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Observers doubt Lazarenko will resume PM's duties

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — While Pavlo Lazarenko, Ukraine's embattled prime minister, awaits possible surgery to relieve a circulatory system problem, opposition continues to mount against his return to his post. Few political leaders here, including the president, are ready to affirm that once healthy Mr. Lazarenko will resume his duties, although officially he remains head of government.

President Leonid Kuchma, who appointed Vice Prime Minister Vasyl Durdynets acting prime minister the same day that Mr. Lazarenko took ill with what was originally thought to be exhaustion, did not express much support for his former ally upon his return from a United Nations-sponsored conference on the environment in New York. He blamed Mr. Lazarenko for the government's inability to get the Verkhovna Rada to pass a 1997 budget.

"Had the prime minister and the government shown will power to ensure the adoption of the national budget, it would have been adopted by now," said the president, according to Interfax-Ukraine. He called the budget stalemate "advantageous to those who would manage the budget at their own discretion," a veiled reference to Mr. Lazarenko's autocratic tendencies in his management of the Cabinet of Ministers.

Mr. Lazarenko, who was appointed in May 1996, has had increasingly fractious relations with President Kuchma. In the past several months the president has severely criticized Mr. Lazarenko's work, stating that he was slow to move on cleaning up corruption and that his Cabinet had produced a shoddy and unworkable budget.

However, on June 25 President Kuchma said Mr. Lazarenko is still in charge of the government. "Pavlo Lazarenko is still the prime minister of Ukraine. What I have done was simply a required procedure."

In the last month Mr. Kuchma has come under pressure from various political organizations to relieve the prime minister of his duties. The National Democratic Party, with which the president is closely connected, called for Mr. Lazarenko's ouster earlier this month, as did the Reform faction in the Verkhovna Rada. On June 24 the Trade Union Federation of Ukraine, the country's largest, added its name to the list. The federation's leader, Oleksander Stoyan, is politically aligned with Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz.

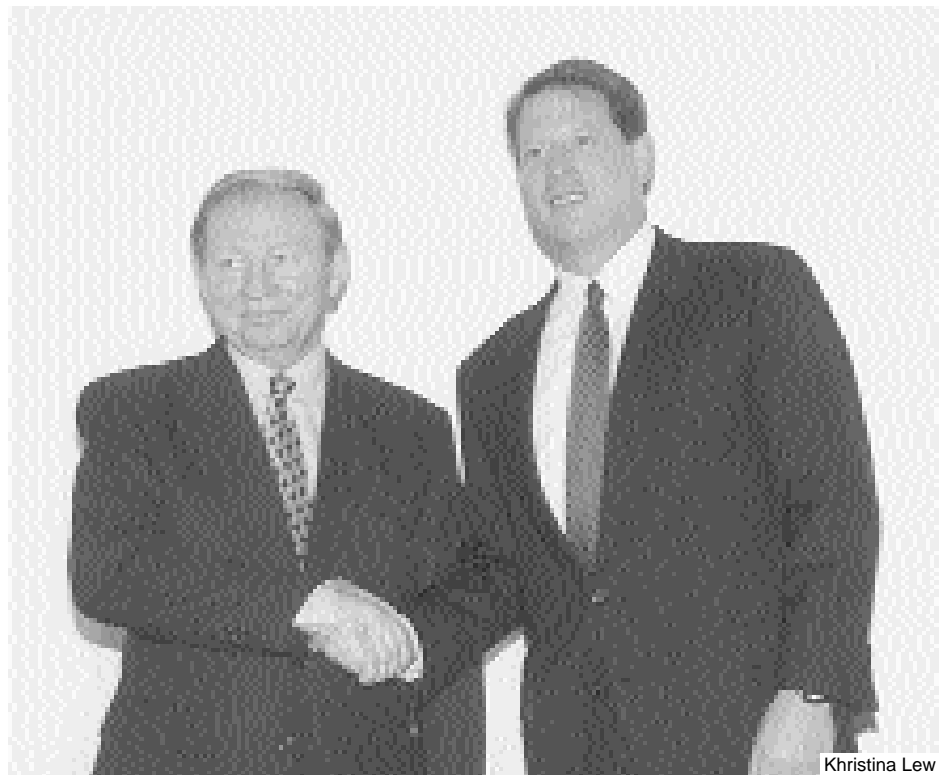
With a tide of political opposition cresting, Mr. Lazarenko must organize his resurrection from a hospital bed. Doctors at Republican Clinical Hospital have diagnosed Mr. Lazarenko's illness as thrombophlebitis, a condition where a blood clot forms in an enlarged vein, usually as a result of varicose veins. The condition can be fatal if the clot breaks free and travels to the heart or brain.

Doctors are not calling his illness life-threatening, but the timing of its onset could kill Mr. Lazarenko's current political life. By law, a government official cannot be removed from his post for 45 days while he is on sick leave, so few politicians believe Mr. Lazarenko will be fired in the next month. But a consensus seems to have developed that he is on the outs.

Among several national deputies to the Verkhovna Rada asked for their opinions, only one said that Mr. Lazarenko's return depends on his recovery from the illness. Deputy Volodymyr Masol, once prime minister himself, said, "It depends on his health, whether the operation is a success."

However, Deputy Volodymyr Yavorivskyi was certain the prime minister

Kuchma meets with Gore in N.Y. at U.N. environmental conference



Khristina Lew

President Leonid Kuchma (left) meets with Vice-President Al Gore at the United Nations on June 23.

by Khristina Lew

UNITED NATIONS — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma returned to the United States five weeks after co-chairing the inaugural session of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission to meet with Vice-President Al Gore on June 23 during the U.N. General Assembly's special session on the environment and development. Mr. Kuchma addressed the special session, called Earth Summit + 5, on June 24.

Leaders of the world's nations gathered for the Earth Summit + 5 on June 23-27 to assess progress made on goals

set by the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Discussions focused on the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, access to safe water, and the preservation of natural forests and the world's oceans.

The summit also provided an opportunity for world leaders to meet privately, frequently in an impromptu fashion, to discuss bilateral relations. One such chance encounter between Mr. Kuchma and Tony Blair, Britain's new prime

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UNA executives focus on investments, sale of headquarters

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — The regular quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association was held on Monday, June 2, at the Home Office.

The meeting was convened and chaired by Ulana Diachuk, president of the UNA. In attendance were: Nestor Olesnycky, vice-president, Anya Dydyk-Petrenko, vice-presidentess; Martha Lysko, secretary; Alexander Blahitka, treasurer; and the chairman of the Auditing Committee, Stefan Hawrysz. Dr. Petro Savaryn, director for Canada, was unable to attend due to prior commitments.

The executives discussed the work of the recently formed Investment Advisory Committee, the outcome of the determination made by the Division of Civil Rights, New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, in regard to a complaint of sexual harassment made by an employee against Svoboda Editor-in-Chief Zenon Snylyk and the formation of the UNA Convention Committee for the 1998 Convention.

The sale and purchase of new UNA headquarters was the most widely discussed topic at the meeting, since the move is scheduled to take place in September of this year. The executives further discussed the upcoming season at Soyuzivka, UNA summer teaching programs in Ukraine and the visit of UNA executives to the New

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One year after its adoption, Constitution gets mixed reviews

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — In the year since Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada ratified the country's first democratic Constitution, the document has received mixed reviews.

Many believe that Ukraine's fundamental law, which was finally passed by the Verkhovna Rada on June 28 after an arduous 23-hour session, including a 16-hour overtime session that stretched into the night and early morning, is fundamentally flawed because it is a political document: the result of compromise and political battle over a four-year period.

Already, there have been suggestions that the basic law needs to be amended, as

Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz himself suggested at the beginning of the last session of Parliament.

However, the fact remains that the Constitution guarantees Ukrainians basic rights and freedoms and delineates the country's branches of power and associated responsibilities.

Such was the consensus presented on June 25 at a town meeting on the occasion of the first anniversary of Ukraine's Constitution held in the Ukrainian Home in Kyiv. Sponsored by the National Democratic Party of Ukraine (NDPU), the panel that led the discussion consisted of Verkhovna Rada National Deputies Ivan Pliusch, the former chairman of the

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Lazarenko's "temporary" removal

by Roman Kupchinsky
RFE/RL Newsline

On June 19 President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine issued a decree naming First Vice Prime Minister Vasyl Durdynets acting premier due to Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko's illness. The same day, Mr. Lazarenko was taken to Kyiv's Feofania clinic, where he was placed under strict observation. The first diagnosis was that Mr. Lazarenko was suffering from extreme exhaustion.

The previous day, the National Security and Defense Council, recommended to President Kuchma that Prime Minister Lazarenko be removed from his post. The council's secretary, Volodymyr Horbulin, commented publicly later that day that "the prime minister has to take responsibility for the promises he did not keep."

Appeals to remove Mr. Lazarenko had begun to intensify earlier this month. A congress of the National Democratic Party of Ukraine (NDPU) — whose leadership consists of many high-ranking members of the Kuchma administration, as well as a number of influential businessmen — issued an appeal to the president to dismiss the Cabinet of Ministers and, above all, the prime minister.

On June 17 NDPU member and National Deputy Oleksander Karpov said that members of the NDPU who had called for Mr. Lazarenko's removal were receiving threatening phone calls. The same day, Mr. Karpov repeated charges

Roman Kupchinsky is director of the Ukrainian Service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

Observers doubt...

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would not return. "I think that he is already gone," he said. Mr. Yavorivskiy explained that in a non-life-threatening situation it did not make sense to charge Vice Prime Minister Durdynets with the responsibilities of prime minister if the president intended to keep Mr. Lazarenko. "If there were no decree, Lazarenko could call Durdynets from his hospital room and give orders. With the decree, Durdynets is in charge," said Deputy Yavorivskiy.

There is a feeling among some members of Parliament that perhaps Mr. Lazarenko will stay out of the political picture only until the budget is finally passed. He has battled unsuccessfully with the Verkhovna Rada for six months over the budget. Many believe that Mr. Durdynets, who is considered a good deal-maker and who was once deputy chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, is the person to get the budget moving.

Mr. Yavorivskiy said the door to the prime minister's return still remains ajar, if only slightly. "He could still return, but the situation that is currently building is such that it will be difficult for him."

