that I’d never formed close ties to the diaspora made it easier for me.

In fact, this identification [with Ukraine] came to me very naturally. It was not a product of reflection — it came spontaneously and fairly early. There are several reasons.

First, I left Ukraine already as an adult. I was 17 1/2, but you mature quickly under harsh circumstances. Secondly, my brother was arrested in 1940, and only recently I learned he’d been liquidated in 1944. Much of my family was liquidated or repressed in one form or another.

In Canada, a country I embraced, I gained my personal freedom, my freedom to think and judge for myself. It is a country that provided my education and my trampoline to jump into the world.

All the same, I felt a very strong moral obligation not to amputate myself from my own, from Ukraine, and I made every effort to stay in contact with the country in one way or another. More so after I’d left Toronto, because there you can live in the Ukrainian community in an ersatz Ukraine and lose your feel for the real thing. At any rate, I moved to northern Québec for about five years where there were no Ukrainians at all, and then on to Geneva, where there was only one Ukrainian family.

But I read. I found the Digest of Soviet Ukrainian Press, published by Prolog [in New York City and Munich] very helpful, and vastly preferred it to some of the émigré material published in Toronto. In that way, I felt I remained in spiritual and intellectual contact with Ukraine.

As people from Ukraine came to Geneva to the United Nations agencies, I often invited them to our home, and I could see that even under the terrible Soviet regime some individuals were trying to accomplish things. One lawyer I met was trying to defend human rights within the framework of the Soviet Constitution. He’d received a U.N. prize for his defense of human rights, but was roundly denounced in the diaspora, and when he was in Geneva, he came to my home and almost cried, saying “I really tried to do what I could.”

I was already traveling to Ukraine in 1971 and 1972. In 1980, I’d written a book predicting that the Soviet Union would disintegrate. I believed in this so strongly I took early retirement, five years early, just so I could be free to see my prediction come to pass. It became realistic to do this in 1988, and from then on I became quite active in Ukraine.

While in Kyiv in 1988, I happened to turn on the television and saw a broadcast from Moscow of a

Communist Party congress where Borys Oliynyk said, “Our mothers and sisters did not die for Stalin, nor for the USSR, they died for our homeland, and that homeland is Ukraine.” The next day I met Dmytro Pavlychko at the Writers’ Union to discuss how we were going to design the Ukrainian state — what should be the set of values, its political institutions, its economic system.

The decision to establish the management school [International Management Institute, Kyiv] came out of my desire to help the country with the logistics of the process of setting up a state, creating a system of governance, and developing managers who would manage this new system. That was my priority.

One of the laws of human behavior is that your commitment to something is a function of your capacity to influence. It can even be expressed as a mathematical formula. Therefore, my commitment to Ukraine is very strong because I’m playing a role there. If I were an observer, or an outside analyst critiquing it, I wouldn’t feel this sense of “us.”

When I arrived, the Soviet Union was still very much in existence, but I could set up a management school since it was essentially neutral. The decision to do was made in December 1988, and I remember meeting with people who had just left concentration camps in early 1989. Ironically, we met at the Zhovtnevyi [October] Hotel, which used to belong to the Party’s Central Committee, and that’s where we planned how we would disband the Communist Party.

At the same time, I knew [First Secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine Volodymyr] Ivashko — I

were scores of weaknesses I should eliminate.

But in doing so, I realized that I would waste a lot of time and accomplish nothing if I focused on weaknesses; it was much better to concentrate on strengths. I think this applies to Ukraine.

One ostensible “Ukrainian weakness” that some believe has long undermined attempts to establish statehood is a deep-seated anarchism. Could that be seen as a strength that enabled the country to emerge from between the two huge monoliths coming from the East and from the West — the Soviet/Russian and that of the U.S.-led alliance?

That’s a very good example, because for all the incompetence, for all the lack of any political savvy, Ukraine has managed itself amazingly. You can’t attribute it all to luck.

The wisdom, despite our “otamanshchyna” [fragmentation, too many chiefs] the Ukrainian elite decided on a project of statehood — from nationalists to communists. It was decided: “we have to be, not just tolerant to minorities; we have to make good on all commitments to maintain cultures, languages.”

This was amazing for a country that had suffered so much. You’d think that a people who had been downgraded, discriminated against, trodden upon, would surely do unto others as was done unto them. And yet they didn’t. They showed a nobility of spirit that was truly fascinating to behold.

Unfortunately, some of these very people became corrupt, in the normal economic sense. Oddly, the same

... my commitment to Ukraine is very strong because I’m playing a role there. If I were an observer, or an outside analyst critiquing it, I wouldn’t feel this sense of “us.”

was trying to get him to go to a commemoration of [capitalist theoretician] Adam Smith in Edinburgh — and I knew Ivashko’s successor, [Stanislav] Hurenko.

When I began to work in Ukraine, I adopted a set of principles. I decided I would not join any political party; I would not run for political office; and I would not make any money. I made a conscious decision to get to know the society, and meet people along its entire spectrum. So yes, I sought opportunities to meet the first secretary — I wanted to learn the mentality of the people, what made them tick — whether their identities as Ukrainians could be reconcilable with their beliefs as Communists. Obviously, it was.

Since it was certainly reconcilable in the 1920s and early 1930s, why not in the 1980s and 1990s?

That’s right. In addition, there were the truly noble people who had survived the concentration camps. In some sense, for many of them it was a beneficial process, not that I’d wish it on anyone. In those kinds of circumstances, if you’re weak, you’re crushed, but if you’re strong, you become stronger.

When I was young, I was raised as a nationalist. Until 1948 I was a Banderite, and as a youth in Canada, when I was a lumberjack, I would work in the bush and in the evenings, it seems absurd now, I’d try to get people to go to meetings.

However, in 1988, 40 years later, I became very worried about the extreme nationalists in western Ukraine and their anti-Russian rhetoric. The tolerance of people like [former dissident and Ambassador to Canada Levko] Lukianenko sustained me. No hatred, great tolerance. And yet there were others, great patriots, who did not understand that Ukraine would exist as a pluralistic, multi-ethnic state, or it would not exist.

One of the missions I assigned to myself was to sustain faith. There are not too many objective realities that stand up to scrutiny. The perception often becomes the reality, and if you believe in something strongly enough, the probability of it becoming a reality is greater.

When I lecture abroad, at conferences, when I make presentations to world leaders, I can present Ukraine with a certain objectivity. I can maintain my sense of distance. But when I’m in Ukraine it changes. I won’t say things I don’t believe in, but I don’t concentrate on so many of the negative points.

When I was about 18 or 19, I became fascinated by psychology and began applying it to myself, to learn more. The more I learned, the more convinced I became that I wasn’t a very attractive personality and that there

people who participated in this very noble process and moved it along gave way under financial pressure. They found themselves in a very peculiar economic situation and became disoriented, to my mind.

As a multi-ethnic state, is there a model Ukraine should follow? The Swiss, the Canadian, the American?

Ukraine could learn something from Switzerland, but it does not have an exact model to follow. Switzerland’s ethnic groups are far more distinctly regionalized.

I don’t share the view of those who have the standard prescriptions for the building of nationhood. The element of cohesion does not have to be language, ethnicity or religion, it can be a political process. What has held Switzerland together until now is direct democracy.

The Italian-speaking Swiss who live near northern Italy, and the French-speaking Swiss who live on the French border — neither would want to be part of Italy or France, because then decisions would be made for them, in Paris or Rome. In Switzerland, in Geneva, they decide their own destinies. In Switzerland, de-centralization holds the whole together.

Therefore, I disagree with those who insist that Ukraine must be a unitary state, and that otherwise it would fall apart. On the contrary, I think the more federal it is, the greater cohesion there will be. That way, if Kyiv allows people to manage their own affairs regionally and locally, their allegiance to Ukraine will be much stronger in the face of a Russia which aims to control them from afar, in the old fashion.

In late 1991, just prior to the referendum on independence, I organized a meeting of representatives of 16 nationalities living in Ukraine in order to ask them how they would vote, and debate them as to their reasons. I remember the surprising unanimity of support for independence. Both at that meeting and in the referendum itself, the non-Ukrainians were more consistently for independence than Ukrainians themselves. They told me that they felt they had a better chance to preserve their own specificity in a Ukrainian state than they would under a larger entity.

Do you think they still feel that way in 1997?

I still think they feel that way as far as cultural preservation is concerned. The doubts people express about independence arise as a result of the dire economic conditions. Freedom to speak Polish, Hungarian, Yiddish, Hebrew, Tatar or Russian doesn’t do you much good if you don’t have a job.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Ukraine at a crossroads

When President Leonid Kuchma visited Washington last week, he was simultaneously praised and admonished for what has been accomplished and what has not in Ukraine.

As he received the IFES Democracy Award on May 15, he was praised for his "tireless efforts to support the democratic elections process in Ukraine and for his leadership in securing adoption of the new Constitution." Ukraine received kudos for eliminating its nuclear weapons and embarking on multi-faceted reform.

Earlier that day, however, he had been warned by Rep. Sonny Callahan to deal with corruption and stop dumping of steel ... or else. The "or else" being risk losing substantial U.S. foreign assistance. Rep. Callahan berated the president on investors' problems, including corruption (e.g., Gala Radio, the Grand Hotel), and the dumping of Ukrainian products in North America (i.e., steel). It was not an unexpected outburst (though it was less than respectful toward a head of state), given the Alabaman's previous statements. Mr. Kuchma responded in an equally strong manner, noting that no one here in this office would put Ukraine on trial and underlining that an aggressive program to combat corruption has been put into place in Ukraine.

The next day during the first plenary session of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission, Vice-President Al Gore hailed Ukraine's citizens for saying "yes to reform and democracy," and then told President Kuchma: "We continue to be ready to help where possible, but there are many things we cannot do for you. In the end, economic development, trade and investment can only proceed in Ukraine if the objective conditions for such progress exist, and if investors, Ukrainian and foreign, conclude that they have reasonable conditions in which to operate."

Once back in Kyiv, President Kuchma followed up with strong words. In a speech before the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs he said the Cabinet seems to be "incapable of controlling national economic processes." He turned up the heat on Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko in particular, and he scolded the Verkhovna Rada, observing that deputies continue to obstruct approval of tax and economic reform, as well as passage of the 1997 state budget.

But, there was more bad news this week. First, national deputies decided to take a vacation during the last week of May and not consider the budget at all during the remainder of this month. (Verkhovna Rada Vice-Chairman Viktor Musiyaka had predicted a new budget would be approved by June 1.) Then, the World Economic Forum released its annual Global Competitiveness Report - seen by business and government leaders as their report card. Out of the 53 countries rated, Ukraine came in next to last (only Russia was rated less competitive); and second from last in terms of growth potential (only Russia and Italy fared worse).

Lack of economic growth, as emphasized recently by Ambassador Richard Morningstar, President Bill Clinton's adviser on aid to the NIS, is the greatest threat to Ukraine's development "as an independent, stable, market democracy." Ukraine is at a crossroads.

And only Ukraine can determine which route it takes. Perhaps, having heard the bitter truth from officials in Washington, Ukraine will choose the right path.

May
30
1872

Turning the pages back...

Konstantyna Malyska was among the turn-of-the-century Galician women who set the mold for a type of activist that has been present on virtually all levels of Ukrainian community life

for a century — she was a pedagogue with a yen for meetings and organizations; a woman who worked to level the playing field with men, yet shied away from true feminism, and instead created a separate zone of action to further the "national ideal."

Born in Kropyvnyk, a village near Stanislaviv (now Ivano-Frankivsk) on May 30, 1872, Malyska studied at the State Teachers' Seminary in Lviv, then taught in elementary schools in Halych and Luzhany and at the Shevchenko Girls School in Lviv.

At a rally in Stanislaviv in 1902, Malyska delivered a prototypical speech disputing Natalia Kobrynska's insistence that feminism be a guiding principle for women. "We are not trying to lead women along separate paths," Malyska said, "but we are going along new roads in order to make it easier for everyone to walk. We understand emancipation to be the community work of women and men, the joint spiritual life of both sexes of our national organism."

In 1903 Malyska became the first woman to edit a Ukrainian children's magazine in Galicia. She was editor of *Dzvinok* until 1909.

She was active in the Lviv-based *Kruzhok Ukrainok* (Circle of Ukrainian Women) since its inception in 1905, and was an active proponent of its integration with the Ruthenian Women's Club to form the Women's Community (*Zhinocha Hromada*) in 1909. In 1913 she was one of the founders of the Fund for Ukraine's Needs, which provided aid to the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen. During the Russian occupation of Galicia in 1915, Malyska was arrested and deported to Siberia, and could not return until 1920.

In December 1921 she took part in the inaugural congress of the Union of Ukrainian Women (*Soyuz Ukrainok*) held in Lviv. In 1923-1924 she served as *Soyuz Ukrainok* president, and was a member of its executive until 1928.

In 1930 Malyska joined the editorial board of the *Nova Khata* magazine, to which she also contributed articles. In 1941 she helped establish the relief organization Women's Service to Ukraine.

One of the few leading *Soyuz Ukrainok* activists to remain in western Ukraine after the Red Army's re-occupation of the territory in 1944, Malyska worked at the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences' Lviv Scientific Library. She died in Lviv on March 17, 1947.

Sources: "Malyska, Konstantyna," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. 3 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993); Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak, "Feminists Despite Themselves" (Edmonton: CIUS Press, 1988).

BOOK REVIEW

New publication examines lives of women in Russia and Ukraine

by Olga Stawnychy

Is Western feminism being accepted by Ukrainian and Russian women?

Are women taking an active role in determining their future in the new democracies?

How had colonialization affected Ukrainian women?

How has the Soviet system of "equality of the sexes" affected the lives of men and women, and their roles in society?