Deputy Yurii Tyma, a member of the radical nationalist Ukrainian National Assembly/Ukrainian National Self-Defense (UNA/UNSO), was more blunt. "Either Kuchma remains president or Lazarenko returns — one of the two," he explained. "Lazarenko cannot live with Kuchma, nor Kuchma with Lazarenko."

Even members of the prime minister's team, who would be expected to sound a note of optimism, suggested Mr. Lazarenko's return is far from certain. Valerii Pustovoitenko, minister of the Cabinet of Ministers, said, "We will see. Only time will tell."

that the prime minister had illegally privatized his government-owned dacha in Puscha Vodytsia — one of many corruption charges leveled against Mr. Lazarenko this year.

President Kuchma had appointed Mr. Lazarenko as prime minister in May 1996 to replace Yevhen Marchuk, a former chief of the Ukrainian Intelligence Service. Before his appointment, Lazarenko had been the presidential representative in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast and the head of both the oblast council and the oblast state administration. During the communist era, he was the head of a collective farm and held various positions at the raion and oblast levels. His association with the president Kuchma dates back to when Kuchma was director of the Yuzhmash missile factory in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast.

Shortly after becoming prime minister, Mr. Lazarenko was faced with growing discontent from coal miners in the Donetsk region who had not been paid wages for several months. On July 16, 1996, while traveling by car to Donetsk to mediate the crisis, he was the target of an assassination attempt. A bomb placed by the side of the road exploded as the prime minister's car passed by, leaving a 10-foot crater. Mr. Lazarenko, however, escaped injury. President Kuchma subsequently removed Volodymyr Shcherban as presidential representative in Donetsk. At the time there were numerous rumors that powerful business clans in Donetsk, with whom Mr. Shcherban allegedly had links, were behind the attempt on Mr. Lazarenko's life.

This year, charges of widespread corruption in the Ukrainian government began to proliferate. The U.S. telecommunications company Motorola announced in March that it was pulling out of the Ukrainian market because of "officials constantly changing the rules of the game."

The press began to link Mr. Lazarenko to the Motorola pullout, pointing out he owns a significant portion of Kyiv Star, a newly formed telecommunications company that was awarded a tender by the government to install a mobile phone network in the country. Motorola had believed it had the rights to that project. Mr. Lazarenko responded to those and similar accusations in a letter to The New York Times, but the charges only increased.

With crucial parliamentary elections scheduled for 1998, President Kuchma decided in May to bring in a new, "clean" vice prime minister. Serhii Tyhipko, the 34-year-old director of Dnipropetrovsk's Privatbank, is seen by many in Kyiv as a future replacement for Mr. Lazarenko. By early June 1997, charges that the president and the prime minister were cooperating in illegal deals had begun to surface. The prime minister had clearly become a liability to President Kuchma. Mr. Lazarenko was removed on his return from an official visit to Canada where he discussed greater economic cooperation between Ottawa and Kyiv.

The "temporary" removal of Mr. Lazarenko is regarded by many in Kyiv as permanent. President Kuchma has to show the West that he is cleaning up the government, and the proof of the pudding was getting rid of Mr. Lazarenko. Without him, President Kuchma stands a far better chance of convincing Western financial institutions that he is sincere about both the anti-corruption drive and the reform program, which his prime minister had supported only half-heartedly.

NEWSBRIEFS**Belarusian opposition holds congress**

MIENSK — The opposition Belarusian Popular Front (BNF) held its fifth congress here on June 21-22. Zyanon Paznyak, who fled Belarus in 1996 and now lives in the United States, was re-elected leader of the movement. Lyavon Barsheusky, who was arrested several days before the congress for his role in opposition protests earlier this year, was re-elected deputy leader. Mr. Barsheusky was briefly released from custody to attend the congress and returned to jail on June 22 to serve the remainder of his five-day sentence. The BNF passed a declaration calling President Alyaksandr Lukashenka a "dictator" and denouncing his pro-Russian policies. In a videotaped address, Mr. Paznyak referred to Mr. Lukashenka's government as the "occupation regime" and criticized the president's efforts at reunification with Russia. (RFE/RL Newsline)

G-7 commits \$300 million to Chernobyl

DENVER — At the summit of leading industrialized nations on June 21-22, the Group of Seven countries promised to grant Ukraine \$300 million to help rebuild the concrete shell around the destroyed Chernobyl reactor No. 4, Reuters reported. A G-7 statement said the reactor, scene of the world's worst nuclear accident in 1986, should be closed completely by the year 2000. The G-7 has been urging Ukraine for years to close the station; Ukraine says it can do so only when new reactors have been built at other plants. Some \$780 million is required to build a new sarcophagus. G-7 ministers also expressed concern about the slow pace of economic reform in Ukraine. They urged Ukraine to step up the pace of reform and encourage foreign investors. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma meets Transdniester leader

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma met Transdniester leader Igor Smirnov on June 20 and discussed the deployment of Ukrainian peacekeepers in the security zone of the breakaway region, ITAR-TASS reported. They also discussed economic cooperation. Under the terms of the May 8 memorandum signed by Moldova and Transdniester, the latter is permitted to develop independent economic ties. Ukraine is one of the guarantors of the memorandum, alongside Russia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. (RFE/RL Newsline)

U.N. seminar brings out hard truth

KYIV — The United Nations Human Development Program held a seminar on

June 23 on issues of poverty and social development in Ukraine. "In this country we have no methods to define what poverty is," said National Academy of Sciences Human Development Department Chairwoman Ella Libanova. "Legally we have only the notion of the low income level." By Western standards, 85 to 90 percent of the Ukrainian population would be considered poor. The richest 10 percent of Ukrainians were 30.7 times wealthier than the poorest 10 percent in 1995. In 1996 that disparity grew to 66.7 times. Ukrainians spend 61 percent of their personal incomes on food, compared to 16-18 percent spent by U.S. citizens. The 1997 U.N. Human Development report ranks Ukraine in 95th place on its Human Development Index, right behind Sri Lanka, Kazakstan and Paraguay. Among the ex-Soviet countries, Ukraine has slid from eighth to 14th place in rank. The dramatic fall is due to sharp deterioration in life expectancy and living standards. The Human Development Index comprises, along with personal incomes, such indicators as levels of education, quality of health care, environmental conditions, life expectancy and living standards. "Some aspects can be measured in figures, but other important things cannot be easily quantified, like opportunities to develop and the quality of life," said World Bank representative Kang Bin Zheng, who attended the seminar. "Ukraine has some advantages," he added. "You are on the map of Europe, and you have a good education system and talented people." (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine presses Russia on Soviet assets ...

KYIV — First Vice Foreign Minister Anton Buteiko said on June 24 that the "zero option" division of former Soviet assets should be negotiated under the terms spelled out in the recently signed Ukrainian-Russian Friendship and Cooperation Treaty. He said he did not understand the recent comment by Russian First Vice Prime Minister Anatolii Chubais, who said he was "surprised" to hear about the Verkhovna Rada's decision to pursue the zero option. Mr. Buteiko said the Verkhovna Rada decision demanded that Russia provide full and objective information regarding assets and liabilities of the former Soviet Union. He expressed hope for an "adequate attitude on the part of the Russian side" regarding the return of deposits of physical and legal persons in the VnieshEkonombank of the USSR. Mr. Buteiko noted that these assets were actually confiscated by Russia upon the collapse of the Soviet Union. Commenting on the division of the Soviet

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Lazarenko takes his sales pitch to Canada-Ukraine business conference

by Marco Levytsky
Ukrainian News

EDMONTON — Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko took his sales pitch to Canada on June 12-16 in a bid to further investment and trade between the two countries.

Over 150 business and government leaders accompanied Mr. Lazarenko on this visit and remained throughout the Canada-Ukraine Business Initiative '97 Conference (CUBI '97), which began with a general session in Calgary June 16 and continued with sectoral sessions in Calgary (oil and gas), Regina (agriculture) and Winnipeg (construction).

How much new investment this visit and CUBI '97 will bring remains to be seen. Prime Minister Lazarenko himself cited a figure of \$860 million to 900 million (Canadian) during an interview with *The Winnipeg Free Press*.

At the second session of the Canada-Ukraine Intergovernmental Economic Commission (IEC) held in Calgary on June 15, three investment agreements were signed, but one was the finalization of a previous agreement signed in Kyiv and included among the \$600 million of Canadian investment projects announced during Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy's October 23-24 visit to Kyiv, while the other two did not have exact dollar figures at this time.

Calgary-based TransCanada International Pipelines Ltd. signed an Agreement of Intent with UkrGazProm to upgrade and reconstruct gas transmission pipelines in Ukraine, but specific projects have not yet been identified.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed between Brampton-based Commercial Alcohols and the State Committee on Oil and Gas and Oil and Gas Processing and the State Committee on Energy Conservation could lead to capital investments of \$300 million to \$500 million depending upon how many plants are constructed. The agreement provides for the development of alternate fuels in Ukraine — particularly ethanol.

A previous deal, the \$150 million joint venture agreement between Toronto-based Northland Power Inc., the State Property Fund of Ukraine and the Darnitsia Workers Collective to modernize and expand a district heat and power plant in Kyiv, was finalized during Mr. Lazarenko's visit.

In addition a new air transport agreement between Canada and Ukraine was concluded. It will permit, for the first time, scheduled air services to be operated between the two countries. The groundwork for this, too, had been laid during Minister Axworthy's Kyiv visit.

There are also several other investment projects that are near agreement.

One of these is a joint venture between Regina-based Lateral Vector Resources Ltd. and Ukraine's national joint stock oil company, UkrNafta, to develop the Buhrevativsky oil field in Sumy Oblast. A feasibility study has put that project's cost at \$150 million.

Another is a \$30 million deal that will see four-wheel-drive tractors from Winnipeg's Versatile Farm Equipment plowing fields in Ukraine. Mr. Lazarenko told *The Free Press* he expects that agreement to be concluded within weeks.

In Calgary Mr. Axworthy also announced that the Canadian government will grant Ukraine \$500,000 to continue the judicial reform project and will allocate another \$3.5 million for Kyiv's Technical Assistance Program Advisory Fund, which will be used to reform such areas as taxation mechanisms, financial management, energy and agriculture.