These and many other questions are discussed by leading Western specialists, and Russian and Ukrainian feminists, in the recently published book "Women in Russia and Ukraine" edited by Rosalind March. Most of the essays deal with Russian women, but many of the topics are relevant throughout the ex-Soviet republics.

Two chapters are devoted exclusively to Ukrainian women: "Feminism in Post-Communist Ukrainian Society" by Solomea Pavlychko, and "Christian Virgin or Pagan Goddess: Feminism Versus the Eternally Feminine in Ukraine" by Marian J. Rubchak.

There is a comparison between the historic roles of Russian and Ukrainian women and how they differed from the 12th century until the present. Historically, Ukrainian women were held in high esteem and had equal and complementary roles in a matriarchal society. On the other hand, Russian women had a subservient role in a patriarchal society where they were expected to be obedient and docile. In Russia wife-beating was condoned and accepted both by the Church and state, while in Ukraine beating a wife or a husband was against the law.

When Russia colonized Ukraine in the 18th century, these patriarchal traditions began to have a negative impact on Ukrainian women and changed their status in society. This patriarchal system continued under Soviet rule throughout the republics, even through Marxist ideology and socialism believed in equality of the sexes. This "equality" held true on paper, but not while making decisions or policies in real life.

With perestroika and the ultimate unraveling of the Soviet system, women suffered an even further blow. They were the first to lose their jobs and were further burdened by the stress of being responsible for providing the necessities of life for the family with ever-diminishing resources. They suffered additional indignities when the system blamed them for the disintegration of the family, delinquency of the children, and alcoholic and abusive husbands.

Ms. Pavlychko writes: "While a new (non-Soviet) attitude towards women is being formed in Ukraine, patriarchal mythology of all kinds is being revitalized in the course of the so-called national revival. At the same time, there is an invasion of mass culture from the West: Barbie dolls, mediocre video films ..."

In this time of cultural instability, a mixed and confusing message is being sent to the Ukrainian woman. On the one hand she is expected to be the traditional mother and keeper of the family, and on

the other she is portrayed as a sex symbol to be enjoyed by men, notes Ms. Pavlychko.

She also writes "The official celebration of International Women's Day on March 8 has turned into an annual anti-feminist ritual. In actual fact this is a most important male holiday, when women annually reassert themselves as passive, submissive creatures eager to accept male domination and power."

She continues by observing that feminism in Ukraine is suffering a backlash: "Women's views are not represented, their needs are not met, their problems are not addressed, their rights are not implemented ... it is imperative that women should voice their opposition to a society ruled by old men...otherwise a democratic civil society in Ukraine will remain an impossible dream."

The Soviet "equality" of the sexes actually destroyed the feminist cultural traditions and the organized women's movement that existed in Ukraine from the turn of the century. Today's women's organizations are emphasizing the role of a woman as, first and foremost, a builder of a strong, independent Ukraine. The emphasis is on tradition, language, customs and nurturing. This will ultimately benefit the whole Ukrainian society.

This link between nationalism and feminism was discussed a decade ago by Marta Bohachevsky-Chomiak in her book, "Feminists Despite Themselves: Women in Ukrainian Community Life 1884-1939." It seems that women once again, just as in the 19th century, are assuming this "traditional" role.

In another chapter, Prof. Rubchak discusses this issue, as well as the impact of the Soviet mentality with respect to feminism upon Ukrainian women and the use of ancient symbolism, the "Berehynia," in present-day Ukraine.

She quotes Oksana Sepeliak, president of the Ukrainian Association of Women in Lviv, "before she and her sisters start liberating women, they must first liberate the nation."

Prof. Rubchak states "the very fact that women are as likely as men to reject the need for any change in prevailing attitudes toward women in Ukraine illustrates the widespread hostility to the very concept of an authentic feminist consciousness in Ukraine." She goes on to say that women "perpetuate their own inferior status ... the Ukrainian woman's God-given mission ... giving birth to saviors ... no thought of such outstanding individuals being female."

This book has answered some of the questions regarding the present situation in Russia and Ukraine. It will be interesting to follow additional studies to see how women formulate their roles within their society and what kind of feminism will emerge.

"Women in Russia and Ukraine" is available in paperback from Cambridge University Press for \$24.95. To order call 1-800-872-7423.



Visit the UNA home-
page
on the Internet at:

Olga Stawnychy is public relations spokesperson and non-governmental representative to the United Nations for the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Women veterans should register

Dear Editor:

October 18 will mark the culmination of an 11-year effort to raise over \$12 million from the private sector in order to commemorate women who served in the U.S. armed forces. The historic dedication ceremonies and ribbon cutting for the Women in Military Service for America Memorial will take place that day in Washington. The Memorial Education Center will be open for visitors at the conclusion of the ceremony.

The ceremony will be followed by a candlelight march, starting at the Lincoln Memorial, crossing the Memorial Bridge and ending at the memorial site with a short service in memory of those who passed on. The service will conclude with the illumination of the exterior of the memorial, which is located at the ceremonial entrance of Arlington National Cemetery.

To volunteer means to enter into any service of one's own free will, to give freely to the cause, to believe in the cause. Throughout American history, women dedicated their lives, often without proper

recognition, as in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War era (most often as nurses, but also as scouts, saboteurs and couriers), the first and second world wars, and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. They also served as support personnel and in the Persian Gulf, where they fought and died side by side with men.

The U.S. government has chosen to honor nearly 2 million women who have served, or are serving, their country and to recognize them in a most visible way – via a memorial. The Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation Inc. is seeking to register women who have served in the U.S. armed forces. If you are currently serving or are a veteran please write to: The Women's Memorial, Department 560, Washington, DC 22042-0560; call (703) 533-1155 or 1-800-222-2294; e-mail: wimsa@aol.com or visit the foundation's website: <http://www.wimsa.org/pub/wimsa/>

I appeal to women of Ukrainian descent to stand up and be counted. Register now.

Anna Krawczuk
Holmdel, N.J.

Anna Krawczuk is public relations officer of Ukrainian American Veterans Post 30 in Holmdel, N.J.

Commendations for Iwanciw, Lozynskij

Dear Editor:

Eugene Iwanciw and Askold Lozynskij should be commended for outstanding testimony regarding corruption in Ukraine. The Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives appears to be forming opinions in a vacuum or basing their conclusions on faulty assumptions.

If the U.S. is going to deny aid to Ukraine because of reported "corruption", then will the same standard be applied to all other recipients on this planet? Of course not. Mr. Lozynskij correctly challenged the committee on that count regarding Russia. The response was wimpy. How about the Pollard case and Israel? Has the U.S. decreased aid to Israel because they spy on us? No, we increase aid. Do facts have anything to do with where the money goes? No, it appears to be based on politics and perceptions.

Our decisions should be based solely on national interests. Is it in our nation's national interests to support a free Ukraine? Yes, it neutralizes any potential expansionist goals Russia may have. Yes, Ukraine has corruption, but considering that the former Communists escaped without trials and were left to work in the bureaucratic infrastructure, what can one expect in the short term? On the other hand if Ukraine had trials and executions of Communist murderers, many would have condemned Ukraine stating that Ukraine lacked compassion and understanding. So, how can you win?

Ukraine needs to implement economic reforms as quickly as possible. The U.S. should increase aid on all fronts. If we stop now, the anti-democracy elements in Ukraine will have even more ammunition to push Ukraine into Russia's dream of recreating another "empire." This is not in our national interests. We want countries to strive for democracy, maintain peaceful relations and improve economically.

Roman G. Golash
Schaumburg, Ill.

BOOK NOTE: Travelogue tells of Kyiv homecoming

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — On a trip to London in 1977, Tamara Miller saw a sign advertising the Soviet Intourist travel bureau and decided impulsively that she wanted to return to her native Kyiv. Almost 20 years later, she has written a short and easily readable travelogue, "Kyiv - The Homecoming," of her impulsive return home.

Though the book describes Soviet Ukraine in the 1970s, Ms. Miller intersperses the text with her childhood memories from the 1920s and 1930s, which reflect the complexity and tragedy of typical lives during those years. Ms. Miller recalls the Nazi German occupation of Ukraine, her youth as a Young Pioneer, the fate her Ukrainian relatives, and the mix of Ukrainian, Russian, Jewish cultures in Kyiv before World War II.

Among the most striking are her memories of the period of the Great Famine: "Going from Lavra Abbey, I passed many familiar places along our route ... (w)e

passed a big marketplace under a glass dome known as Krytyi Rynok, which means 'covered marketplace.' There the farmers were permitted to sell what they raised on private lots ... I remembered that place well from my childhood. There my mother had sold my winter coat for a loaf of bread during the famine of 1932. When she came home and cut the loaf in half, we discovered that only the crust was made of wheat; the inside was filled with a mixture of bark and acorns."

Those who have traveled to Ukraine recently will notice the similarities that still can be found between the Soviet Ukraine of 1977 and of the independent Ukraine of 1997. Ms. Miller's style moves easily between the years, and her memories are fond, and poignant, and painful, and funny. The 80-page book is written in English, and can be ordered by sending \$9.50 (includes shipping) to: Tamara Miller, 8192 Kimbrook Drive, Germantown, TN 38138-2412.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Letter from bustling Beijing

Four days after returning from Prague, Lesia and I were in the People's Republic of China on a tour organized especially for educators at an incredibly affordable price. For the first time since 1990, we were back in a Communist country.

We went through customs at Beijing airport. We were not asked how much money we were bringing into China, nor how much gold or precious metals, questions we were asked as late as last year at the Lviv airport. As we soon discovered, this was to be one of many, many surprises.

We visited the usual tourist sites – the Forbidden City, the Ming Tombs, the Summer Palace, the Great Wall and Mao Tse-tung's Tomb on the last day it was open to the public. The official word is that the mausoleum will be renovated, but many people believe it will never reopen. We also managed to roam freely around the city and videotape anything we wanted, including marching soldiers, militia, slums and beggars.

Beijing is a bustling city of 12 million people with dozens of luxury hotels, including a magnificent Sheraton, a Hilton and a Holiday Inn. In 1978 Beijing had 10 hotels; by 1992 there were 234 hotels. The city also has 13 McDonalds, as well as many Kentucky Fried Chickens and Dunkin' Donuts. We tried one of the McDonald's (there's a limit to the amount of Chinese food one can eat) and it was as good as (the service was better than) in Chicago. Beijing has modern shopping centers and stores, beautiful new, multi-story condominiums and apartment complexes; construction cranes can be seen everywhere; and everyone seems to be working. Most store signs are in Chinese and English. There are beltways around the city which, for its size, manages to remain relatively clean. The pollution, however, is horrendous.

One of the more amazing aspects of the trip was our guides. Unlike our Ukrainian guides in 1963 and 1974, they didn't pretend their country was a worker's paradise. They showed us Hutong, for example, a 700-year-old section of the city with narrow passageways and cobbled streets. We saw two and three families living together in crowded, run-down two-room floor-level cubicles. As destitute as the facilities were, however, they were immaculate. The guide told us that half of Beijing population lives in substandard housing, the result, she hinted, of Mao's cultural revolution.

It was inevitable that Lesia and I would contrast Beijing with Kyiv. How is it possible for Beijing to be moving into the 21st century while the Kyiv skyline looks much like it did in 1963 or, in some instances, worse? The erection of the hugely obscene statue of "Mother of Rus'" hasn't helped.

For one thing, China began its economic reform program in 1979. According to our guide, there are no taxes on joint ventures for the first three years. If the business lasts into the fourth year, the government taxes at 16 percent. After the fifth year, taxes on businesses are 33 percent of profits. Contrast that with Ukraine where government officials demand exorbitant bribes before any business is established!

As in Ukraine, however, reform has brought hardships to many people, especially the elderly who suffer because of inflation. According to our guide, privatization has also created certain dislocations, especially in northern China, where much of China's heavy industry has gone bankrupt, unable to compete with private industry. Asked if only Communist Party mem-

bers could be in business, our guide quoted Deng Xiaopeng: 'It makes no difference if a cat is black or white, as long as it catches mice.'

Is China free of corruption? Hardly. Our guide told us it does exist, but it's contained. When caught, the penalties for perpetrators are severe. A former Beijing mayor committed suicide when it was revealed that he was scamming McDonald's. As in Ukraine, the contrast between the haves and have-nots is also great. Our guide told us China is between socialism and capitalism, with many people becoming very rich and many more people remaining poor. Opportunities for young people have never been better, however. Thousands of Chinese students have been sent to study abroad.

What about China's future leadership? According to our guide, the present leadership comprises three echelons: the old guard that is moving off the steady fast; the technocrats, the next echelon, which is anxious to keep the momentum going towards economic improvement; and the youngest element, the sons and daughters of the old guard. The latter want to improve their privileged status and are ruthless in pursuit of "good life." From what I see, this is not very different from the sons and daughters of Ukraine's current nomenclatura.

Americans are justifiably concerned with China's future direction. Our guide told us that, after Hong Kong, China has its eye on Macao, then Taiwan. And if Taiwan won't cooperate, then a military invasion is a viable option. Scary.

Is China a democratic nation? Hardly. There is the looming legacy of the Tiananmen Square Massacre. Basic freedoms (press, speech, assembly, religion) are non-existent, although Lesia and I did attend a Latin-rite mass in Beijing that was little different from masses here. Only rich people can afford more than one child (the one-baby-per-family policy is strictly observed) because only they can afford the \$6,000 fine and the loss of educational and political opportunities that a second child must suffer. Abortions are common, and there is evidence that female babies are routinely wasted.

Is China a problem for the United States? Conservative commentators are split on this question. Some, especially those who have read "The Coming Conflict With China" by Richard Bernstein and Ross H. Hunro, believe China is a growing menace. In this corner are Patrick Buchanan, George Will, Jeff Jacoby and William Rusher. Urging tolerance are Robert Novak and Joseph Sobran, who believe China poses no direct threat to the U.S.

As a result of a growing move toward democratization at the grass-roots level, an expanding mass media, and its booming economy, Hoover Institution Senior Fellow Henry S. Rowen believes China will become a democracy around 2015, despite the fact that Freedom House currently gives the People's Republic of China a political freedom rating of zero.

The Soviet Union went belly-up because Marxism-Leninism was a bankrupt, self-defeating policy. Beijing isn't making the same mistake. The only other option that can corral China's rising influence is a military one, and no one is talking about that. At least not seriously.

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Bicyclists raise funds for diabetes project

by Maria Lewytzkj

PACIFICA, Calif. – Some people pay adventure tour companies large sums of money to be guided on bicycles on a tour of the infamous wine country of Northern California. On April 19, a fortunate few rode through the scenic valley in Windsor, winding their way near the Russian River in a bike-a-thon to raise funds for the Ukrainian Diabetes Project (UDP). The sky was cloudy, but provided a perfect temperature for bicycling.

"It's a fun way to raise money for kids who need help," said Jack Furr, one of the 30 riders.

The Ukrainian Diabetes Project has organized this annual bike-a-thon for two years. Andrea Skrypka, UDP's project director, along with a local team of dedicated organizers, requested each rider to seek out sponsors or donate a specified minimum contribution to participate. Some riders chose to pay the minimum, while others brought collections they had raised.

In return, riders selected a 25-mile or 100-kilometer course past such picturesque landscapes as a field of llamas, endless rows of tended vines and underpassing creeks, filled by the rains that threatened the ride the day before. All riders received certificates, a bag of prizes donated by sponsors, a UDP 1997 bike-a-thon T-shirt and a donated lunch by local Willie Bird's. Other sponsors of the bike-a-thon included Bayer, Power Bar and Starbuck's Coffee.

Last year's bike-a-thon raised \$6,000. The funds allowed the UDP to return to Ukraine for the seventh year and provide 450 children in Cherkasy, Kharkiv and Ternopil with a year's supply of insulin, syringes, blood testing strips and education. The UDP plans to return in July to Ukraine to continue providing humanitarian aid and education.

Unfortunately, the Ukrainian government's recent decision to tax humanitarian aid (unless such shipments receive prior approval and thus are subject to an exemption) crucially affects UDP's efforts. "With such a high tax imposed [100 percent of the value of humanitarian aid is subject to tax], it will be very difficult to fulfill our mission and exceed last year's accomplishments," Ms. Skrypka explained after we both completed the 25-mile course.

I thought of the 100 children I met last summer at the Ternopil camp. These are the same 100 children who were disappointed by the premature end of camp when Ternopil authorities failed to pay their contracted share of the camp's cost.

This year, the program will have to focus on Kyiv instead of traveling to the various regions visited in the past. "We can't afford it. It appears that our main purpose will have to be to encourage the families we have helped in the past to get their supplies from an insulin factory in Kyiv," Ms. Skrypka

(Continued on page 14)

California association supports UMANA Eye Project



Board members of the California Association to Aid Ukraine: (from left) Anatol Waluch, Zenon Zachariasevych, Anne Prokopovych, Bohdan Mykytyn, Ivan Melnyk and Bohdan Malaniak.

by Anne Kokawa Prokopovych

LOS ANGELES – Entering through a canopy inspired by traditional Ukrainian embroidery, guests at the California Association to Aid Ukraine (CAAU) Ball dined and danced in a wonderfully transformed setting, all for a worthy cause.

Proceeds from the May 3 event have been designated for the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) Eye Project, headed by Dr. William Selezinka, founder and project medical director. During the dinner program, Bohdan Malaniak, CAAU President, presented a check to Dr. Selezinka representing contributions to date. Total proceeds now exceed \$10,000.

The theme of the ball, "Vyshyvani Vechirnytsi" (Evening of Embroidered Treasures), was brought to life through the creative artistry of designer Luba Dmytryk. Banners with larger-than-life replicas of traditional embroidery motifs draped the entrance and the walls of the ballroom, setting a festive ethnic mood.

UMANA Eye Project

The UMANA Eye Project was initiated by Dr. Selezinka in 1991, shortly after Ukraine's independence, to establish a program of humanitarian medical assistance that would provide improved vision care capability not available under the Soviet regime.

Within four years, the project has delivered over \$1 million, (wholesale value) of donated ophthalmic surgical supplies, equipment, and medicines. In addition, medical teams assembled from leading U.S. universities have made five trips to Ukraine to teach, consult, perform surgery, and instruct Ukrainian medical care personnel in appropriate use and maintenance of the donated humanitarian aid.

The initial regional focus of the project has been on the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, through the new City Eye Clinic of the University Hospital. Future projections are to expand the scope of the medical specialties and geographical penetration to provide more services for a broader population in Ukraine.

As a part of its multi-faceted objectives, the UMANA Eye Project will be sending a team of 14 doctors and support personnel to Ukraine at the end of

May to perform surgeries, conduct training and continue developing the program locally. All 14 of the team members are contributing their services, and the doctors are paying for their own transportation.

California Association to Aid Ukraine

CAAU was initiated in March 1990 as a grass-roots Ukrainian American community response to democratic developments in Ukraine; it was subsequently chartered as a non-profit corporation.

The mission of the CAAU is to coordinate local efforts to aid Ukraine in the fields of health, ecology, economy, education, Ukrainian cultural development and national democratic processes.

Since 1990, the CAAU has coordinated several fund-raising programs to channel support through organizations such as the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, International Center of Physics in Kyiv, Children's Medical Care Foundation, International Education Program, Direct Relief International and the Sabre Foundation.

The CAAU has provided direct assis-

tance to the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and other education institutions, and various hospitals and medical research facilities. The CAAU has joined with the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine (U.S.A.) to support the rebirth of sports in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Olympic Team, and the publication of Ukrainian-language books for schools in Ukraine.

To supplement contributions from the community, the CAAU has begun fundraising efforts with corporate and other institutions. Major underwriting for this year's ball was provided by Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. This support complements other programs at Cedars-Sinai, which include those of its research institute that encourage exploring research opportunities with Ukrainian research investigators, especially in joint projects to find new cures and modalities.

The CAAU is continuing to accept contributions for the UMANA Eye Project. Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to: California Association to Aid Ukraine (UMANA Eye Project), c/o Bohdan Mykytyn, (treasurer), 5325 Teesdale Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91607.



CAAU President Bohdan Malaniak presents a check to UMANA Eye Project Director William Selezinka (left).

DATELINE NEW YORK: Icon and jewelry exhibit

by Helen Smindak

An exhibit and sale of splendid contemporary icons by Ukrainian and Greek artists and antique icons by anonymous artists opened at the Ukrainian Institute of America on May 5 with a concert of classical music and a showing of slides from Slavko Nowytski's research material for his icon film project.

More than 60 works, some of them from private collections, were included in the exhibit, which closed May 18. Prices ranged from \$300 for Yaroslava Stojko's icon "Archangel (The Angel with Golden Hair)" and an anonymous Pochayiv icon to \$4,500 for a large icon by Greek iconographer Lawrence Manos, "Theotokos with Jesus Christ Seated on a Throne with Angels Left and Right."

Ukrainian artists represented in the exhibit included the late Sviatoslav Hordynsky (whose "Mother and Child" icon is valued at \$1,500), the late Marko Zubar (1925-1990), Yuriy Kozak, the father-and-son duo of Boris and Sviatoslav Makarenko, Roman Markovych, Lidia Piaseckyj, Mrs. Stojko, Halyna Tytla and Yaroslava Surnach Mills.

Several antique icons and an icon by Andriy Humeniuk came from the Chryzanta Kaminskyj-Hentisz Gallery in New Jersey. A number of icons overlaid with silver, gold and enamel designs, by anonymous artists, were from the private collection of Irene Gajekij, while two ceramic icons by Marco Zubar (not for sale) were from Jose and Ika Koznarska Casanova's collection.

Greek entries included several works by Mr. Manos and George Filippakis and a Byzantine-style wood carving by Konstantine Pylarinos.

Also on display was jewelry by Ukraine-born Masha Archer, daughter of the famous Ukrainian sculptor Mykola (Bohdan) Mukhyn. Ms. Archer creates necklaces featuring replicas of icons worn during pilgrimages. One of these contains 20 strands of garnets, jade rounds and cones that hold a bronze replica of a 17th century Holy Virgin icon.

Curator Christine Holowchak-DeBarry, who has had extensive experience in setting up in exhibits for the Pastel Society of America, the Salmagundi Club and

other organizations, says she focused on artists who work in the traditional style of iconography to stay in character with the Byzantium exhibition under way at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. She contacted individual iconographers from the Ukrainian and Greek communities.

Downplaying her own contribution to the organization of the exhibit, Ms. Holowchak-DeBarry pointed instead to the work done by the institute's executive director, Stephanie Charczenko, in preparing the show. "Stephanie did a great job in public relations, as well as elegantly and efficiently coordinating the art, music, publicity and hospitality for this special event," the curator noted.

The musical program featured appearances by soprano Lesia Hrabova, baritone Oleh Chmyr, tenor Roman Tsymbala, violinist Yuri Mazurkevich, pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky and the Leontovych String Quartet - Mr. Mazurkevich, Yuri Kharenko, Borys Deviatov and Volodymyr Panteleyev.

The star of the evening was a New York City Opera soloist, soprano Oksana Krovytska, who sang Myroslav Skoryk's soft and poignant "Melody" and the sprightly "Oy, Yavore" (Oh Maple) by Mykola Leontovych and A. Philipenko. She was joined by Mr. Tsymbala in a heart-warming rendition of Oksana and Andrii's joyful duet from Hulak-Artemovsky's popular opera "Zaporozhets za Dunayem." Ms. Krovytska, who is scheduled to appear with the New American Chamber Orchestra in a Shostakovich tribute at Alice Tully Hall on May 29, remained after the concert to mingle with artists, performers and guests at a wine and cheese reception.

As part of the two-week exhibit, a demonstration of icon painting with egg tempera was given on May 10 by Mrs. Mills, drawing a large audience to the institute at 79th Street and Fifth Avenue.

The exhibit, sponsored by the institute and the Hellenic Cultural Center, was held in conjunction with The Metropolitan Museum exhibition "The Glory of Byzantium."



Charles Archer

Masha Archer wearing her jewelry designs.

Zankovetska Theater of Lviv embarks on first U.S. tour

CLEVELAND — The Maria Zankovetska Ukrainian State Academic Theater of Lviv has embarked on its first tour of Ukrainian communities in the U.S. with the staging of two Ukrainian operettas.

The troupe of 20 operatic performers will present "Sharika", libretto and music by long-time Cleveland resident/composer Yaroslav Barnych, performed on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the composer's birth, and "Natalka Poltavka", libretto by Ivan Kotliarevsky, with music by Mykola Lysenko, the most popular operetta in the Ukrainian repertoire.

The theater's attempt to stage Mr. Barnych's "Sharika" during the German occupation of Lviv during World War II, despite a ban by the authorities, resulted in the random arrest of a number of theater-goers prior to the performance and their execution in the theater square.

Mr. Barnych, composer, conductor and pedagogue, was born September 30, 1896, in the village of Balyntsi, Kolomyia county, western Ukraine. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1950. A long-time resident of Cleveland, he died on June 1, 1967.

A graduate of the Lviv Conservatory, Mr. Barnych worked as conductor at the Ukrainska Besida theater in Lviv (1917-1923) and the Prosvita theater in Uzhhorod (1923-1925). In 1939-1941 he conducted the Stanislaviv Symphony Orchestra, and in 1941-1944 he was named the conductor of the Lviv Opera. Among his works are operettas composed in the Viennese style: "Sharika," "Pryhody v Cherchi" and "Hutsulka Ksenia."

The Zankovetska tour opened in Chicago on May 23 with a performance of "Sharika," and in Cleveland on May

24 with a performance of "Natalka Poltavka."

The remainder of the tour schedule is the following:

- Rochester, N.Y. — Wednesday, May 28, "Sharika," St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church Auditorium, 940 Ridge Road E., 7 p.m.;

- Johnson City, N.Y. — Thursday, May 29, "Natalka Poltavka," Sacred Heart Ukrainian Catholic Church Auditorium, 230 Ukrainian Hill Road, 7 p.m.;

- Somerset, N.J. — Friday, May 30, "Natalka Poltavka," Ukrainian Orthodox Center, 135 Davidson Ave., 7:30 p.m.;

- Philadelphia — Saturday, May 31, "Sharika" and "Natalka Poltavka," Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, Pa., at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., respectively;

- Irvington, N.J. — Sunday, June 1, "Natalka Poltavka," Ukrainian National Home Auditorium, 140 Prospect Ave., 4 p.m.;

- Yonkers, N.Y. — Wednesday, June 4, "Natalka Poltavka," Ukrainian Cultural Center Auditorium, 301 Palisades Ave., 7 p.m.;

- Boston — Thursday, June 5, "Natalka Poltavka," St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church Auditorium, 24 Orchard Hill Road, Jamaica Plain, Mass., 7 p.m.;

- Uniondale, N.Y. — Friday, June 6, "Natalka Poltavka," Party Center, 226 Uniondale Ave., 7 p.m.;

- Warren, Mich. — Sunday, June 10, "Sharika," Fitzgerald High School Auditorium, Ryan Road and 9 Mile, 5 p.m.;

- Chicago — Wednesday, June 11, "Natalka Poltavka," Roberto Clemente High School Auditorium, 1147 Western Ave., 7 p.m.