During public appearances and interviews in Ottawa, Winnipeg and Calgary, Prime Minister Lazarenko said

Marco Levytsky is editor of Ukrainian News, a biweekly newspaper published in Edmonton.

Lazarenko's Canadian connections

EDMONTON — Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko of Ukraine has at least several relatives in Canada. One of these is Winnipeg City Councillor Harry Lazarenko, a distant cousin. He discovered the family ties last September when the prime minister came to Winnipeg as part of the Ukrainian delegation attending the G-7 summit on Ukraine. Others are members of the Romas families in Ottawa and Montreal. They have common great-grandparents from the village of Vyshenky in Kyiv Oblast. And, at the June 15 banquet in Calgary, Mr. Lazarenko was buttonholed by a large group of people who told him: "We're all Lazarenkos." The prime minister observed: "I now have 19 business cards from Lazarenkos." (*Ukrainian News*)



Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko raise a toast at a banquet in Calgary.

that, after six years of decline, Ukraine's economy should turn around by the end of this year and start registering growth in 1998.

Speaking at the IEC in Calgary, he pledged that his government will work to improve the investment climate by streamlining the bureaucracy and reducing taxation.

However, he admitted that the current Verkhovna Rada is an obstacle to reform. "We don't have a structured parliament. Today the government needs a majority that would support the government in its reforms," he said.

He said the work of the IEC will go a long way towards improving cooperation. "I believe that today's meeting will enable us to make a statement that the environment in Ukraine will be conducive to investors," he said. "No matter how many problems we have to resolve, we will be able to change the situation radically."

The IEC, which was created during Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy's visit to Ukraine last October, is designed both to identify specific projects and sectors of interest for Canada-Ukraine economic cooperation, and to act as a forum to raise issues related to development. The three sectors which currently make up the IEC are oil and gas, agriculture and construction.

The IEC, which held its inaugural session in Kyiv

during Mr. Axworthy's visit, has representatives of government and business from both countries and is chaired by ministers. This session, which was held to precede the Canada-Ukraine Business Initiative '97 Conference, was chaired by Foreign Minister Axworthy and by Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Mykhailo Zubets.

Both at the Calgary meeting and in an interview with *The Free Press*, Mr. Lazarenko stressed the need to develop a middle class in Ukraine. "We have a class of rich people and poor people but unfortunately we don't have a middle class," he said. "The task now is to create this middle class."

In Ottawa, Mr. Lazarenko attended a banquet in his honor at the National Art Gallery. He left the following day for Winnipeg where he was greeted that night with bread and salt and a hero's welcome from the province's 160,000-strong Ukrainian community.

During a reception at the Lombard Hotel, featuring performances by the Oleksander Koshetz Choir and the Rusalka Dancers, Minister Axworthy toasted the close ties Canada and Ukraine have forged since the country declared its independence in 1991.

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Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko speaks with delegates at the Canada-Ukraine Business Initiative Conference.

American diplomat gives high marks to Ukraine

by R.L. Chomiak

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – When Ed Koch was mayor of New York, his signature question to the voters was “How’m I doin’?”

If President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine asked that question – or for that matter a member of the Verkhovna Rada, a Cabinet minister or even a worker in some place like Trostianets – the answer would include such words as “remarkable,” “unprecedented,” “extraordinary,” at least from an American diplomat who has observed Ukraine up close for several years.

The diplomat, who was visiting Washington recently, gave a background briefing about developments in Ukraine to a mixed group of businesspeople, government officials, scholars and journalists.

Now that Ukraine has stabilized its foreign affairs, he said, it will concentrate on domestic problems; he predicted economic growth in Ukraine by next year – the first growth first since independence. “Much of the Ukrainian government’s emphasis over the last years has been on foreign policy – out of necessity,” he said, adding that now Ukraine can focus on internal questions.

He talked about the “extraordinary quality” of Ukraine’s young Foreign Affairs Ministry, and cited what the Ukrainian diplomats have accomplished during just the last month:

- Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty flank adjustments. (The treaty goes back to the time when there was a Soviet Union and a Warsaw Pact, but the emergence of new independent states like Ukraine made adjustments about the conventional forces’ location necessary.)

- Completion of Ukraine’s dragged-out treaty with Romania (which had insisted Ukraine gained part of its territory as the result of the 1939 Nazi-Soviet pact).

- Ukraine’s charter with NATO.

- Agreement on borders with Belarus.

- The bilateral with Russia and the settlement of the

Black Sea Fleet basing dispute that goes back to the time when independent Ukraine was not quite a year old.

The diplomat characterized the Ukrainian-Russian agreement as “a critically important event” that for years had been “full of suspense and a great deal of apprehension and false starts.”

The economy, the borders, the cultural relationship as well as the Black Sea Fleet “are all part of the equation,” the diplomat contended. The Russian navy now has a leased base in Sevastopol, he noted, “but it is 100 percent clear that the base is part of the Ukrainian territory.”

Decline of the economic situation in Ukraine, the American diplomat said, “has finally subsided” and real growth should be apparent by next year.

“Ukraine had inherited an economy that was deformed,” said the diplomat, explaining that it had been an integral part of a larger Soviet Union, and a totally different system from the market economy the government is instituting. “Putting in the new economy has been a monumentally difficult task,” he said, and all this was happening while Ukraine was building “a new state, a new legal system and a new society.” In the legal sphere he cited the need to train 6,000 new judges. “The task is enormous,” he added.

Here, the diplomat expressed special praise for the people of Ukraine. He said he had learned that “Ukrainians can put up with great hardship, and will do so if they feel their leaders are pursuing things in [the people’s] interest.”

He added: “There should be no doubt – what is happening in Ukraine is really a democratic change ... They vote, and they vote to throw people out,” if these don’t fulfill the voters’ expectations, the diplomat said.

He also had praise for “the nature of Ukrainian skepticism, which is far too great, and the memories far too strong” to give credence to demagoguery.

“There’s no Zhirinovskiy in Ukraine yet.”

The Ukrainian people, he said, seem to realize that there still are four to five difficult years ahead of them,

but they “won’t swallow promises” by demagogues.

As for the 1998 elections to the Verkhovna Rada, the American diplomat predicted that the present power will be returned. He characterized it as “one-third Communists, one-third democrats and one-third a floating group,” and that the new blood will come in elections after that. He said he has noticed that “a very able group of parliamentarians is growing. There are many outstanding young politicians without ties to the Communist past and with experience in Western economics. Their time, however, is unlikely to come for five-six years.”

The Communists in Parliament “are well organized,” he said, adding that the Socialists have “the same features,” while democratic parties are still splintered. “They’re not yet parties, but personality groupings,” he said.

At the same time, he said, the Verkhovna Rada is getting things done. Last year’s passing of the Constitution was “a remarkable event” and “it remains a crucial electrifying moment.” And President Kuchma wisely refuses to push through important legislation, such as the reform package and the tax legislation, by decree. Instead he goes to the Rada for approval, and “this strengthens democratic institutions” in Ukraine, said the U.S. diplomat. “President Kuchma, as did President [Leonid] Kravchuk, feels that Parliament must be a part of each issue.” The president sees legislative leaders frequently, he said, adding that “a remarkable national consensus is evolving,” in Ukraine.

Turning to recent allegations of corruption in Ukraine, the American diplomat noted that “much sinister” also has occurred in Russia, in Uzbekistan and in other former Soviet republics and, as a result, “many have become rich and many very poor.” But he noted that the government shows a determination to deal with these issues and cited as an example the new adjudication board that will resolve disputes between businesspeople and officials. Claims by American investors, he said, have been settled, and the American companies “are fully satisfied.”

One year after...

(Continued from page 1)

Parliament; Mykhailo Syrota, head of the Verkhovna Rada committee that prepared the Constitution; and Oleksander Yemets. It was one of several conferences that have been held as Ukraine marks its first year under its first post-Soviet constitution.

Mr. Pliusch directly addressed the mixed feelings that exist today among politicians and citizens alike regarding the Constitution. “The mere ratification of the Constitution was a fundamental acknowledgment of Ukraine as an independent country with democratic structures,” he said. “As for the document itself, we must ask ourselves whether we could have developed a flawless Constitution in a country that today is so full of flaws.”

Mr. Pliusch said that amendments are needed and will be made to the Constitution, which he considers a positive process. “The Constitution should reflect what our country is striving for, not what it is today.”

The three members of the panel, all of whom belong to the NDPU, agreed that Ukraine still lacks laws needed to make the treaty workable and enforceable, including a law on local government self-rule, a civil code, a commercial code, as well as reforms in the Procurator General’s Office and the Judiciary.

Mr. Pliusch also said that politicians and government officials must learn what separation of powers truly means. “Today, people understand that there are branches of government. But at times they do not see it as part of a tree,” Mr. Pliusch said. “When a branch dries up it is sawed off and a new limb grows. However, some in government feel that each limb should become a tree.”

All the members of the panel agreed the biggest deficiency surrounding the Constitution is the public’s lack of education regarding what the fundamental law does and what it means. “We have developed a fine instrument,” said Mr. Yemets. “What we need today is for the people to learn how to play the instrument.”

Mr. Syrota gave an example of just how much public education is still needed. “Many people have approached me and said that the Constitution is an anti-national bourgeois document. I ask them how that is. They reply that they are not receiving their wages, they have no welfare insurance,” no medical insurance,” he explained.

“I ask them: ‘Is that the fault of the Constitution? Do you think it would be better without a Constitution?’”

Ratifying a Constitution, which was four years in the making, became possible only after President Leonid Kuchma began hinting in the spring of 1996 that he was ready to have Ukraine’s basic law ratified

through a citizen’s referendum. Until that time the issues had been batted around like a political beach ball, with leftists and rightists alike working to gain strategic and philosophical political advantages written into the fundamental law. Suddenly left with the threat that it could end up outside the approval process, the Parliament began to act with a sense of direction.

Deputy Syrota, who stood at the podium in the Verkhovna Rada chambers for all of the 23 hours that it took to approve the Constitution’s 161 articles, said the biggest challenge that his committee faced was to overcome the obstacles deliberately placed before it by those who opposed the document as written — mostly Communists. He explained that after the Constitution was presented on the floor of the Verkhovna Rada, the committee received almost 1,000 remarks from deputies in the form of recommended corrections.

Not long after the committee had jumped that hurdle, he finally felt that Ukraine would soon have a Constitution. “I knew that we would have a Constitution after the preamble was passed.” He explained that at that point he saw a real desire by the politicians to finish the process.

Originally, the last words of the preamble had read, “recognizing our responsibility before previous, present and future generations ...” Mr. Syrota explained, that during

the third (and final) reading and debate, a member of the democratic right suggested that the word “God” should be included, which was approved. Then Speaker Moroz countered that the words “our own consciousness” should be there as well, which also was approved. “It was the first time I felt that both sides of the political spectrum were moving constructively to piece together a fundamental law,” related Mr. Syrota.

He also acknowledged the role of Mr. Moroz in bringing the sides together on two crucial issues: the national symbols, which were opposed by the left, and the status of Crimea as an autonomous republic, which the rightists were against. In order to move through the logjam that existed, Mr. Moroz suggested that both issues should be voted on as a package, which forced both sides of the chamber to vote for the opposition’s sacred cow in order to get their own approved. “The ploy worked, although it took us from 1 a.m. to 7 a.m. to finally resolve the problem and approve the articles,” explained Mr. Syrota.

And what does he recall most vividly of those long hours? “What is most memorable is the playing of the national anthem after the Constitution as a whole was passed,” recalled Mr. Syrota. “I remember the tears that flowed from the eyes of many deputies — tears of cleansing, tears of joy that the Ukrainian nation finally had its own Constitution.”



Awaiting their check-ups at the Nezabudka Clinic for families of Chernobyl evacuees in the Luhansk 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 Fund

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



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA celebrates Fathers' Day at Soyuzivka

by Andre Worobec

KERHONKSON, N. Y. — The UNA successfully celebrated its 13th annual Fathers' Day at Soyuzivka on June 15 as some 500 guests visited the resort during the weekend and about 400 filled the Veselka auditorium for a special program.

After divine liturgy at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church and special prayers with a sermon in English and Ukrainian by pastor, the Rev. Emile Sharanevych, the guests assembled at the Veselka Hall for the afternoon concert. The concert featured the Arkan Dance Company of Toronto and Alexandra Hrabova, coloratura soprano of the Ivan Franko National Theater of Opera and Ballet in Lviv.

Arkan, formed from select students of the Ukrainian Academy of Dance in Toronto under the direction of choreographer Danovia Stechishin Stefura, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Ms. Stechishin, an accomplished performer and teacher of Ukrainian folk dance and music, who holds an M.B.A. in marketing and arts administration, and a B.F.A. in dance, has ideal qualifications for an artistic director. She marries these with enthusiasm and devotion to her work.

She has been a recipient of numerous business government, academic and professional awards and grants, and presently is publishing a dance handbook for the Canada Council and Ontario Arts Council, as well as choreographing rhythmic gymnastics for the National Team of Canada.

The youthful Ms. Hrabova, having won critical acclaim for her leading roles in various operas, has won numerous international songfest competitions in Europe and North America, and has performed at recitals and concerts in Europe, Canada and the U.S., including an appearance last summer at Soyuzivka.

The afternoon concert was opened by Andre J. Worobec, fraternal activities coordinator and program director for Fathers' Day at Soyuzivka, who greeted the audience and introduced Ulana M. Diachuk, president of the Ukrainian National Association. Mrs. Diachuk extended her



Arkan dancers take a bow on stage at Soyuzivka.

Andre Worobec

greetings from the UNA to all guests, focusing on the presence of UNA VIPs, i.e., executives and their spouses, chairpersons of UNA district committees and organizers of trips to the day's event.

Particular thanks were expressed to Nicholas Fil, chairman of UNA Albany District, who organized a 110-person trip. Mrs. Diachuk underlined the importance of a father's role in the family and recounted the 1910 origin of Fathers' Day as a holiday in U.S.

Mistress of ceremonies Halyna Kolessa spoke of the importance of father in the family and related it to the fatherly "Batko Soyuz" (Father UNA), a nickname symbolizing the relationship of the UNA to the Ukrainian community, as father, guardian, benefactor and protector of Ukrainians in the diaspora and in Ukraine.

Ms. Kolessa introduced Arkan, relating its recent background and history, its 1996 trip to Taiwan and plans for its next trip to Brazil in August. She also introduced Scott Stefura, the group's administrative and financial director, and the instructor in charge of male dancers.

Arkan performed two dances from its Polissian-Volhynian Suite; featuring an unusual but well-executed rhythm, jumps and footwork.

Then Ms. Kolessa introduced Ms.

Hrabova, who began with Mozart's Alleluia, followed by operatic arias from Puccini and Gounod. Ms. Hrabova sang to the accompaniment of Oksana Ravliuk Protenic, an accomplished pianist in her own right.

During subsequent interludes, Ms. Kolessa continued, relating the UNA's important contributions to the Ukrainian community and to Ukraine. For example she noted that since 1992 UNA has been organizing volunteer teachers and professional instructors and sending them to Ukraine to teach English and hold workshops for Ukrainian teachers of English in order to familiarize them with the latest methods and techniques of Teaching English as a Second Language.

The dancers then executed their Central Ukrainian Suite: a women's tambourine dance, and a dance illustrating St. Andrew's eve games and rituals. The group later performed a harvest dance and the "Povzunets."

Ms. Hrabova sang arias by Ukrainian composers Sichynsky, Kropyvnytsky, Kytasty and Lysenko, as well as a medley of playful and lighthearted Ukrainian folk melodies.

The dance group treated the guests to its final number, the Hutsul Suite: a scarf dance, a lighthearted shepherd's dance, a

fire dance and a rhythmic "resheto" dance.

Present in the audience during the concert were the following UNA dignitaries: UNA President Diachuk, with her husband, Wolodymyr; UNA Secretary, Martha Lysko and her husband, Wolodar; Vice-President Nestor Olesnycky and his wife Ivanna; UNA Advisor Stephanie Hawryluk; former Supreme President John O. Flis; Soyuzivka Manager John A. Flis.

Also acknowledged were: Mr. Fil, chairman of the UNA Albany (N.Y.) District; Tymko Butrej, chairman of Wilkes-Barre (Pa.) District and longtime former secretary of Branch 164; Michael Zacharko, chairman of the Perth Amboy (N.J.) District; Barbara Bachynsky, chairperson of New York District; Eugene Oscislawsky, chairman of the newly created Northern New Jersey District; Paul Shevchuk, former chairman of the Troy-Albany (N.Y.) District and secretary of Branch 13; Wolodymyr Bilyk, former chairman of the Jersey City (N.J.) District and secretary of Branch 170; Ivan Pryhoda, secretary of Branch 200; and many others.

The UNA expressed thanks to guests from the Albany-Watervliet area for coming in massive numbers, as well to Mr. Bilyk and Dana Jasinsky, organizers of the bus trip from New Jersey, and Mrs. Bachynsky, organizer of New York bus trip.

UNA DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

Boston

BOSTON — The annual meeting of the New England District Committee of the UNA was held at St. Andrew Ukrainian Church Hall on Saturday, April 19.

The meeting was called to order by the acting chairman, who was originally the vice-chairman, Larissa Dijak. This was due to the fact that Zena Kandradiuk, had to resign her chairmanship for personal reasons.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Dmytro Galonska and the treasurer's report was given by Dmytro Melnyk.

The election of officers followed with the following results: Chairman, Mrs. Dijak; vice-chairman, Ms. Kandradiuk, secretaries, Juliana Lozynsky (English), Mrs. Dijak (Ukrainian); treasurer, Mr. Melnyk; auditors, Dr. John Didiuk, Michael Frankiwsykyj and Eugene Moroz.

The meeting was then turned over to Advisor Anne Remick, a member of the UNA General Assembly.

The subject, most asked about was the

sale of the UNA building and how it was proceeding. Mrs. Remick mentioned that the reason UNA secretary Martha Lysko was not present at the meeting was that she had to attend a very important meeting regarding the sale of the building.

She then stressed to all in attendance how very important it was to get all their children, grandchildren, families and friends to become members of the largest and oldest fraternal organization in the United States.

Mrs. Remick suggested that a date be chosen in the future (preferably in the fall) to have a regional picnic. Mrs. Dijak offered to check dates on the calendar of both St. Andrew Orthodox Church and Christ the King Church.

As Mrs. Remick had resigned as secretary of Branch 238 after many years, all stood up and sang "Mnohaya Lita" in her honor.

Refreshments prepared by members of Branch 238 were then served, and Mrs. Dijak was commended from taking the post of hostess.



Singer Alexandra Hrabova (right) with her accompanist, Oksana Ravliuk Protenic.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Chornobyl and the West

Guest editorial by Natalia Feduschak

On the surface, it appears the world is taking serious note of the obstacles Ukraine faces in shutting down the Chornobyl nuclear station.

U.S. Vice-President Al Gore personally invited Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma to participate in this week's earth summit to discuss his country's environmental problems, of which the shutdown of Chornobyl is problem No. 1. And, in Denver last week, the leaders of Group of Seven industrial nations agreed to contribute an additional \$300 million to secure the environmental safety of the sarcophagus covering the remains of Chornobyl's destroyed fourth reactor. That brings the total of G-7 assistance for Chornobyl's closure to over \$2 billion. As well, they called on the world community and donor organizations to join them at a special pledging conference this fall to ensure full implementation of the project.

Yet the experience of the last two years shows that where Chornobyl is concerned Western promises of financial aid aren't worth much and there's no reason to believe the situation will change in the future. Instead, the likely scenario for the next few years is that the West will continue making empty promises, while admonishing Ukraine for not moving quickly enough to shut down the station. Ukraine will struggle along, dealing with Chornobyl as best it can. The end result will be that the year 2000 — the deadline by which Kyiv has promised to close the station — will come and go. Chornobyl will remain online. The media, not understanding how little financial support Ukraine has received from the West, will blame Kyiv for not closing the station in time. Once again, Ukraine will look like the bad guy.