UNA sponsors Fathers' Day celebration

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — On Sunday, June 15, the Ukrainian National Association will celebrate its 13th annual Fathers' Day at Soyuzivka. That day, divine liturgy for the intention of all fathers will be celebrated at the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church.

In the afternoon there will be a program of dance and song, featuring Arkan, a Ukrainian dance ensemble from Toronto directed by Danovia Stechishin, as well as Alexandra Hrabova, soloist from the Lviv

Theater of Opera and Ballet.

More information about this event will appear in later issues of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda.

As in previous years, UNA members and non-members alike are welcome to attend this celebration. UNA branches and districts are encouraged to organize bus trips and take advantage of the off-season rates at Soyuzivka.

For further information and reservations, call Soyuzivka at (914) 626-5641.

Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

in conjunction with

The Ukrainian National Association

and

Smoloskyp

are organizing a 6-week academic program on Ukrainian language, literature and culture

Academic courses: from July 14 to August 22, 1997

Program: from July 12 to August 25, 1997

Academic Program: Ukrainian language, contemporary history and literature

All courses taught by professionals from the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

Introduction to current cultural and political life in Ukraine

Excursions: visit historical monuments: churches, palaces, museums and theatres
Celebrate the 6th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence

Program includes:

6-week academic course

room and board in Kyiv

excursion program

cultural program

transportation services in Ukraine

\$ 1,750.00

Due to limited number of participants we urge you to apply early.
Deadline for applications May 26, 1997

For further information and applications please call the UNA - O. Trytjak
Tel: 201 451-2200, Fax: 201 451-2093

FIRST PLENARY SESSION OF U.S.-UKRAINE BINATIONAL COMMISSION

Joint Statement of the Kuchma-Gore

Below, published for the record, is the full text of the Joint Statement of the United States-Ukraine Binational Commission issued on May 16 at the conclusion of the commission's first plenary session.

U.S. Vice-President Al Gore and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma met on May 16, 1997, in Washington to review the progress achieved by the United States-Ukraine Binational Commission in strengthening the strategic partnership between the United States and Ukraine. They noted the importance of sustaining a regular dialogue at the highest political level.

The vice-president and the president agreed that the Binational Commission helps both governments address a broad and expanding range of bilateral and multilateral issues of common interest, promote better understanding and enhanced cooperation, and advance the bilateral relationship in the areas of foreign policy, security, sustainable economic development, and trade and investment.

The vice-president and president noted that the U.S.-Ukraine partnership is based on international law, common goals, approaches and objectives, is not directed against any state or group of states and reflects the national interests of both states. The U.S. and Ukraine undertook to improve further the organizational and institutional basis for their cooperation. They directed that work toward this goal be carried out through appropriate measures.

The vice-president and president noted that Ukraine is at a critical juncture in its development as a democratic and market-oriented state, and that the commission should serve as an effective mechanism for practical work relating to our strategic partnership and for frank dialogue about the challenges that both countries face. They noted the connection between Ukraine's reforms and efforts to create a prosperous and law-based society, and the pace and success of Ukraine's integration with Europe.

The sides underscored the importance of deepening cooperation to ensure the security interests of the United States and Ukraine and to promote the integration of Ukraine as a Central European state into European and Euro-Atlantic institutions. They affirmed that Ukraine should play a key role in ensuring peace and stability in Central and Eastern Europe and the continent as a whole.

They expressed their strong desire to finalize a document on NATO-Ukraine cooperation at the earliest possible time and expressed the hope that the president of the United States and the president of Ukraine will participate in a signing of the document in connection with President Clinton's trip to Europe for the NATO summit in July 1997.

The vice-president confirmed the readiness of the United States to recognize and support in that document

the security assurances provided to Ukraine in the Budapest Memorandum of 1994. The two sides underscored the importance of Ukraine's robust participation in IFOR/SFOR peacekeeping operations in Bosnia, the Partnership for Peace (PFP), especially Ukraine's hosting of the full-fledged PFP exercise "Cooperative Neighbor" near Lviv in July 1997, and applauded Ukraine's enhanced cooperation with Poland, best exemplified by the recent formation of the Ukrainian-Polish battalion.

Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma expressed satisfaction with the entry into force yesterday, May 15, of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Flank Document. The vice-president and president expressed satisfaction with recent statements issued by their respective governments on this issue. The treaty and its further adaptation are central to the development of a secure and stable Europe and ensure that new dividing lines are not created in Europe.

Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma affirmed that the temporary presence of foreign troops on the territory of Ukraine may be based only on a duly concluded agreement with Ukraine according to its Constitution and in conformity with international law and relevant multilateral documents, or otherwise be pursuant to decisions of the United Nations Security Council and be consistent with the United Nations Charter.

The two sides announced their intention to enhance Ukraine's security through support for reform of the Ukrainian military and promotion of a strong bilateral defense and military cooperation program, to include increased U.S./Ukrainian military-technical cooperation. Both sides commended Ukraine's principled action to achieve nuclear weapons-free status and pledged future cooperative threat-reduction efforts. They welcomed the signing by Secretary of Defense Cohen and Minister of Defense Kuzmuk of a document to add \$47 million of assistance for strategic dismantlement projects in Ukraine. The U.S. welcomed the announcement by President Kuchma that Ukraine had decided to start eliminating its SS-24 missiles, and Vice-President Gore noted that United States funds would support that effort. Technical experts from both countries will meet in Kyiv as soon as possible to begin necessary preparations for the agreed-upon projects.

The two sides noted that the scope and size of the bilateral U.S.-Ukrainian defense and military cooperation program is one of the largest in Europe and is testimony to the strength of the strategic partnership of the two countries.

Among the many bilateral programs under way, the two sides highlighted not only a successful series of increasingly complex operational exercises but also export control assistance and new, mutually beneficial cooperation in civil emergency preparedness. The sides looked forward to the planned cooperation to help

Ukraine establish a non-commissioned officer corps.

The United States pledged to use its influence to support full implementation of the commitments made in connection with the Trilateral Statement of January 14, 1994, including commitments for compensation to Ukraine for the value of all nuclear materials in nuclear weapons withdrawn from the territory of Ukraine. The United States and Ukraine agreed to promote accession by Ukraine to the Missile Technology Control Regime, and tasked experts to start immediate work toward this end.

Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma reaffirmed the commitment of their governments to compliance with international arms control and non-proliferation norms. President Kuchma reviewed the steps Ukraine has taken to strengthen its export control system. The sides announced that the work of the commission clears the way for the United States and Ukraine to reach an Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation and to elaborate other arrangements in this field.

The sides acknowledged ongoing cooperation in science and technology and noted progress made in the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine and the U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation. They reaffirmed the commitment of their governments to encourage their respective scientific communities to intensify collaboration in basic and applied sciences and technology development, and to assist the redirection of former weapons scientists' expertise towards the civil sector of Ukraine.

In the field of space cooperation, the U.S. and Ukraine look forward to the historic launch of the first Ukrainian astronaut and scientific experiment aboard the U.S. Space Shuttle in November 1997 and to the future U.S.-Ukrainian civil space cooperation in telecommunications and tele-medicine, life sciences and earth sciences. They noted that commercial space launch cooperation between U.S. and Ukrainian firms had increased since the signing of a bilateral agreement in 1996 and affirmed continued support for this mutually beneficial cooperation. Both sides noted with satisfaction the participation of both U.S. and Ukrainian commercial enterprises in the Sea Launch project.

The U.S. and Ukraine agreed on the crucial need for Ukraine to implement decisively further macro-economic reforms and economic restructuring to complete Ukraine's transition to a market economy and spur the investment needed to achieve sustainable economic growth. President Kuchma stated that Ukraine is no longer a non-market economy country. Vice-President Gore noted that Ukraine is in the process of building market structures, has made significant progress in macro-economic stabilization and has liberalized most prices. They also agreed that the significant progress made over the last two years on reducing inflation had been beneficial for all businesses operating in Ukraine. President Kuchma renewed his government's commitment to seek rapid implementation of the broad reform agenda outlined to donors in December 1996, including approval of the tax reform and budget package before the Ukrainian Parliament as well as other equally important measures. In the context of that broad reform agenda, the vice-president welcomed the president's firm intention to secure the measures necessary for initiating Ukraine's IMF Extended Fund Facility as quickly as possible, as well as to move forward this year on a variety of structural and sectoral reforms as the basis for mobilizing the \$3.5 billion pledged by donors last December to help Ukraine meet its balance of payments deficit.

The vice-president expressed the readiness of the U.S. to support the launching of a strong IMF program, as soon as the necessary measures are taken. The sides noted that implementation of such a reform program is key to stimulating investment and growth, combating corruption and securing large-scale multilateral and bilateral support for Ukraine. The two sides underscored the necessity of utilizing the potential of the U.S. initiative "Partnership for Freedom" for implementing the second phase of the U.S. assistance program concerning support for trade, investment and economic growth of Ukraine.

The sides reaffirmed their shared goal of increasing bilateral trade and investment, acknowledging the significant difference between current and potential levels. President Kuchma outlined a tough anti-corruption program that he launched in April 1997 and affirmed his

Joint Initiative on Gas Sector

Following is the text of the Joint Initiative on Gas Sector Reform issued by Vice-President Al Gore and President Leonid Kuchma on May 16.

As part of their work as co-chairs of the inaugural plenary session of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission, Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma announced a joint initiative to develop by the end of 1997 a strategy and action plan leading to a market-oriented, competitive, transparent and efficient gas sector in Ukraine. President Kuchma expressed his commitment to create a sound legal and regulatory framework to attract international strategic investment in the gas system, including major transit pipelines. The action plan will propose specific measures for private investment in Ukraine's transit system and serve as a basis for legislative proposals. Vice-President Gore commended President Kuchma's leadership on this key energy initiative and committed to work closely with Ukraine, the international financial institutions and other potential partners.

Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma noted that this initiative can enhance Ukraine's energy security, increase revenues, reduce losses from the gas system, advance Ukraine's integration with Europe and the West, and improve the quality of service for neighboring states that produce and consume

gas. Ukraine's gas transit system represents a major national asset which requires large-scale investment. Gas sector restructuring with strong commercial management and effective regulation could attract major international equity investment and support system rehabilitation and upgrades.

President Kuchma outlined specific principles to structure this initiative, which Vice-President Gore strongly endorsed:

- competition in gas transit, storage and marketing;
- participation by international energy corporations offering advanced technology;
- independence and viability of regulatory authorities to ensure transparent and even-handed regulation;
- sound financial and management practices following international commercial standards;
- non-discriminatory access to pipelines for shippers and consumers; and
- protection of the local and global environment;

President Kuchma underscored his intent to propose legislation and to facilitate rapid gas sector reform. He noted that this initiative will benefit Ukraine and other countries. Vice-President Gore affirmed the intention of the United States to work in partnership with Ukraine, as well as support ongoing efforts by the World Bank and other international financial institutions, throughout this process.

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FIRST PLENARY SESSION OF U.S.-UKRAINE BINATIONAL COMMISSION

Joint Statement...

(Continued from page 10)

unequivocal commitment to root out corruption at all levels of government. Vice-President Gore affirmed U.S. support for this effort. Further, President Kuchma announced specific organizational and other steps taken to improve the investment climate in Ukraine and to resolve problems which have emerged during implementation of specific projects involving American firms regarding trade and investment. Concerning the resolution of outstanding business disputes involving U.S. firms, Ukraine has resolved several of these matters and has undertaken to implement the actions needed for complete resolution of all other outstanding matters as soon as possible in accordance with Ukrainian legislation. Representatives of both sides will report back to Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma within one month on final resolution of those matters and will make any further recommendations for action that may be required for expeditious resolution of other cases. Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma agreed to cooperate on the development of measures to establish transparent and fair procedures for government procurement and granting of business licenses in Ukraine, aiming to reduce state intervention and improve the business climate. Specifically, in accordance with the agreed-upon joint-action plan on investment climate issues, the U.S. is prepared to support Ukraine's efforts to: (1) develop and implement key laws and rules concerning ethics and conflicts of interest; (2) establish streamlined and improved procurement and licensing procedures; and (3) facilitate enforcement of court rulings and provide both a forum for facilitating the development of investment projects and a forum for addressing investor disputes.

The two sides agreed to take steps to improve access to each other's markets. The vice-president reaffirmed that the administration would continue to work with Congress to secure renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences program which expires May 31, 1997, and to take the next step toward extending most favored nation treatment to Ukraine on a permanent and unconditional basis.

Both sides agreed to deepen cooperation, with broad interagency participation on the Ukrainian side, to accelerate negotiations on completing Ukraine's accession to the World Trade Organization on commercial terms generally applied to newly acceding members, as soon as possible.

Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma noted the first U.S.-Ukraine civil aviation agreement initialed on Friday, May 16, marking another milestone in a deepening bilateral relationship.

Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma reviewed Ukraine's efforts to accelerate privatization and to implement structural reforms, in particular, in the areas of energy and agriculture. In each sector, they noted that Ukraine has made progress in creating basic market structures such as a program for mass privatization, agricultural commodity markets and a wholesale electricity market. However, the vice-president and president expressed concern that progress has slowed in recent months and affirmed that urgent measures should be taken in these areas to restore competition and strengthen the role of the private sector.

Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma agreed to work together to enhance Ukraine's energy security by increasing efficiency, strengthening the competitive power market and its independent regulator, strengthening the financial viability of the nuclear sector to encourage investment, improving nuclear safety, increasing oil and gas production, reforming the gas transit and distribution systems, and upon completion of an Agreement on Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation, cooperating in the field of nuclear fuel fabrication. They reaffirmed their intent to cooperate with G-7 countries in implementing the Memorandum of Understanding on the Closure of Chernobyl. They urged quick action to implement the Shelter Implementation Plan to ensure that the remains of the damaged Chernobyl reactor are put into a safer and more environmentally stable condition. This can facilitate Ukraine's eventual removal of the remaining nuclear fuel and radioactive materials to a permanent disposal site. The U.S. will work with its G-7 colleagues to announce at the Denver Summit the amount of G-7 contributions to the Shelter Implementation Plan and call for a pledging conference in the fall under the honorary chairmanship of Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma. The vice-president and president invite international donors, both



President Leonid Kuchma (left) and Vice-President Al Gore answer questions at a White House press conference on May 16.

public and private, to join the United States and Ukraine in providing resources to the Shelter Implementation Plan projects.

President Kuchma outlined plans to improve the financial position of the power sector through improved collections and tariffs and to begin privatizing the power sector to mobilize foreign investments and technology for modernization. As a critical step to reducing barriers to investment in the oil and gas industries, the vice-president and president signed a joint initiative to reform the gas market, and agreed to engage in a dialogue between industry and the two governments to offer solutions to barriers to oil and gas investment. President Kuchma stressed his government's commitment to passage of legislation on production-sharing agreements, which is necessary to attract foreign investment aimed at developing Ukraine's oil and gas resources. The vice-president and president discussed the importance of beginning discussions among experts on the economic development of Ukraine's oil pipelines. They also discussed the construction of a new oil terminal to diversify sources of crude oil imports to Ukraine and to serve the transit system for oil from the surrounding regions to European countries on a cost-effective basis. They further stressed the key role of energy efficiency in achieving energy security, economic competitiveness and a cleaner environment.

Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma affirmed that agriculture must serve as an engine of growth for Ukraine and agreed to focus bilateral assistance and trade programs on land privatization and on promoting the private sector's role in input distribution, agricultural services, production, storage, marketing, processing and financing. The government of Ukraine announced its decision to move ahead with: privatization of most of Ukraine's grain elevators as soon as possible; privatization of state organizations for distribution of agricultural inputs and machinery; demonopolization and privatization of state-owned companies in agriculture; and guarantee by government decree the sanctity of private grain contracts and the free movement of grain in domestic and export markets.

Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma affirmed that agriculture is a key sector for the economic transformation of Ukraine. In order to strengthen a partnership between Ukraine and the U.S. in that field, they have agreed to discuss in the near future, after the reform process has moved forward, establishment of a bilateral working group on cooperation in agriculture. They also agreed to focus bilateral assistance programs on creating Ukrainian instruments to implement market-oriented agricultural policies. They reviewed earlier programs to provide modern agricultural equipment to

Ukraine, noting that U.S. equipment markedly improved productivity but that such programs were less effective if channeled through the state sector. Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma agreed that every effort must be made to increase the share of future equipment sales from the United States and other countries channeled through the private sector on the basis of internationally accepted commercial practices to assure transparency and the commercial soundness of business transactions.

Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma reaffirmed their commitment to establish the Ukrainian national office of the new Regional Environmental Center for the New Independent States. This independent center is intended to improve access to environmental information, increase environmental awareness, strengthen non-governmental environmental organizations and promote public participation in environmental decisions. President Kuchma pledged his support in providing a suitable site for the Ukrainian national office and announced that he would work with Parliament to give the new center special status and privileges.

Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma reaffirmed their commitment to safeguarding the cultural heritage of all national, religious and ethnic groups of both the United States and Ukraine. They noted the positive and productive efforts of the newly formed Joint Cultural Heritage Commission to protect and preserve cultural sites important to the people of both countries. Vice-President Gore noted with pleasure Ukraine's legislation prohibiting construction on or privatization of the site of old cemeteries in Ukraine. They also reviewed recent problems with the delivery of humanitarian, technical and grant assistance and the problems of taxation of such assistance provided in the framework of U.S. government programs. The Ukrainian side stated that there is now no legislative barrier to the delivery of this assistance and stressed that these problems will be resolved in accordance with Ukrainian law.

Vice-President Gore and President Kuchma underscored the importance of reinforcing the U.S.-Ukraine strategic partnership both in the political and economic spheres. The sides expressed satisfaction at the work accomplished to date by the four committees and directed the Binational Commission to intensify work on the agenda outlined during their meeting by directing the committees to aim to meet at least twice a year. They reflected on the progress Ukraine has made toward establishing a democratic and market-oriented state and underscored that this was a crucial time to redouble cooperative efforts to assure Ukraine's integration with Europe and the rest of the international community and to bring prosperity to the Ukrainian people.

PRESIDENT LEONID KUCHMA'S WORKING VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Kuchma, Gore convene...

(Continued from page 1)

U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission, the Ukrainian president devoted a large block of time to reassuring lawmakers on Capitol Hill that he was focused on combating corruption in Ukraine and determined to settle disputes with American investors.

A recent spate of articles in U.S. newspapers indicated that the investment climate in Ukraine has worsened due to government corruption, arbitrary licensing practices and disregard for judicial rulings.

Roman Shpek, chairman of Ukraine's National Agency for Reconstruction and Development and a member of Mr. Kuchma's advance team, challenged those assertions and outlined the Kuchma administration's efforts to improve foreign investment in Ukraine. Mr. Shpek said the Ukrainian president has created two bodies that will ameliorate the investment climate: an advisory committee of Western corporations such as Boeing, Cargill, Siemens and Royal Dutch Shell that will counsel Mr. Kuchma on problems facing foreign investors in Ukraine, and an independent Chamber of Ombudsmen that will assess conflicts between foreign investors and local and central authorities.

In a meeting with Mr. Shpek prior to Mr. Kuchma's arrival in the nation's capital, Rep. Sonny Callahan (R-Ala.), chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, linked continued U.S. assistance to Ukraine with President Kuchma's ability to halt dumping of Ukrainian steel in the United States and resolve disputes with American investors. Ukraine is currently the third largest recipient of direct U.S. aid after Israel and Egypt. Mr. Shpek said he believed the dumping issue would be resolved through "mutual understanding."

Of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee meeting with the Ukrainian president on May 15, Rep. Callahan said, "members of the subcommittee made it very clear that we have some very serious concerns over the degree of corruption in that country and the harm American companies are experiencing." He specifically cited investment disputes involving Gala Radio and the Grand Hotel.

The Alabama congressman warned President Kuchma that "if American businesses continue to suffer, Congress will find it difficult to justify further strong support to Ukraine." President Kuchma asked for American tolerance as Ukraine struggles to achieve a free market and cited progress in resolving several high-profile investment disputes.

On the evening of May 15, the House of Representatives voted to authorize President Clinton to cut off foreign aid already appropriated for Ukraine for Fiscal Year 1997 if he determined that the Ukrainian government is not making "significant progress" toward eliminating corruption and instituting economic reform.



President Leonid Kuchma (left) meets with President Bill Clinton in the Oval Office to discuss issues of security and economic reform on May 16.

Christina Lew

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said he was "very encouraged" by his May 15 meeting with the Ukrainian president. He applauded President Kuchma's May 14 decree to privatize Bread of Ukraine, one of Ukraine's largest monopolies, and said Mr. Kuchma had "committed to resolve all outstanding disputes involving U.S. companies."

Sen. William Roth (R-Del.), chairman of the Senate's NATO Observer Group and president of the North Atlantic Assembly, the parliamentary arm of the military alliance, told reporters after his meeting with Mr. Kuchma that "Ukraine is a very important Central Eastern European country, one we seek closer relations with. We congratulate President Kuchma on the passage of a Constitution, and we look forward to continued reform of the economy of Ukraine."

Sen. Roth and President Kuchma discussed the NATO-Russia Founding Act and Ukraine's own agreement with NATO. The Ukrainian president said he "welcomes" the May 14 signing of the NATO-Russia accord and told reporters, "This corresponds with the interests of Ukraine. Russia supports the signing of an analogous agreement between Ukraine and NATO." Ukraine is due to initial a NATO-Ukraine agreement on May 30.

While at the Capitol Mr. Kuchma also held meetings with Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), to whom he presented a painting of the senator's native Cherkasy, and Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), chairman of the House Committee on International Relations, hosted a working luncheon for the Ukrainian president with members of the committee.

At Blair House, the Ukrainian president's official residence during his working visit to Washington, Mr. Kuchma met with Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank, and philanthropist George Soros.

Mr. Camdessus hailed Ukraine's completion of the IMF system regime of full convertibility of the Ukrainian currency and said, "This very important achievement puts Ukraine in the first league of international financial systems." Ukraine and the IMF have been negotiating a three-year, \$3 billion loan to Ukraine that Mr. Camdessus said would be enacted in the "next few weeks" after the Verkhovna Rada passes a budget, tax laws and a few other structural measures. But the IMF managing director warned that "we cannot support a country without a budget."

An afternoon meeting with heads of large American corporations — attended by Mr. Kuchma and Ukraine's new economic reform team of Vice Prime Minister for Economic Reform Serhii Tyhypko, Finance Minister Ihor Mitiukov, Economy Minister Yurii Yekhanurov, Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Serhii Osyka and Mr. Shpek — was characterized by one American insider as successful in terms of developing future investment projects in Ukraine. The American companies — Deere & Co., FMC Corp., Raytheon International, Westinghouse, Mutual Shipping, Boeing, Cargill, Archer Daniels Midland, General Electric and others — did indicate, however, that they expected significant improvements in the over-all business climate in Ukraine.

On May 15 President Kuchma took the opportunity to recognize the achievements of American friends of Ukraine. During an afternoon ceremony in the courtyard at Blair House the Ukrainian president presented former Secretary of Defense William Perry and Zbigniew Brzezinski, chairman of the American-Ukrainian Advisory Committee, with the State Award of Ukraine.

In turn, at an evening banquet at the State Department hosted by the International Foundation for Election Systems and the Ukraine-U.S. Business Council, President Kuchma received the 1997 IFES Democracy Award.

U.S.-Ukrainian Binational Commission convenes

While the first full day of the Ukrainian president's working visit was devoted to reiterating Ukraine's commitment to eradicate corruption and stay the course of economic reform, on May 16 President Kuchma

(Continued on page 13)



Leonid Kuchma, flanked by Vice Prime Minister for Economic Reform Serhii Tyhypko (left), Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Serhii Osyka (center) and National Agency for Reconstruction and Development Chairman Roman Shpek (right), meets with heads of large American corporations at Blair House on May 15.

PRESIDENT LEONID KUCHMA'S WORKING VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Kuchma, Gore convene...

(Continued from page 12)

focused exclusively on the work of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission.

After a private meeting in his office with Mr. Kuchma, Vice-President Gore officially opened the first plenary session of the joint commission, which was established by President Clinton in September 1996. The United States has similar commissions with Russia, South Africa and Egypt. The U.S.-Ukraine commission's four committees — foreign policy, security, trade and investment, and sustainable economic cooperation — have been working since the commission's inception and reported on their achievements at the May 16 session.

In his opening remarks Vice-President Gore noted that "This is indeed an historic moment for our nations and our peoples, for today we begin a grand new turning point in our relationship."

He warned, however, that there is much work ahead of the commission. "Though the bulk of this work must be accomplished by the citizens of Ukraine themselves, we continue to be ready to help where possible, but there are many things we cannot do for you. In the end, economic development, trade and investment can only proceed in Ukraine if the objective conditions for such progress exist and if investors, Ukrainian and foreign, conclude that they have reasonable conditions in which to operate."

President Kuchma acknowledged that the "unsatisfactory" investment conditions in his country were due to "corruption in government." "The Ukrainian government is always open to criticism that is constructive," he said, but added that "the placing of guilt on the government of Ukraine for unwillingness to improve the conditions is unjust."

Despite repeated discussion of corruption on Capitol Hill and in the press, participants of the daylong commission meeting said that corruption was not the focus of talks. A senior administration official said the United States would assist Ukraine in streamlining government and liaison operations. Specific assistance will be offered in licensing processes to make the investment climate more "transparent, simpler and more compatible with what business needs to do." The official emphasized that Ukraine needs to create a system that precludes the potential for corruption.

"Corruption in Ukraine is still at a young enough stage where it can be stemmed, effectively controlled and eventually eradicated. This will primarily involve the strong will of the government, buttressed by already accepted programs such as 'Clean Hands' and anticipated downstream legislation such as the tax-reduction and deregulation package," said Andrew Bihun, commercial attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine.

Mr. Bihun took part in meetings of the trade and investment committee, which in the course of the day and in the weeks preceding the commission meeting resolved a significant number of disputes involving American investors in Ukraine. More significantly, he said, specific government institutions and individuals on both sides were designated to resolve the remaining disputes and stimulate new U.S. investment projects in Ukraine.

The work of the commission is far-reaching. Both President Kuchma and Vice-President Gore noted that the commission "should serve as an effective mechanism for practical work relating to our strategic partnership and for frank dialogue about the challenges that both countries face."

In the joint statement signed by the two principals, the United States pledged to use its influence to support full implementation of the commitments made in connection with the Trilateral Agreement signed by Ukraine, Russia and the U.S. in January 1994, including compensation to Ukraine for nuclear material transported to Russia.

Ukraine announced that it will begin eliminating its SS-24 missiles. The United States will help finance this effort through its Nunn-Lugar program.

The United States and Ukraine have agreed to begin negotiating an Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation, and the United States agreed to promote accession by Ukraine to the Missile Technology Control Regime. On May 16 President Kuchma and Vice-President Gore initiated the first U.S.-Ukraine civil aviation agreement. In November the first Ukrainian astronaut will participate in a scientific experiment aboard the U.S. space shuttle.



Leonid Kuchma presents the State Award of Ukraine to William Perry and Zbigniew Brzezinski in the courtyard of Blair House on May 15. On the left is Hennadii Udovenko, on the right, Volodymyr Horbulin.