With much ballyhoo, two years ago the G-7 unveiled a financial aid package worth nearly \$1.8 billion to help Ukraine decommission the Chornobyl nuclear power station, the site of the world's worst nuclear accident. Under the terms of the agreement, funds were to be disbursed for several feasibility studies, including for the construction of a new sarcophagus over the fourth reactor, which exploded in 1986, storage facilities for nuclear fuel, as well as the completion of two new nuclear power stations in Ukraine. The energy from these new stations — both are designed to Western standards — is to compensate for the energy lost when Chornobyl is taken off line in the year 2000.

Two years after it was promised, however, Ukraine is still waiting for much of the G-7 funding to come through. "The situation remains essentially the same as it was last year," complains Kostyantyn Ruda, an official at Ukraine's Ministry of Environment. "It's stagnant." Despite additional aid for the sarcophagus, Mr. Ruda says the most pressing issue for Ukraine is finishing construction of the nuclear power stations. Although nearly \$700 million of a needed \$1.2 billion had been promised for that task, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, set up to help Central and Eastern European nations make the transition from communism to capitalism, nixed plans earlier this month to disburse the funds. A study conducted by the bank claimed the so-called least-cost principle was not adhered to in construction designs for the two stations. Even though the report was criticized by a number of European aid organizations, the EBRD's board declined to make any further decisions on releasing funds until after the Denver summit. Kyiv had hoped U.S. President Bill Clinton would persuade G-7 leaders to override the EBRD's decision, thereby forcing the bank's hand when it meets again later this month. It now appears, however, that money to finish construction on the two stations, which are about 80 percent complete, won't be available any time soon. Jacques Santer,

(Continued on page 18)

July
1
1996

Turning the pages back...

The week following the adoption of the new Constitution of Ukraine on June 28, 1996, was marked by both euphoria and the realization that much work lay ahead. In addition, there

was some Monday-morning quarterbacking by those involved in the process.

Speaking at a press conference on July 1, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz assured journalists that the Constitution had been adopted because of the lawmakers' deep sense of responsibility regarding Ukraine's destiny, and not, as some political observers had claimed, because deputies feared for their own fate.

This last statement was fueled by rumors that the president would dissolve the Verkhovna Rada if it did not adopt the Constitution. "Nobody in the Parliament did anything out of fear," responded Mr. Moroz.

Marta Kolomayets, our Kyiv correspondent at that time, reported: "Nonetheless, it cannot be denied that President Leonid Kuchma's June 26 decree to hold a national referendum on the Constitution — whether it was a calculated political ploy to get the Parliament moving, or simply an attempt to stimulate the stalled constitutional process — had jolted the deputies into immediate action. Challenged by President Kuchma's move — which implied that the legislative branch would be bypassed in adopting the Constitution and thus its importance negated — Mr. Moroz rose to the call."

Mr. Moroz related: "There were quite a few dramatic moments as the Verkhovna Rada worked intensely throughout the night, and searched for compromise on key issues, in order to pass the Constitution." He told reporters he believed that Parliament would have adopted the Constitution in full by the beginning of the summer recess, and he calculated that the legislature could have voted for the fundamental law on July 16, the sixth anniversary of Ukraine's Declaration on State Sovereignty.

Our Kyiv Press Bureau also reported the following:

But, once the impetus was provided, Mr. Moroz, backed by a majority of deputies

(Continued on page 18)

FOR THE RECORD

First anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of Ukraine

Following is the text of a press release issued on June 19 by the Embassies of Ukraine in the United States and Canada on the occasion of the first anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of Ukraine.

Just five years ago, the idea of political independence for the states created after the collapse of the USSR was taken seriously by few people in Europe and the world. For many this new state of affairs seemed to be only temporary. Such inertia of world public opinion was based on the well-established stereotype regarding the might of the former USSR.

The existence of a new political landscape in Europe was in many ways connected with the course of events in Ukraine. Would Ukraine be able to preserve its independence, or would it once again fall into a state of dependency and retain only the outward symbols of sovereignty?

Time has convincingly shown that the processes that began with the downfall of the USSR have become irreversible. This irreversibility has been firmly safeguarded by the existence of an independent Ukrainian state.

One of the main factors that changed the attitude of the world community towards Ukraine was the adoption of the Constitution of Ukraine on June 28, 1996. The world praised not only the content of the fundamental law of Ukraine, which fully conforms to the standards of contemporary European democracy, but also the nature of the constitutional process itself. The circumstances surrounding the adoption of the constitution were more of an exception than the rule for the CIS countries, where new fundamental laws were adopted as a result of events that were more reminiscent of revolutionary measures than methods of evolutionary reform.

In Ukraine, the Constitution was adopted only after comprehensive and extended proceedings, and this endowed the Constitution with complete legitimacy. A year has passed since the Constitution of Ukraine was adopted.

Of course, historical conclusions cannot be drawn on the basis of this brief period and it is too early, therefore, to summarize the influence of the Constitution on the development of Ukrainian society and Ukrainian statehood, and on its role in shaping the foreign policy of our nation. Yet, today we can affirm that the Constitution has become a solid foundation on which Ukraine can build its traditions of democratic principles of state and social structure that will allow Ukraine to take its rightful place among the established European democracies in the near future.

Both in spirit and in letter, the Constitution is designed to unify Ukrainian society on the basis of democratic principles, which were sorely lacking and which are so essential during the complex transitional period from totalitarianism to democracy and from an administrative-command economy to a market-oriented one. The Constitution of Ukraine created the conditions essential for developing in Ukrainian society values that are based on unwavering support for human rights and liberties, democracy and commitment to the national interest.

At the same time, the Constitution of Ukraine established fundamental principles that will guide the foreign policy of our nation. The Constitution was adopted in compliance with all procedural rules.

Members of Parliament voted on each article conscientiously and responsibly, weighing each word and even letter. As a result, the fundamental law of Ukraine came to embody the interests of all segments of Ukrainian society and has become a reliable guarantor of the rule of law and democratic principles.

It affirmed the territorial integrity and inviolability of Ukraine's borders. One of the priorities of our foreign policy is to secure official recognition of our nation's borders. Today, after Ukraine's signing of far-reaching agreements with Russia and Romania, this matter can be considered to be settled.

The Constitution of Ukraine affirmed Ukraine's adherence to the standards and principles of international law and to the mandatory fulfillment of the obligations it has assumed, especially because the signed and ratified international treaties were formulated to be in compliance with national laws.

It significantly broadened the possibilities for finding the most effective mechanisms to ensure Ukraine's national security. If the Declaration of State Sovereignty had previously stipulated the non-aligned status of our country, then the current Constitution does not close any doors for Ukraine to either create or to join existing security organizations.

The Constitution of Ukraine conclusively resolved issues, which until recently had been posed to Ukraine as subjects for negotiation by certain countries, primarily those of the CIS. These questions included, among others, the issue of so-called dual citizenship, which the Constitution of Ukraine banned by direct force of law.

The fundamental law of Ukraine gave a clear and unambiguous answer to one of Ukraine's problems — it forbids the location on Ukrainian soil of military bases of other countries. A realistic mechanism for implementing this law was provided, however, in the Transitional Provisions.

The Constitution of Ukraine presented a clearly formulated list of exclusive properties of the Ukrainian people that require the Ukrainian state to take resolute action in order to ensure the return to Ukraine of cultural and other valuables, that during the course of centuries had been removed from the territory of our homeland by unlawful and criminal means. By virtue of direct force of law, the Constitution of Ukraine obligated state authorities to care for the national, cultural and linguistic interests of émigrés from Ukraine who are citizens of other countries.

Today it can be said with certainty that it was precisely the adoption of the Constitution that allowed Ukraine to achieve a breakthrough in resolving nearly all the acute foreign policy problems that our country faced from the very moment of its rebirth as an independent state.

The signing of the following agreements bears testimony to this fact: the Border-Line Agreement between Belarus and Ukraine, the Statement on Accord and Unity — a joint declaration by the presidents of Ukraine and Poland, the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, as well as a series of Black Sea Fleet Agreements between the two countries, the Treaty on Neighborly Relations and Cooperation between Ukraine and Romania, as well as the conclusion of the Charter on Distinctive Partnership between NATO and Ukraine.

NEWS AND VIEWS

A thank you from the parents of little Mariyka of Vilkhivtsi

by Lesya Priymak

In the village of Vilkhivtsi, Horodenka raion, Ivano-Frankivsk oblast, lives a little girl, Mariyka Priymak, who was born with a serious heart ailment. We don't know if this misfortune was a result of her father's direct participation in the early clean-up of the Chernobyl disaster, or perhaps some other reason. The child, in order to live, required a definitive surgical correction of the defect. Certainly, some help was obtained early on in Kyiv, thanks to the Kyiv Institute of Cardio-Vascular Surgery. This help was only temporary and did not guarantee a normal lifespan for this child. We had already given up all expectations that we would be able to save the life of our little daughter. All our hopes were placed on the mercy and intercession of the Almighty God.

And the unexpected happened. Through the efforts of the Rev. Petro Semenyuk of the Ukrainian National Catholic Shrine of the Holy Family in Washington, and the parents of one of his parishioners, Dr. Leonid and Oksana Mostovych of Lexington, Ky., a young Ukrainian American doctor, heart surgeon Marko Mostovych took an interest in little Mariyka's fate. Thus began letters, telephones and trips to Kyiv to obtain a visa. And one day, having fought through insurmountable obstacles, I found myself with my little daughter in the distant land of Washington.

Dr. Marko Mostovych and his wife, Rhonda, took us into their home in Jacksonville, Fla. The Wolfson Children's Hospital enabled Dr. Mostovych to perform a radical corrective heart operation after several diagnostic tests were completed by Dr. Mostovych's colleagues. The operation and the journey were at no cost to us, as

we would never have had the means to cover the expenses.

From that day on, my daughter has two fathers. One – her biological father, who gave her life, and the other – Dr. Marko Mostovych, who gave her the chance to save and extend that life. I came to America with a child with blue lips, but now am returning with a child with rosy cheeks. Dear Dr. Marko, if it will ever be possible for you to help other sick children from Ukraine, who want to live, then the Good Lord and Ukraine will forever be grateful.

I was moved to the depth of my soul by the overwhelming generosity of the Mostovych family towards me and my child. How wonderful that former emigrants from Ukraine and their children have not forgotten their people, their unfortunate motherland, and that they try to help with whatever means they have until our country will be able to raise the level of health care to an appropriate standard. But until that time it is not right for us to criticize our country, which was born looted and exploited both physically and spiritually. It needs good surgeons, and we believe that with God's help they will come. I am grateful to the Mostovych family, Dr. Leonid and his wife, Oksana, and especially to Dr. Marko, as well as to the entire Ukrainian diaspora, among which live many Ukrainians who have not forgotten their Fatherland, their language, and help us in whatever way possible.

I am returning to Ukraine with not only the healed heart of my child, but also with my healed soul. And although it is so beautiful in America, it will now be better and happier to live in Ukraine, because this God-blessed land is worthy of this life, under the bright sun and blue skies.



Lesya and Mariya Priymak of Vilkhivtsi, Horodenka raion, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, with Dr. Marko Mostovych.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



An eye on the past, a look to the future

Many years ago when I was going to college, I played a record of the Red Army Chorus and Band. My mother asked me to turn it off. "But it's beautiful music," I protested.

"I know," she said. And that's why she couldn't stand to hear it. It reminded her of when the real Red Army marched into her Podillian village in 1944.

"They sang so beautifully," she said, "... but they were so cruel. They beat people and killed without mercy ... these were the songs they sang as they marched by."

That exchange opened the door for me to many discussions with my mother about what she had witnessed in World War II during German occupation, Soviet "liberation" and the partisan war in the years immediately following. Much later, after she and my father both passed away, I found more than three years' worth of letters – two or three a week – that my mother wrote my father throughout their forced separation during the war. It was only last year that I finally sat down and read them.

They amplified the impact of what she had related over the kitchen table, the mere memory of which left her gasping in horror three and four decades later. She saw young women ("nashi divchata" – our girls) being shipped off to Germany to work slave labor. Young Ukrainian men ("nashi khloptsi" – our boys) were executed before her very eyes for taking up arms against the Red Army in a hopeless struggle for independence from the Soviet version of the Russian Empire.

She saw the bodies of massacred Jews littering the main street of her village; others were in the woods hiding in hopeless terror. Some of the villagers ("nashi liudy" – our people) were complicit in these crimes; others risked their lives to help the victims. Most people – like my Mama – cowered in fear and prayed that the nightmare would pass them by. As she recalled those events, a dark, painful cast would come over her eyes, she'd shake her head and almost whisper, "No, you can't treat human beings like that."

My mother's experience was but a tiny sliver of the hell that constitutes much of 20th century Ukrainian history. My father had his own story that included Polish prison in the '30s, arrest in Vienna and a Nazi prison later in 1943, cat-and-mouse games with the Soviet secret police ... Many post-World War II Ukrainian refugees could relate similar stories. Famine survivors from eastern Ukraine lived through even greater horrors.

Growing up in Cleveland's old Ukrainian neighborhood near Lincoln Park, I knew the outline of Ukrainian history and absorbed many of our people's stories from the very air I breathed, but because I grew up with them they seemed almost ordinary. It took until my adulthood when they were gone, to fully associate these kinds of stories with my parents, and to realize how extraordinary their experience had been and how heroic their generation was to have nurtured the idea of Ukrainian independence in the face of such hopeless odds.

Now, as I read my mother's letters — desperate with longing for my father and frantic with fear for herself and their infant child, both of them trapped in a remote village with the frontline of the most horrible war in history soon to pass by her front door — I wonder what she would have made of

all the diplomatic activity that occurred in May of this year when free and independent Ukraine signed a friendship treaty with Russia, a treaty with Romania settling territorial disputes, another treaty with Poland, a boundary agreement with Belarus and a special partnership charter with the world's most powerful military alliance, NATO. To top it all off, the president of the United States welcomed the president of Ukraine to the White House. In 1944, to the 27-year-old woman fighting insanity in the face of total war, all of this would have seemed an impossible fairy tale.

Today, Ukraine is one of the focal points of Europe's restructuring. Russia, whose very music was offensive to my mother, is now a "friend and partner" of Ukraine, the relationship formalized in a treaty whereby Russia recognizes Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

If I know my mother, she would first have given credit to "our boys" who fell to Red Army bullets and are now buried in unmarked graves. Independence, she'd explain, came because of the heroic sacrifice of men and women who fought in the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), who suffered in the labor camps, who stood up for generations at thousands and thousands of forums for Ukraine's right to exist.

Then, of course, she would bring up the Treaty of Pereiaslav, concluded nearly 350 years ago between tsarist Russia and Kozak Ukraine and point out that the treaty also guaranteed Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. I wouldn't trust Russia for one minute, she'd say. And she'd be right: Russia still yearns for empire.

Look no further than the Russian election two or three years ago when more than 30 percent voted for Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, a lunatic who openly admires Stalin and Hitler and wants to reconstitute the Russian Empire. Yuriy Luzhkov, the mayor of Moscow and a bona fide contender for Russia's presidency, is a much smoother advocate of the same imperialist dream.

That's why President Yeltsin's offer at the treaty signing to defend Ukraine in "extreme situations" set off immediate alarm bells. Volodymyr Horbulin, secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, needs no history lessons. He politely and firmly stated that Ukraine did not request such assurances. Besides, he probably thought, Ukraine has an army of its own now and is working to strengthen its relationship with NATO.

Ukraine has come a long way since the dark days when her people had no voice, no defense, and faced a horrible choice between Hitler and Stalin or the suicidal decision to fight both. Today's Ukraine is built on a foundation of enormous suffering and many hard feelings. It will take a long time for the suffering to be expiated, for the hard feelings to be resolved.

The treaties Ukraine signed in May look to the future, laying the basis for good relations with those nations that destiny placed on Ukraine's borders. Those treaties, however, will be effective only if Ukraine is respected, and Ukraine will be respected if she is strong.

The country faces a generation of hard work to establish an honest society with a prosperous economy that can support an effective military. Then, when Ukraine stands as an equal in the community of nations, the beauty of other people's culture will become a delight, not a threat.

British Columbia city acknowledges role in internment operation

by Yaro Koropecy

NANAIMO, British Columbia – After more than 80 years of silence, the city of Nanaimo, located on the shores of Vancouver Island, publicly acknowledged its role in the internment of immigrants to Canada during World War I. On Saturday, May 24, a bronze trilingual plaque inscribed in English, French and Ukrainian, and dedicated to the memory of the thousands of Ukrainian and other European immigrants who were imprisoned as “enemy aliens” during Canada’s first national internment operations of 1914-1920, was unveiled in a small park overlooking Nanaimo Harbor.

This site is located about one kilometer from the old Provincial Jail, where between 125 and 150 internees, including women and children, were detained under armed guard from September 20, 1914, until September 17, 1915, when they were transferred to the Vernon Internment Camp in the interior of British Columbia.

The procurement, placement and unveiling of the plaque was organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Victoria, British Columbia, under the direction of Kari Moore, president, and in cooperation with many of the Ukrainian organizations of British Columbia, particularly the Ukrainian community and its leaders in Nanaimo, and with the strong support of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA).

Funds for this project were raised entirely within the Ukrainian community. This was the seventh plaque to be erected; it is the goal of the UCCLA to dedicate a similar plaque at each of the 26 internment sites across Canada. The next unveiling was scheduled for June 7 at Vernon, British Columbia.

Approximately 120 people were present at the very moving and dignified ceremony conducted by George

Horonowitsch of Nanaimo. Attendees included Dale Lovick, Speaker of the British Columbia Legislature, City Councilor Douglas Rispin, and representatives from the Ukrainian Canadian communities of Vancouver Island and the lower British Columbia mainland.

Upon the unveiling, the inscription was read in all three languages, and the plaque was consecrated by the Rev. Volodymyr Dmyterko of St. Michael’s Ukrainian Catholic Church of Nanaimo, and the Rev. Roman Szewczyk of St. George’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Victoria. Ms. Moore spoke the following words:

“With this plaque we confirm upon you the honor of paying the ultimate price, the price of losing your freedom in a country that invited you, and promised you work and freedom. You labored with a pick-axe and shovel, in the neighboring mines and forests, laying the rails for transport and prosperity. Then history changed your world.

“Overnight you became an enemy alien, to be feared and unjustly interned. If history could replay itself, you could tell us of your shame, and your unimagined confusion. You still worked with an axe and shovel, but from behind the barbed fence. And for years you carried the stigma of becoming an unwanted citizen.

“This plaque shall stand in your memory, and serve as an educational tool to remember this dark part of our history, and assure us that future Canadian governments, with the stroke of a pen, shall not again put any Canadian citizen behind a barbed wire fence.”

The ceremony continued with Prof. Paul Thomas of the University of Victoria giving the keynote address. He outlined the historic background to Canada’s internment operation and explained the almost hysterical political atmosphere that led to these extreme actions against innocent immigrants.

In his view, the denial of social equality, or even of Ukrainian origin to these immigrants “was the most serious crime committed against the early Ukrainian diaspora in Canada, for in effect, it constituted a form of ‘cultural genocide’ that was to have very tragic consequences from 1914 onwards.”

Mr. Lovick spoke of the complacency that Canadians have developed in recent years, “how wonderful we are and how nasty others are. And the sad truth is that we as Canadians have a great deal to be ashamed of ... And the day we forget that our civil liberties are only as strong and secure as our willingness to extend those liberties to our neighbors, we are doomed.”

Robert Herchak, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress of British Columbia, spoke about the efforts of the UCCLA to negotiate a redress settlement with the government of Canada with respect to the internment and loss of freedom by Ukrainian Canadian immigrants between 1914 and 1920. To date, while expectations had been raised by such political figures as Prime Ministers Brian Mulroney and Jean Chretien, no results have been achieved.

Mr. Herchak congratulated the Ukrainian Canadian Business and Professional Association of Victoria, and the Ukrainian community of Nanaimo for “successfully establishing a public record and local testament to a regrettable and little-known part of Canadian history.”

The ceremony ended with the laying of a wreath by children from the Nanaimo community, and by the singing of “Vichnaya Pamiat” (Eternal Memory) and “O Canada” by St. Michael’s Church Choir. After the unveiling, all participants were invited to a small reception at St. Michael the Archangel church hall.