In the economic sphere, the vice-president reaffirmed that the administration would continue to work with Congress to secure renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences program that expires on May 31 and take the next step toward extending most-favored-nation treatment to Ukraine on a permanent and unconditional basis. Both sides agreed to accelerate negotiations on completing Ukraine's accession to the World Trade Organization on commercial terms generally applied to newly acceding members.

President Kuchma and Vice-President Gore agreed to focus bilateral assistance and trade programs on land privatization. The government of Ukraine announced its decision to move ahead with privatization of most of Ukraine's grain elevators and state organizations for distribution of agricultural inputs and machinery, as well as demonopolization and privatization of state-owned companies in agriculture.

The highlights of the commission's work were discussed with President Clinton in the Oval Office during a meeting with President Kuchma, Vice-President Gore, Secretary of State Albright, Foreign Affairs Minister Udovenko, Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council Volodymyr Horbulin, Vice Prime Minister Tyhytko and Ukrainian Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak.

President Clinton said he was "delighted to have President Kuchma back at the White House. He and the vice-president have worked hard today. They've made a lot of progress on economic issues and on security issues, and I'm quite encouraged by the report I have received and quite hopeful about our future partnership with Ukraine."

Later Mr. Clinton said "the United States values its partnership with Ukraine and believes that we cannot have a successful, undivided, democratic Europe without a successful, democratic, progressive Ukraine."

During a press conference at the conclusion of the commission's work, Vice-President Gore noted that "our challenge now and in the months ahead is to move from words to concrete deeds."

President Kuchma hailed the work of the commission as "fruitful and successful," adding that "it is necessary to stress that the development of all-sided cooperation with the United States is the top priority within the whole system of foreign policy priorities of Ukraine. And it's not surprising, because to fulfill the strategic goal of our country, to integrate it into European structures, the support of such an influential country as the United States is of key importance."

Next week: Coverage of the Kuchma visit continues.



Sen. William Roth and President Leonid Kuchma answer reporters' questions in the Capitol on

Khristina Lew

In Memoriam

ANATOLY "ADY" JAREMENKO
APRIL 29, 1942 ~ MAY 13, 1993

You have left this earth, but not our hearts.
You are missed so much by all of us.
Your love lives on, it has made us strong...
You are not gone, you are here with us...
where you belong

— With love and devotion forever,
Your niece, Natalie Yewshenko



In Memoriam

KLYMKO POLYNIAK
MAY 26, 1882 ~ MAY 15, 1966

Pop, to the top of the mountain
You said you'd go
Said I to you, "Oh no! Oh no"

And yet as usual what you
Had said, came true
Left all alone, so sad and blue

It is now thirty-one years since
That day in May
I must go visit where you lay

To recall, place a flower, pray
On my knees fall
Tato, with love from your son, Paul

— Paul P. Polyniak

Bicyclists raise funds...

(Continued from page 8)

explained. "We will still bring as much as we can, but the tax makes the process of getting aid to Ukrainian families formidable. This trip will have to focus on education and communicating the importance of action. While in Kyiv, we plan to meet with individuals from the regions we've worked in, in the past, to strategize ways we can continue to work together in the future."

During past visits, the UDP has tried to urge parents and medical professionals to become assertive and more demanding in their search for better diabetic care and education within Ukraine. Apparently still inexperienced with the forming democracy, many Ukrainians do not seem to recognize their own rights to demand attention. The UDP hopes that this summer's visit will bring home the urgency of this message.

In the meantime, another concern weighed on the UDP's ability to raise sufficient funds: the bike-a-thon turnout.

"I would love to have more Ukrainians involved in next year's bike-a-thon," Ms. Skrypka said. Most of the participating riders were either cyclists who had seen the posting for the event at local bike shops or were already involved in the organization's efforts. This year's event raised \$4,000.

With a growing Ukrainian community in the San Francisco area, there should be more interest, especially since a project such as this thrives on the work of individuals. The event is a wonderful way to simultaneously help Ukrainian diabetic children and peacefully explore Northern California's beautiful wine country Ms. Skrypka noted. Call (707) 836-0931 to get information on the proposed and past services of the UDP and to sign up for the 1998 bike-a-thon or send e-mail to udpandy@sonic.net.

In Memoriam

Anna Deskevich
March 8, 1903 ~ May 25, 1996

You were a light in our life that
burns forever in our hearts.

— All our love forever, Your loving daughter
Irene Nestor and Nanty Glo, Pa., family

In Memoriam

Volodymyr Trytjak
1912-1996

You are always in our prayers.

— Olha, Yuriy, Oksana, Areta and Yaremij Trytjak
Your wife, son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren

In Memoriam

DIMITRI HORBAY
SEPTEMBER 2, 1913 ~ SEPTEMBER 21, 1996

A loving and devoted man
Always there to extend a helping hand.
Ever ready to advance and learn.
People and our families
His great concern.

— With love and wonderful memory
Mary



In Memoriam

Gregory Jawny
and
Stefanie Jawny

who departed from us in 1990 and 1991

We miss you very much and will
remember you with love forever.

— Ulana and Volodymyr Diachuk

In Memoriam

Nickolas Karpa
Born 1863, Holohory, Ukraine

In Memoriam

Martha Karpa
Born 1864, Halushchyntsi, Ukraine
Both grandparents

In Memoriam

Natalia Isajuk and Pavlo Isajuk
1923-1993 1911-1965

You are forever in our thoughts
and prayers.

— Oksana Isajuk Trytjak, Yuriy, Areta and Yaremij Trytjak
Your daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren

In Memoriam

John Karpa
April 3, 1890 ~ July 2, 1970
Ukraine

In Memoriam

Elizabeth Karpa
Nov. 16, 1896 ~ Jan. 13, 1973
Both parents

In Memoriam

WILLIAM POLEWCHAK
JULY 14, 1927 ~ APRIL 11, 1991

An American
A Ukrainian
A Gentleman
A Husband
A Father
A Legacy
A memory in our hearts forever

— Anne, Lisa and Evan

In Memoriam

Petro Maciborskyj
July 28, 1913 ~ May 1, 1985

Devoted husband and loving
father. We miss you.

— Wife Paraskevia,
daughters Maria Kihiczak and Larissa

In Memoriam

Stepan Karpa
Sept. 2, 1922 ~ Aug. 19, 1957
Chicago
Brother

— With all my love and your guiding light,
forever, Bill

In Memoriam

ЮРІЙ РОМАНЦЬО
19 КВІТНЯ 1948 ~ 14 ТРАВНЯ 1972

О, Боже, скільки вже літ минуло. Здається, що то
було вчора – чи хтось пригадується як твоє
життя відійшло. У великому, безмежному смутку.

— Твоя мама, тато і три сестри
Хай буде вічна пам'ять!



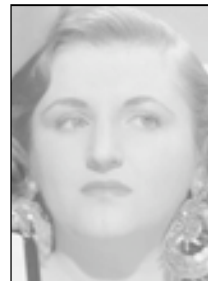
In Memoriam

MARUSIA SKORR-SKOROBOHACH
JUNE 19, 1921 ~ OCTOBER 5, 1995

"Your artistic talent, blossomed like a rose,
The timbre of your velvet voice, in song, in speech, or prose,
Your loving kindness, your humor – anecdotes,
Brightened many lives – unhappy and morose"

"You left the sunshine in our hearts."
We miss you.

— With love: Michael, son Orson with wife Cydney,
grandchildren Cortland and Robert



American Friends...

(Continued from page 3)

Kyiv Chamber Choir, he said "this is a musical group that is worthy of world recognition. With 19 absolutely splendid voices, it is one of the finest musical instruments that I've ever had the privilege to hear."

All who have visited Ukraine recently recognize the richness of its talent in the fine and performing arts, Mr. Miller said. "There is great creativity under way, and we deserve in this country to know more about it, and this foundation will do much to bring that to bear."

Pointing out that part - "if not the best part" - of the great Byzantium exhibit at The Metropolitan Museum in New York comes from Ukraine, he said a link has been established between the Met and the great museums of Ukraine and expressed the hope that such links will be established and strengthened in other areas as well.

AFU Founder and Chairperson Vira Hladun indicated that the foundation, through its various projects, will try to undo the years of confusion about Ukraine in the United States.

"The AFU will educate and enlighten the American public about Ukraine," she said, about its unique history, culture and language.

The foundation will conduct exchange programs for professors, teachers and students as well as for educational training groups in business, medicine, politics, law and the media, she added.

"Only through personal contact will the true learning experience flourish," Ms. Hladun said.

"Ukraine now has the possibility to become a very great country, and I believe it will do so. It won't be easy, but Ukraine has all the earmarks."

"If ever Ukraine had an opportunity, it has one now," Ms. Hladun said and called on all to help in achieving this goal.

In Memoriam

on the tenth anniversary of his passing

PETER G. STERCHO

APRIL 14, 1919 ~ JUNE 18, 1987

Loving husband and father, educator, scholar, author, tireless community activist and dedicated Ukrainian patriot

You departed this life too soon to see your most cherished dream of Ukrainian independence blossom, but the light of your love and the intensity of your vision will burn forever in the hearts of your family and nation.

- Your wife, Irena

Your daughter, Olena

Your son, Yuriy, with wife, Diane, and grandson, Peter

Your daughter, Maria, with husband, Paul



In Memoriam

JOSEPH HAWRYLKO

JULY 29, 1913 ~ SEPTEMBER 22, 1976

JULIA (KAROCZKAI) HAWRYLKO

MAY 24, 1919 - AUGUST 1, 1992

Married May 24, 1947

Ukrainian Assumption Church

Perth Amboy, New Jersey

- With love, your children, Elaine, John and Tom



In Memoriam

ОМЕЛІЯН БРИКОВИЧ

15 ЛИСТОПАДА 1913 ~ 28 ТРАВНЯ 1972

Він любив рідних і знайомих і старався всім допомогти. З жалем, смутком і вдячністю згадую мого дорогого брата і ніколи його не забуду.

Всіх хто знав його прошу згадати б.п. Омеліяна у своїх думках і молитвах

- сестра Любомира Брикович

Need a back issue?

If you'd like to obtain a back issue of The Ukrainian Weekly, send \$2 per copy (first-class postage included) to: Administration, The Ukrainian Weekly, 30 Montgomery St., Jersey City, NJ 07302.

A Portrait In Sadness And

Actor Paul Newman hosted these Children of Chornobyl at his "Hole in the Wall Gang Camp" seven years ago. However, there is sadness in this photograph because most of the children you see have passed away. Vova Malofienko, second from the right, is one of the few who has survived his struggle with leukemia. At CCRF we give hope to such children in Ukraine - we increase the chances of survival by providing medical aid to Children of Chornobyl - we educate the public about this disaster and keep the memory of Chornobyl alive. You can help our efforts by making a Memorial Contribution today. To make a donation that can help save a life in Ukraine, please use the form below. For more information about CCRF, please call us. Thank you!



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or e-mail elizabeth.haigh@stmarys.ca.

St. John's Ukrainian Catholic School
is seeking a school aide to run the After-School Program Monday through Friday, 3-6 pm.
Knowledge of the English language is required; child education background is helpful.
For further information call Zenia Lesko, (201) 763-8796

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Call owner in PA
(412) 339-9622 for details.

Seeking summer bungalow with kitchen in Catskills-Ukrainian neighborhood, for two persons, ladies. Cool elevation essential. A responsible older member of the Holy Cross Church, Astoria is renter of premises for June, July, August and September at least. Call (718) 726-0171 mornings or after 5 p.m.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Al Kachkowski as Development Coordinator. Mr. Kachkowski brings over 20 years of experience to the Foundation in the area of fund raising, public relations and communications.
The Shevchenko Foundation is a chartered philanthropic institution dedicated to the development of the Ukrainian heritage in Canada.

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Fax: (301) 393-9394, 593-9411.

Polish, Ukrainian...

(Continued from page 1)

the joint presidential Declaration on Concord and Unity, blame was ascribed to third parties — Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union — for the conflicts that have marked relations between the neighboring countries in the 20th century.

"We recognize that no objective can justify a crime, violence or application of the collective responsibility principle," stated the statement released by the presidents. "We remember that the source of those conflicts was often outside Poland and Ukraine and at times due to circumstances over which neither Ukrainians nor Poles had control, as well as undemocratic political systems imposed upon our peoples in defiance of their wills."

The previous day three additional agreements were signed between the two countries: on cooperation in the fields of science, culture and education; on cooperation in developing the coal industry between the Ukrainian Coal Industry Ministry and the Polish Economics Ministry; and on cooperation between the finance ministries of both countries.

The issue of NATO enlargement was never far from the surface in Mr. Kwasniewski's meetings with Ukrainian leaders. Poland is expected to be approved in July for full membership in NATO and Ukraine is looking to sign a charter of cooperation with the military alliance. (Ukrainian government officials are speculating that an agreement may be ready for initialing by May 30).

Immediately after his arrival at Boryspil Airport in Kyiv, Mr. Kwasniewski said he was 100 percent behind a Ukraine-NATO document. He said also statements made by Russia's President Boris Yeltsin that any move by NATO to bring in post-Soviet countries would be grounds for Russia to change

its stance towards NATO were meant for internal Russian consumption.

At the Institute of International Relations, where the NATO representation to Ukraine has its offices, President Kuchma declared before students of the institute that NATO's expansion depends on Russia. "It largely depends on Russia, on whether Russia becomes a democratic, stable society, or whether it pushes countries to search for somebody's protection."

Before the Verkhovna Rada, President Kwasniewski called NATO expansion "the eastward advance of stability and security," and said that Poland's inclusion into NATO can only enhance Ukraine's security by way of close military cooperation with its western neighbor.