Yaro Koropecy is a retired Canadian Navy officer now living in Victoria, British Columbia.

Trilingual plaque in Vancouver honors two Victoria Cross recipients

by Stefan Lemieszewski

VANCOUVER — Filip Konowal and Jack Mahony, both Victoria Cross winners, were honoured in New Westminster, British Columbia, on April 5 at a plaque unveiling ceremony and a gala banquet.

The Victoria Cross, instituted in 1856 by Queen Victoria, is the highest decoration of the British Empire. It is made of brass taken from a Russian cannon captured during the Crimean War. Of the 1,348 medals that have been awarded to British and Commonwealth forces, only 94 went to Canadians. Filip Konowal was the first and only Ukrainian Canadian Victoria Cross recipient.

Cpl. Filip Konowal exhibited his heroic courage in saving lives during the battle of Vimy Ridge and his single-handed destruction of two machine-gun nests at Lens, France in 1917. For his valor, Konowal was awarded the Victoria Cross by King George V in London, England, on October 15, 1917. Konowal was a volunteer with the 47th Canadian Infantry Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force — now perpetuated by The Royal Westminister Regiment in New Westminster, British Columbia.

He was also a Ukrainian Canadian — one of about 10,000 who soldiered in the Canadian Army. Ironically, while he was risking his life for Canada and the British Commonwealth, Canada was unjustly interning some 5,500 Ukrainians whom it had labeled as “enemy aliens” during Canada’s first national internment operations of 1914-1920.

Konowal was born near Kudkiv, Ukraine, on September 15, 1888. He died in Ottawa on June 3, 1959, and was buried from the St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church with full military honors at the Notre Dame Cemetery in Ottawa. He carried a bullet in his head from the war until his death.

Major John Keefer “Jack” Mahony of The Royal Westminister Regiment was awarded the Victoria Cross by His Majesty King George VI in 1944 for his courage in defense of the Melfa River bridgehead during the Battle of Liri

Valley in Italy. Mahony was born and raised in New Westminster and died in London, Ontario, in 1990.

It is significant that the plaque is trilingual: English, French, Ukrainian. The members of The Royal Westminister Regiment and the Ukrainian Canadian community wanted a trilingual plaque from the start, but unveiling plans were delayed because of objections coming from a few retired commanding officers who wanted English only on the plaque.

With cordoned off streets, hundreds of Canadian and Ukrainian onlookers witnessed a colorful and musical parade of The Royal Westminister Regiment marching into place by the Armory and City Hall. This was followed by the arrival of Brig. Gen. Ken Quinn, Deputy Commander

Land Force Western Area, and Volodymyr Furkalo, Ukraine’s ambassador to Canada.

Honored guests included Justice John Sopinka of the Supreme Court of Canada and John Gregorovich, president of The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 360 [known as the Konowal Branch], and president of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

Present were supporters Roy Lisogar, owner of the Royal Towers Hotel, and patron Julia Stashuk from the Ukrainian Studies Foundation of British Columbia, as well as Prof. Lubomyr Luciuk from the Royal Military Academy in Kingston, Ontario.

After general salutes and inspection, and the playing of the national anthems of Ukraine and Canada, the audience heard

remarks from Jerry Gangur, chairman of the Victoria Cross Plaque Committee and past president of the regiment; Helen Sparkes, mayor of New Westminster; Brig. Gen. Quinn; Ambassador Furkalo; and Fred West, president of the regiment.

The plaque was unveiled by Brig. Gen. Quinn, Jim Wilson of the Regiment and Art Castle. Mr. Castle, who will be 100 years old this summer, remembers Cpl. Konowal saving his life at the battle of Vimy Ridge when Mr. Castle was but 18 years old.

After the unveiling, the plaque was consecrated by Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn of the Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, New Westminster Eparchy; the

(Continued on page 18)



At the plaque unveiling (from left) are: the Rev. Helen Patterson, the Very Rev. Orest Hudyma, Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, Mykola Kulyk, John B. Gregorovich and Brig. Gen. Ken Quinn.

CFUS initiates graduate fellowship

TORONTO – The initiation of the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies' Dr. Robert Franklin Clark Graduate Fellowship in Ukrainian Language and Literature was formalized here recently at a meeting between representatives of the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies (CFUS) and the University of Toronto. The fellowship, in the amount of \$15,000 annually, will be offered by the university beginning in the 1998-1999 academic year to graduate students pursuing a master's degree or doctorate in Ukrainian language or literature.

Basic funding for the fellowship was provided out of a bequest left the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies by the late Dr. Robert Franklin Clark of Edmonton. In turn, the foundation participated in the university's "two for one" program under which funds were matched both by the university and the Province of Ontario. As a result, a fund at the \$300,000 level was created, the income from which will support the fellowship. Thanks to the university's investment policy the value of the fellowship is expected to increase with time.

Dr. Clark, a physician by profession, for many years was a director of the CFUS and an activist in Edmonton's Ukrainian community. After 10 years in private practice he became executive director of the Alberta Medical Association and later senior medical advisor to the Workers' Compensation Rehabilitation Center.

For his services to medicine, Dr. Clark was given a Special Award of Merit by the Alberta Medical Association and received the Outstanding Service Award from the Edmonton Academy of Medicine. For services to the Ukrainian community, Dr. Clark was made Honorary Life Member of the Ukrainian Professional and Business Association of Edmonton.

Dr. Clark passed away in February 1965, after a prolonged illness, at the age of 60.

At the initiation of the Clark Fellowship, Morris Diakowsky, president of the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies, remarked that the funds out of Dr. Clark's bequest provided for the fellowship were just part of what had been entrusted to the foundation. The foundation hopes to create other scholarships in memory of Dr. Clark at other Canadian universities.

"The fact that Bob Clark provided a bequest to the foundation for the benefit of Ukrainian studies at Canadian universities was an expression of his belief that such studies are important for Canada's Ukrainian community, for Canada, and also for Ukraine," said Mr. Diakowsky. "The fact that our friend and colleague on the foundation's board entrusted the foundation with sizable funds is a vote of confidence that the foundation would use those monies well to benefit a cause to which Bob was dedicated. Through the fellowship that has been created, and through those to come, his memory will remain with us."

Reader's Digest guide to places includes new entry on Ukraine

by Tony Leliw

LONDON — For decades, Reader's Digest has been published in Britain. Known globally for its monthly magazines that sell 27 million copies in 19 different countries, the publication released a book titled "Guide to Places of the World" in 1987.

This 800 page book provides an overview of the nations of the world, including information such as history, geography and current political government. This makes it a valuable reference book for any library.

In 1995 a second edition of this guide appeared; it included material about the countries that appeared following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The book's editors included Ukraine, one of the biggest countries in Europe.

The piece gives an eloquent and concise history of Ukraine, charting its political and economic growth right up to the

election of President Leonid Kuchma. According to the guide, Ukraine is the granary of Eastern Europe and Ukrainians are a hard-working and proud people.

The reader is given a remarkable snapshot of the country. Businessmen may be keen to learn of the country's major industries and exports, environmentalists can duel on the legacy of Chernobyl, and students of history and politics are given a short background to the country from the times of Kyivan-Rus.

The rich potential of the country is further exemplified by the authors listing of Ukraine's mineral resources (iron, ore manganese, mercury, among others) and main products like timber, grains, dairy products, oil and natural gas.

At the time of the book going to press, annual per capita income in Ukraine was \$2,323 (U.S.); population growth (per thousand/year) was -2, and life expectancy was 65 for males and 75 for females.

Women's federation meets in Buenos Aires

TORONTO – The Regional Conference of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on April 1-4. Participating in the conference were Oksana Sokolyk, WFUWO president; Olha Bandera, president of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Argentina; Maria Shulba, president of the Women's Association Enlightenment in Argentina; Halyna Dribnytsia, president of the Ukrainian Women's Organization Renaissance in Argentina; and Nadia Mazepa-Gonsalves, president of the Ukrainian Women's Organization of Brazil; along with 50 members of these organizations.

At the public session on April 4, Mrs. Sokolyk and Yaroslav Sokolyk, general-secretary of the Ukrainian World

Congress, and Ms. Mazepa-Gonsalves informed the delegation and guests present about their respective organizations.

During the visit to South America, a wreath was laid at the monument of Taras Shevchenko. There were many visits also to private homes, Plast, Prosvita, Renaissance and Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox churches. Representatives also paid visits to Ukraine's Ambassador Viktor Paschak, Bishop Andres Sapeliak and the Rev. Ivan Demchuk.

The WFUWO conference ended with a concert in which many choirs, dance groups and soloist Claudia Polotnianko took part. Interesting questions about the problems facing the WFUWO, the organization's seventh congress and future projects were discussed.

BOOK NOTES

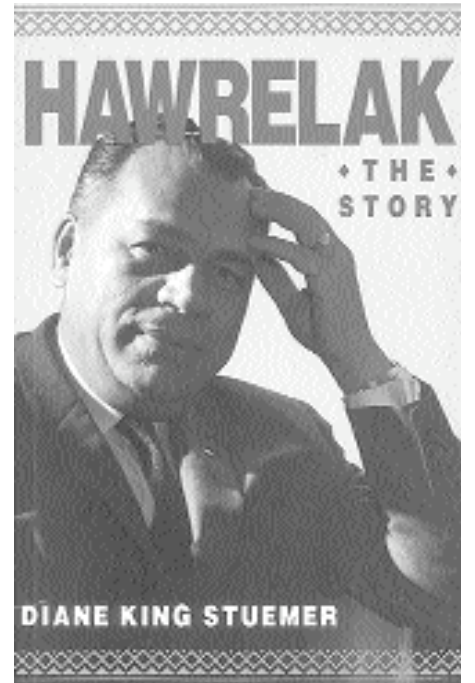
The story of a legendary mayor

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Diane King Stuemmer's "Hawrelak: The Story" chronicles the life and career of one of the more colorful figures in Albertan and Canadian politics. Bill (Wasy) Hawrelak, the well-known and controversial former mayor of Edmonton, is portrayed as a somewhat naive land-developer-turned-politician, whose ups and downs while in and out of office reflected traditional municipal politics with its patronage, corruption and familial closeness.