Although the Polish president's visit may have helped to finally put aside historic antagonisms between Ukraine and Poland, it only caused tempers to flare for Kyiv's commuters. As the presidential motorcades raced along streets lined with Polish and Ukrainian flags from the Verkhovna Rada to the Institute of International Relations, from the Mariinsky Palace to the Cabinet of Ministers building, or before Kyiv City Hall on the Khreschatyk, where Mr. Kwasniewski arrived to accept an award as an honorary resident of Kyiv just as rush hour was to begin — it caused major traffic snarls and headaches.

But with Russia's leaders due here next week, Kyiv's commuters might as well get ready for more, and probably worse.

President Kuchma's busy month of May continued with President Kwasniewski's visit. So far this month the Ukrainian president has hosted Belarus' President Alaksyander Lukashenka and traveled to the U.S., where he met with President Bill Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore. Due on May 28 is Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin followed two days later by his boss, President Boris Yeltsin.

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Ukrainian and Armenian institutes sponsor symposium on genocide

EDMONTON – The Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center (UCRDC), the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, the St. Vladimir Institute, and the Zoryan Institute for Contemporary Armenian Research and Documentation sponsored a symposium titled "Genocide Remembered: Armenians, 1915-1923; Ukrainians, 1932-1933."

Prof. Wasyl Janischewskij, chairman of the board of the UCRDC, opened the April 13 symposium as the first joint effort of the Armenian and Ukrainian communities. George Shirinian of the Zoryan Institute then introduced the film "Armenian Genocide," a production of the Los Angeles school board. Following the screening, Prof. Jurij Darevych of the UCRDC outlined the process of making "Harvest of Despair," a film about the Great Famine of 1932-1933.

Dr. Lorne Shirinian of the Royal Military College presented a paper, "Voices of Genocide," which examined

the personal and cultural significance of the survivors' memoirs.

Dr. Frank Sysyn of the Jacyk Center then spoke on the question of "Making the Famine a Public Issue: The Role of the Ukrainian Diaspora in the 1980s." His paper was a shortened version of the one he delivered at the International Genocide Conference held in Yerevan in 1995 under the sponsorship of the Zoryan Institute on the 80th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

A lively question-and-answer period followed, enriched by participants from outside the two communities. Lesia Waschuk, a member of the board of St. Vladimir's Institute, closed the proceedings.

Symposium participants had the opportunity to visit a special mounting at the UCRDC of the exhibition "Akcja Wisla" on the 50th anniversary of the deportation of Ukrainians in Poland. They also visited the exhibition "Ukraine in Print" at the Ukrainian Museum and an exhibition of the works of the noted painter Volodymyr Makarenko in the Skylight Gallery.

"Decisive week"...

(Continued from page 3)

code, the draft law on corporate taxes and various other amendments to the tax code. Oh yes, also on the agenda was the second reading of the election bill.

Did they do it? No. They did decide that Friday would be better spent listening to Minister of Defense Oleksander Kuzmuk and Foreign Minister Hennadii Udovenko speak about their scheduled May 30 meeting in Lisbon with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and the Ukraine-NATO document that is

expected to be finalized there.

As the Thursday evening session progressed and the deputies quibbled over details of tax amortization, Chairman Moroz interrupted the proceedings briefly, looked at his troops and proudly told whomever cared to listen: "I would like those who criticize us for stalling and not doing anything to spend 40 minutes on the floor here going over a complicated bill like this, point by point. People would then better understand just how much work we do."

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Congress tells...

(Continued from page 1)

the assistance of the Ukrainian American community to contact members of the Committee on International Relations. The community encouraged members of Congress to oppose the Hastings amendment by arguing that it would not serve the interests of U.S. foreign policy. Nonetheless, Rep. Hastings continued to offer the amendment, and only withdrew it near the end of the President Kuchma's visit, to halt the controversy that the amendment had already caused among members of the committee.

In his remarks, Rep. Hastings blasted Ukraine for its lack of economic reform initiatives, which he claims has led to a lack of foreign investment in Ukraine and to a high degree of governmental corruption. He emphasized that there must be a resolution of problems that several U.S. businesses have experienced in their operations in Ukraine. Rep. Hastings stated, however, that he had "high hopes for Ukraine" when it decided to unilaterally disarm itself of all nuclear weapons.

In response, Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.), co-chair of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission), stated that "Ukraine is one country that needs to be recognized [for its democratic, political and economic initiatives]." Rep. Smith thanked Rep. Hastings for withdrawing the amendment and added that Ukraine has shown tremendous progress in its reform efforts as is evidenced by its exemplary human rights record and issues dealing with the clean-up of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Calif.) also thanked Rep. Hastings for withdrawing his amendment. He acknowledged the strategic importance of Ukraine as an independent and sovereign state for increased peace and stability within Europe and Asia.

Within the authorization bill, the Foreign Policy Reform Act (HR 1486), the Committee on International Relations included language that "supports the continued assistance to Ukraine at the level of \$225 million authorized in FY 1997 for each of FY 1998 and 1999 ... the Committee is encouraged by the direc-

tion of Ukraine's foreign policy and democratic reform."

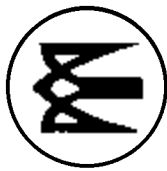
A final vote on the Foreign Policy Reform Act is scheduled within the next several weeks. UNIS has advised all members of the Ukrainian American community to contact their congressmen to support the bill.

While Rep. Hastings was trying to reduce future funding for Ukraine, another congressional committee was also trying to reduce aid, but from already appropriated FY 1997 funds. Also during the final days of President Kuchma's visit, the House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, chaired by Rep. Sonny Callahan (R-Ala.) attached an amendment about Ukraine to the Supplemental Appropriations Bill for FY 1997.

The Supplemental Appropriations Bill was requested by President Clinton to provide assistance to the flood victims in the water-logged areas of North and South Dakota. However, additional amendments, ones that did not have anything to do with the Dakota floods, (such as the one offered by the subcommittee), were also attached to the Supplemental Appropriations Bill. The Supplemental Appropriations Bill, along with its various amendments, was brought to a vote in the full House of Representatives, where it passed by a large majority.

According to a provision in the amendment, President Clinton may rescind unexpended FY 1997 appropriated funds for Ukraine and distribute them to other NIS nations, including Russia. Purportedly, the action by the House of Representatives was taken as a sanction against corruption in Ukraine. Language within the amendment stipulates: "The Parliament of Ukraine's failure to enact needed reform legislation and the recent resignation of reform leaders from the government mark a setback for reform since the 1997 Act was signed in September 1996."

A cognate version of the Supplemental Appropriations Bill was voted on in the Senate as well. However, the Senate version does not include an amendment to rescind earmarked funds for Ukraine. Members from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are meeting to resolve differences between the two versions of the bill.



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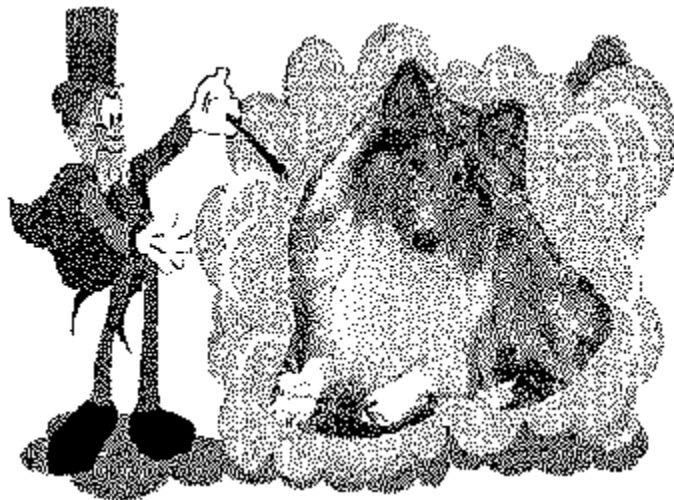


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Belarus...

(Continued from page 2)

Russian section. The place was packed. I suppose on Sundays students have no classes and are free to come and study. I estimated there were about 300 people in there and the line-up for photocopying was hours long (not that I lined up, I hasten to add). I heard that the Library is going to be moved to another part of the city because the president's residence opposite is being expanded. As it is, there are signs everywhere warning people not to step on the path toward the main entrance or down the side of this building.

Politically, things are quiet. For now the street demonstrations have ended, and though the militia presence is formidable, the president has left on a trip to Southeast Asia, so the tension of recent times has been lifted. My Irish friend Adi Roche is bringing 40 containers of goods for Belarusian children at the end of the week and I am supposed to be in the town center on Thursday to watch them arrive. I am interested to know first whether they manage to cross the border.

The library is closed tomorrow (Monday) so I am going to visit Horadnia. It is supposed to be a very picturesque city and is close to the Polish border. Evidently some 80,000 Poles live there today and have retained their own language, churches and cultural institutions. That sounds like Ukrainians in Edmonton, but Edmonton is not located right next to Ukraine. I imagine the Polish influence on Horadnia will be overwhelming, especially given the Belarusian lack of national presence. Some of the locals are probably polonized themselves. The journey there takes five and a half hours by bus and costs almost exactly \$10 U.S. round trip – not a bad deal. Of course it is not as far as all that time would warrant. A decent car could probably get there in three hours.

April 22

Horadnia was a good idea. I went with a couple of friends. The weather was very strange, a combination of clear sky and bright sunshine interspersed – when the wind blew – with blowing snow. It made for excellent views. This time the bus was packed. I must say I looked rather enviously at the Vilnius bus pulling out next to

(Continued on page 21)



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Belarus...

(Continued from page 20)

us, a journey of about the same length, but into Lithuania. Next time.

Horadnia region has a different history for much of the 20th century. Historically it is part of Poland in every sense, but it also was ruled by the Russian Empire at various times, including for an extended spell in the period 1795-1917. Even then, however, it remained ethnically Polish. Only after the Red Army annexed it in September 1939 were there fundamental changes.

This is the closest I have come to being in an area of my original Ph.D. project (when I wrote it, it was impossible to enter the USSR - at least for me). The western regions of Belarus and Ukraine were considered to be very sensitive.

After a Soviet annexation, thousands of Poles were deported in three waves from 1940 to the summer of 1941. Many of the nationally conscious Belarusians followed them. Often these deportees did not get very far. Many were massacred in the Kurapaty region of northern Minsk in a deserted area that is now a forest.

After 20 months, the Germans arrived and ended, in two vicious years, all Jewish life in Horadnia.

I took a picture of the area of the former Jewish ghetto, though it is now a wasteland. At the turn of the century, more than 50 percent of the population of Horadnia was Jewish. In a nearby museum there are many Jewish relics from this period. Today though, Jewish life is gone from Horadnia.

So what remains? Several magnificent and rich Roman Catholic cathedrals. There is no comparison to be made with the maintenance of the Orthodox churches that predominate here. The Catholic churches receive money (and bishops) from Poland and they must be very affluent. The main St. Sophia Cathedral could have been in Paris. The other one was locked, unfortunately, and is only open for services.

The city has an old and a new (Soviet) part. The main bridge over the Neman River was built in 1949 and bears two slogans, one denoting its date of construction and the other the 10th anniversary of the

"reunion" of the Belarusian peoples in October 1939. I should add that it is the shakiest bridge used by masses of cars that I have ever been on. The whole ground trembled all the time and the fence itself reverberated so much from the sound that you couldn't really put your hand on it.

The new side of the town looks like a mistake. There are also many Soviet emblems on the east (old) side of the river, though somehow they fit in. I liked the socialist realism of the main theater, opposite which is a tank. There are statues of Soviet generals who "liberated" the city from the Germans. A massive statue of Lenin - unusually in a cap - stands in the main square. All the streets have Soviet names.

There is a superb pedestrian walkway with most of the main stores. It reminded me of the Arbat in Moscow, but it is not dissimilar to streets in Vienna. It is called Sovietskaya street. The main square is Lenin Square. There is also Engels Street, Marx Street, Komsomol park (!), the October Revolution street, etc., etc. Even Minsk has Belarusianized many of its street names. Not Horadnia, only 5 kilometers from the Polish border. But the Soviets somehow failed to consolidate their influence over the Catholic essence of the town. Its skyline is dominated by three Catholic churches, best seen from the western side of the river.

Before returning to Minsk, we saw some "new Belarusians," young and affluent people. Three of them were approached by a slightly older man who said he was an Afghan veteran who desperately needed work and money. One of the young toughs hit him at the side of the head after a few heated words. At the bus stop was a "mini-bar" that was crammed with young people. It only seated about eight. Loud rock music was playing and prices were high. A police car pulled up outside, but the policeman was clearly on amicable terms with the owner. He had a hasty glance at the books and left. We left shortly afterward because the atmosphere could not be described as friendly and we were noticeably taking up seating space. There was a real tension in the air, though not directed at us. As each young couple arrived, they seemed to outdo each other in terms of dress.

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Hartford SUM-A celebrates 45 years

HARTFORD, Conn. – About 200 people participated in an anniversary luncheon on Sunday, May 4, at the Ukrainian National Home of Hartford to celebrate 45 years of activity of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM-A), Hartford Branch.

The festivities began earlier in the day with the blessing of the new youth division flag at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church. Afterwards the program included a performance of the new

Hartford SUM-A youth choir under the direction of Petrusia Chornopysky Borejko and a presentation of historical scenes of Ukraine under the direction of youth counselors.

About 20 local Ukrainian community organizations were represented at the anniversary celebration. Yury Nakonechny, president of the SUM-A national executive board, congratulated the branch for its 45 years of active participation in SUM-A and the Ukrainian American community.

Tryzub hosts spring tennis tourney

HORSHAM, Pa. – The first Ukrainian outdoor tennis tournament of the 1997 season was held here at Tryzubivka during the very rainy and windy weekend of May 3-4. The tournament, which started at the nearby upper Dublin Racquet Club's indoor courts and later moved to Tryzubivka, was played in two categories, men's singles and mixed doubles.

In the men's singles the winner was George Hrabec of Boston, who in the final matched defeated Stephen Sosiak from Northern New Jersey by the score of 7-6, 6-4. In the semifinals Mr. Hrabec won over Ihor Buhaj of Bethlehem, Pa., 6-2, 1-6, 6-0, and Mr. Sosiak won over Jerry Tymkiw of Philadelphia 6-4, 6-4.

Mr. Tymkiw won third place with a 8-6 pro set win against Mr. Buhaj in the feed-in consolation tournament final. Other notable matches in this category were Alexander Mychaluk's win over Boris Tatunchak, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3, and George Popel's win over Anatol Pytlar, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

In the mixed doubles finals, the daugh-

ter-father team of Tania and George Sawchak, who could not play in singles competition due to other USCAK activities, defeated the team of Melany Sarachman and Mr. Hrabec by the score of 6-1, 6-0.

In the semifinals the Sawchaks defeated Luba and Ihor Buhaj, 6-0, 6-3, and Sarachman-Hrabec team won a hard three-setter over Slava Lee and Mr. Tatunchak 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. Third place went to Lee-Tatunchak when the Buhajs had to withdraw from the tournament.

Tournament was sponsored by USO Tryzub and directed by Messrs. Hrabec and Sawchak, who presented trophies to winners, finalists and third-place finishers.

The next Ukrainian tennis tournament will be the Eastern Championships of the Ukrainian Sports Association of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK) at Soyuzivka during the Fourth of July weekend. The next tournament at Tryzubivka will be the fall tournament scheduled for the weekend of October 4-5.

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1997 CAMPS AND WORKSHOPS AT SOYUZIVKA

TENNIS CAMP: SUNDAY JUNE 22 - THURSDAY JULY 3, 1997
For boys and girls ages 12-18. Instructor's fee \$75.00 per child
Room and board: **UNA MEMBERS \$240.00/Non-Members \$290.00** for full session
Instructors: Zenon Snylyk, George Sawchak and staff. *Limited to 60 students.*

BOYS AND GIRLS CAMP: SATURDAY JULY 12- SATURDAY JULY 26, 1997
Recreational camp for boys and girls ages 7-12
Featuring hiking, swimming, games, Ukrainian songs and folklore, supervised 24 hr.
Room and board: **UNA MEMBERS \$160.00 PER WEEK/Non-Members \$200.00** per week
Counselor fee: \$30.00 per child per week. *Limited to 45 campers per week.*

CHEMNEY FUN CENTER: SUNDAY JULY 27- SATURDAY AUGUST 2, 1997
Geared to exposing the Ukrainian heritage to the English-speaking pre-schoolers ages 4-6, 2 sessions per day 10AM - noon and 3PM - 5 PM
Registration/Counselor fee: \$75.00 for parents staying at Soyuzivka
If staying off premises registration fee: \$125.00
Parents staying on premises pay room and board rates accordingly.

UKRAINIAN FOLK DANCE WORKSHOP: SUNDAY AUGUST 10 - SATURDAY AUGUST 24, 1997
Traditional Ukrainian folk dancing for beginners, intermediate and advanced
Room and board: **UNA MEMBERS \$265.00/Non-Members \$315.00** for full session
Instructor's fee: \$190.00. Director: Roma Pryma Bohachevsky
**** No one will be accepted for a shorter period than the full session, unless it is with the approval of the director ****
Attendance limited to 60 students staying on premises and 10 students staying off premises, off premises registration fee \$75.00 in addition to the instructor's fee.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANYONE BASED
ON AGE, RACE, CREED, SEX OR COLOR.

Children must be pre-registered on a first-come-first-served basis with receipt of a \$25.00 deposit per child/per camp.

All necessary medical forms and permission slips must be completed and received by Soyuzivka together with full payment balance of instructors' fees and camp payments 3 weeks prior to the start of the camp session. Otherwise the child will lose his or her place in camp no exceptions.

Payments for room and board can be made to Soyuzivka by cash, check, VISA, Mastercard, Amex or Discover cards.

Payments for instructor/counselor fees must be made by check.
Please make payable to UNA Estate - Camp Fee.

For additional information please contact the management of Soyuzivka.

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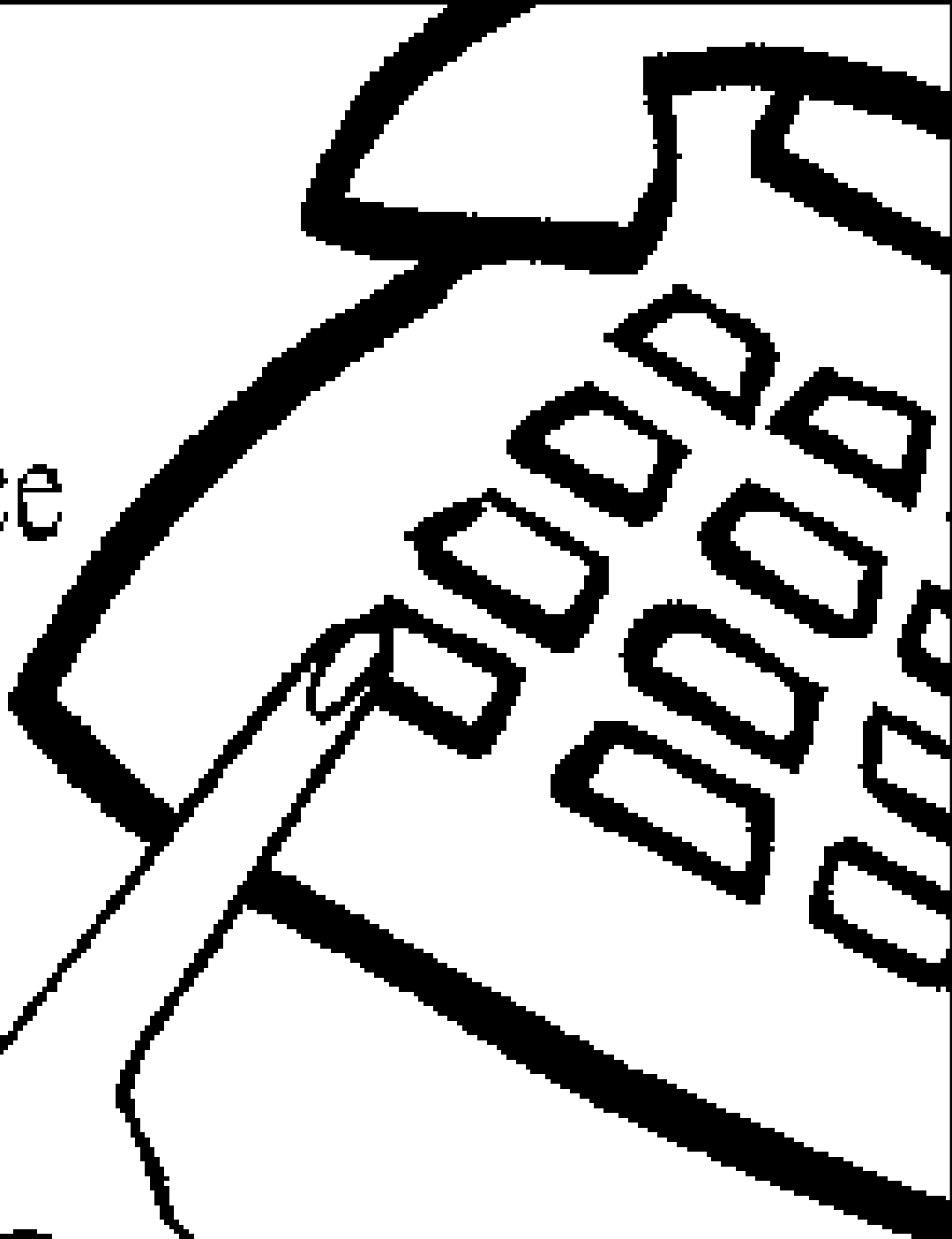
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(By prior appointment, on selected Fridays, between the hours of 5:00 P.M. and 7 P.M., Mr. Olesnycky will hold office hours at Self-Reliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, 558 Summit Ave., Jersey City, NJ. Please call (201) 386-1115 to make such appointments in advance)

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, May 30

NEW YORK: The Literary/Art Club is holding an evening on the occasion of the art exhibit by Andrii Klymenko, titled "The Scythian Steppe." Taking part in the program are: Slava Gerulak, historical commentary; Mr. Klymenko, who will speak about his work; S. Nazarkevych, recitation; and Lavrentia Turkevych, song to bandura accompaniment. The program will be held at the club, 136 Second Ave., at 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 31

NEW YORK: Lev Meshberg, an artist from Odesa and resident of New York City for more than 20 years, will have a three-week showing of his latest works in the Franklin/Bowls Gallery at 447 W. Broadway, in SoHo. Gallery hours: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Opening night is on May 31, at 5-8 p.m. For more information call the gallery at (212) 228-4200.

CARNEGIE, Pa.: The Ss. Peter and Paul Senior Ukrainian Orthodox League Chapter will sponsor a dinner at the Ukrainian Hall, Mansfield Blvd., at 1-6 p.m. Donation: \$6, adults; \$3.50, children; free to tots. Proceeds will benefit the 50th anniversary UOL convention to be hosted by the local chapter on July 16-20 at the Greentree Marriott Hotel.

Sunday, June 1

NEW YORK: The folk quartet Lvivski Muzyky — Stepan Pyhytiak-Neshkoda, Bohdan Zhovtulia, Volodymyr Kovalchuk and Ivan Mazur, the group's director — will appear in concert at the Ukrainian National Home, 140 Second Ave., at 2 p.m. Since its founding in 1989, the group, laureate of the Chervona Ruta and Zolota Trembita music festivals in Ukraine, has toured the Far East/Siberia, Poland, the former Yugoslavia, Slovakia, Germany, Great Britain as well as Australia and Canada promoting Ukrainian vocal music. They have five albums to their credit, four videocassettes and a CD that came out in Winnipeg. Tickets for the concert are \$10, adults; \$5, children.

PASSAIC, N.J.: The Ukrainian community of the Passaic/Clifton area will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Akeja Wisla, the 1947 expulsion of Lemkos and other Ukrainians by the Polish Communist government from their ancestral homelands in ethnically Ukrainian eastern Poland, with a panakhyda service following the 10:15 a.m. liturgy at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church, President Street and St. Olha Place. Following the liturgy, a commemorative program will be held at the Ukrainian Center, 240 Hope Ave., with Kateryna Mycio as keynote speaker. Performing will be Yuriy Reshetar, piano; Ihor Lesheshak, violin; and the Halychanky quintet. The event is sponsored by the Self-Reliance (N.J.) Federal Credit Union. For additional information call Wasyl Harhaj, (201) 772-3344.

NEWARK, N.J.: Branch 86 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America invites the public to an exhibit and sale of paintings by Bohdan

Borzemsky to be held at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall, Sanford Avenue, at 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. Baked goods will also be on sale.

Sunday, June 8

HAMPTONBURG, N.Y.: The Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford is holding its annual pilgrimage to the Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery. A parastas service will be celebrated by Bishop Basil Losten of Stamford at 2 p.m. Afterwards, there will be panakhydy/requiem services will be held at individual gravesites.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.: The Snug Harbor Cultural Center, along with the Ethnic Folk Arts Center and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, will hold its 11th annual multicultural festival, The Harmony Street Fair, from noon to 6 p.m. on the front park lawn of the center, overlooking the waterway across from Manhattan. More than 60 international acts will be presented on five performance stages, among them Cheres, a traditional Carpathian (Hutsul) folk music ensemble under the direction of Andriy Milavsky. The center is located at 1000 Richmond Terrace and is accessible by public transportation. Admission to the festival is free. For further information contact Brian Rehr, (718) 448-2500.

Saturday, June 14

EAST HANOVER, N.J.: The Lesia Ukrainka Ridna Shkola of Morris County is hosting a graduation dance for the Ukrainian Schools of the New York/New Jersey Metropolitan area to be held at the Ramada Hotel, Route 10. Music will be by the Vidlunnia Band. High school through college-age students, as well as friends and family of the graduates are invited to attend. The cocktail hour is at 6 p.m.; the graduation ceremony at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner; the dance is from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets: \$45, dinner and dance; \$10, dance only. For tickets and reservations call Christine Chraplyvy, (908) 583-0933.

Sunday, June 22

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Business Network (UBN) is sponsoring a presentation on "Military Missions to Ukraine — Five Years" at Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church Cultural Center, at 1-2 p.m. The presentation will be in Ukrainian. A donation of \$3 is requested. New members are welcome. For more information, call Basil Hodczak, (773) 252-4903.

CHICAGO: Ukrainian American Veterans Post 32 invites members of the community to a presentation on "Operation Wisla" at Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church Cultural Center at 11:30 a.m.-12:30. The presentation will be in Ukrainian. A donation of \$5 is requested to be allocated to the Litopys UPA Foundation. Prior to the presentation, UAV members will discuss organizational issues at 11-11:20 a.m. New members are welcome. For more information call Roman Golash, (847) 885-0208, e-mail, Golash_Roman@compuserve.com; or fax (847) 885-8565.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES IN PREVIEW REQUIREMENTS:

• Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided free of charge by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

• To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information written in Preview format (date, place, type of event, admission, sponsor, etc., in the English language, providing full names of persons and/or organizations mentioned, and listing a contact person for additional information). Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published. Please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours.

• Preview items must be received one week before desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Listings are published only once (please indicate desired date of publication) and appear at the discretion of the editorial staff and in accordance with available space. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 30 Montgomery St., Jersey City, NJ 07302.