The story begins with the arrival at the turn of the century of the future mayor's father in Canada from Ukraine, and notes the family's struggles "to tame a tiny corner of Alberta wilderness and overcome the suspicion and doubt aimed at the Ukrainians of western Canada."

Ms. Stuemmer, who explains that she is a granddaughter of the famous city official, had access to numerous personal documents, business-related material, official publications, as well as numerous interviews with all manner of Mr. Hawrelak's associates and adversaries. The book is a quick read even for those poorly acquainted with Canadian or Edmonton politics.

In her 246-page book illustrated with many black and white photos, the author presents both sides of Mr. Hawrelak's political career for the reader's judgment, and manages to wrap everything into the larger blanket that was the rise, fall and return of one of Canada's better-known municipal leaders.



Mayor Hawrelak died in 1975 at the pinnacle of his career in municipal politics. Mr. Stuemmer notes that he is remembered as "an important builder of Edmonton" and that "his electoral triumphs and skill as a businessman and politician were legendary."

"Hawrelak: The Story," published in 1992, is available from Script: The Writers' Group, Inc., Suite 200, 839 Fifth Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2P 3C8. Price: \$19.95 (Canadian), includes handling, postage and tax.

Albertans and the war effort

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — "For King and Country," edited by Ken Tingley, a book on Alberta's involvement in World War II, reveals the province's proximity to the theater of war. A collection of 28 essays on various facets of life in Alberta during the war and the contributions of its sons and daughters to the war effort, the book includes a contribution by Peter Melnycky titled "Tears in the Garden: Alberta's Ukrainians During the Second World War."

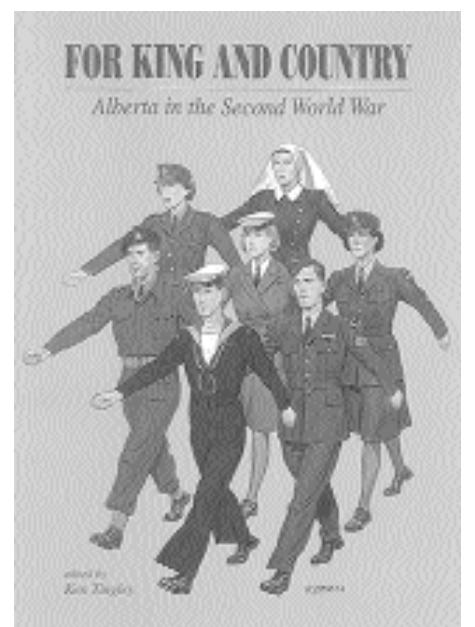
Mr. Melnycky notes that Ukrainians, one of the country's largest ethno-cultural groups, "figured prominently in mobilization for the war effort."

He writes: "The 1941 Census recorded 305,929 Ukrainians in Canada, and during the course of the war their loyalty was subjected to the same sort of scrutiny that had been directed towards them during the Great War of 1914-1918. In spite of this, Ukrainian Canadians, both individually and as a community, were to make a significant contribution to the war effort."

The author emphasizes that the war effort was supported by most political factions within the community. As evidence of that fact, he cites the major Ukrainian periodical published in Alberta, Edmonton's Ukrainian Catholic newspaper *Ukrainski Visit* (Ukrainian News), which wrote in 1941: "We, Canadian Ukrainians, as loyal subjects of Canada, await the command of our government and stand on guard for our fosterland Canada, and the whole British Empire, by the side of other Canadian patriots. All our service — for the King, for Canada, and for the bright future of the invincible British Empire."

In his paper, the author goes on to examine the Ukrainian Canadian community in Alberta at the time of the war and to summarize its record of war service.

Mr. Melnycky has been a historian with the Historic Sites and Archives Service of Alberta since 1982. A gradu-



ate of the University of Manitoba, he has researched and written about Ukrainian settlement in the province and the internment operations directed by the Canadian government against Ukrainians living in Canada during World War I. He is co-author with Bohdan S. Kordan of "In the Shadow of the Rockies: Diary of the Castle Mountain Internment Camp, 1915-1917." Mr. Melnycky is a member of Ukrainian National Association Branch 445 in Winnipeg.

The compilation edited by Mr. Tingley also includes first-hand accounts of Albertans' experiences in the heat of battle, the impact of thousands of U.S. soldiers upon both everyday life in the province as well as the social fabric, and much other interesting material.

"For King and Country" is available from Reidmore Books, Inc., 1200 Energy Square, 10109 106th St., Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3L7. The purchase price is \$10 (Canadian). For further information call (403) 424-4420.

Kuchma meets...

(Continued from page 1)

minister, resulted in the two leaders agreeing to meet bilaterally in July at the NATO summit in Madrid.

Mr. Kuchma's 45-minute meeting with Mr. Gore, who telephoned the Ukrainian president to request the June 23 meeting in New York, focused on progress made in Ukraine's investment climate and anti-corruption measures since the May 16 plenary session of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission. According to Dmytro Markov, Mr. Kuchma's press secretary, the two leaders went point by point, emphasizing what has been accomplished and what still needs to get done.

Mr. Gore told Mr. Kuchma that U.S. lawmakers had noted visible progress in Ukraine's investment climate since the Ukrainian president's May visit to Washington. Mr. Gore credited the work of the U.S.-Ukraine commission and efforts on the part of the Ukrainian government. Mr. Gore also said the United States would provide Ukraine with technical assistance for its newly created National Bureau of Investigation, a body similar to the American Federal Bureau of Investigations.

The two leaders discussed Ukraine's successful adherence to all macroeconomic guidelines set by international financial institutions. Ukraine's currency, the hryvnia, is stable, and its rate of inflation is two times lower than stipulated by the International Monetary Fund. According to Mr. Markov, President Kuchma raised the issue of Ukraine's strict compliance with guidelines, pointing out that even with its good macroeconomic indicators, Ukraine has yet to receive any funds from international financial institutions.

Mr. Markov explained that the United States is troubled by the lack of a Ukrainian budget, the stalled tax reform law and disputes with American investors that have yet to be resolved.

Mr. Gore had only words of praise for Ukraine's progress in foreign policy, however, noting treaties signed with neighboring Belarus, Poland, Romania and Russia. The vice-president said he and President Bill Clinton admire both Ukraine's advances in foreign affairs and President Kuchma's role in achieving them.

Mr. Kuchma also held scheduled meetings with Argentine President Dr.



Khristina Lew

Leonid Kuchma (right) holds an impromptu meeting with Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso in the hall of the General Assembly. Minister of Foreign Affairs Hennadii Udoenko stands in the center.

Carlos Saul Menem and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. A chance encounter in the halls of the General Assembly led to an impromptu meeting with Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso. All together, the Ukrainian president held 14 meetings with world leaders.

At the meeting with Dr. Menem, the two leaders discussed means of improving Argentine-Ukrainian trade. Ukraine currently exports \$12 million of goods to Argentina but imports only \$6 million. Mr. Kuchma noted that in September Argentina will celebrate 100 years of Ukrainian settlement. Mr. Kuchma and Dr. Menem also discussed South American participation in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Conference to be held in the fall.

Mr. Kuchma's meeting with Mr. Chernomyrdin was held behind closed doors.

Addressing the General Assembly on June 24, Mr. Kuchma pointed out that "almost 10 years ago Ukraine was one of

the initiators of elaborating the concept of international ecological security, which served as a starting point for drafting 'Agenda 21.'" ["Agenda 21" is the blueprint for sustainable development adopted at the Earth Summit in 1992.]

President Kuchma reiterated Ukraine's commitment to closing the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by the year 2000 and said Ukraine expects the Group of Seven industrial states to live up to their commitment to assist in the Chernobyl shutdown in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 1995 (for full text of Mr. Kuchma's speech, see page 11.)

Following his address at the General Assembly, Mr. Kuchma was honored at City Hall by the New York City Council, which proclaimed June 24 Ukrainian President's Day. The ceremony was attended by representatives of J.P. Morgan, Met Life and the Bank of New York, among others, who shared a champagne toast with the Ukrainian president before he was given a tour of City Hall

by Councilman Jerome O'Donovan, head of the City Council Economic Development Committee. Mr. Kuchma also held a private meeting with New York Mayor Rudolph Guiliani.

During the course of his June 22-24 visit to New York, Mr. Kuchma toured "The Glory of Byzantium" exhibit at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and dined at the residence of Metropolitan Museum President William Luers. He held meetings with Henry Kissinger, President Richard Nixon's secretary of state; heads of commercial and investment banks; and representatives of Rothshild Inc.

On June 23 Mr. Kuchma met with representatives of the Ukrainian American community at a dinner held at the Harvard Club. Askold Lozynskyj, president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, opened the evening by noting that Ukraine recently celebrated the first anniversary of the adoption of its Constitution.

In his remarks to leaders of diaspora organizations, Mr. Kuchma emphasized that with the signing of numerous treaties with its neighbors, Ukraine has legally confirmed its borders for the first time in history. He criticized Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada for impeding economic reform and said that the lack of a 1997 budget has caused problems with the IMF, which has yet to release a promised \$1.5 billion in aid to Ukraine.

Mr. Kuchma asked that the diaspora serve as defender of the young Ukrainian state, noting that at this time it is important to combat the negative image of Ukraine which is appearing in the Western media. A visibly tired Mr. Kuchma then took questions from the floor for 40 minutes; the exchange at times veered from the planned question-and-answer period to prolonged commentary from members of the community.

The evening was closed by Ulana Diachuk, president of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, who encouraged Ukraine to be as successful in economic reform as it has been in foreign affairs.

Mr. Kuchma was accompanied on his visit to New York by Minister of Foreign Affairs Hennadii Udoenko and Minister of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety Yurii Kostenko, who held their own series of meetings at the United Nations, as well as numerous advisors and his daughter, Olena.



President Leonid Kuchma (left) meets with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at the United Nations.



New York City Councilman Jerome O'Donovan (left) presents Leonid Kuchma with the Ukrainian President's Day proclamation at City Hall. Mr. Kuchma's interpreter is on the right.



Councilman Jerome O'Donovan (left) uncorks a bottle of Ukrainian champagne at City Hall. To President Kuchma's left are Consul General Viktor Kryzhanivsky and Ukrainian Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak.



President Leonid Kuchma (center) at a dinner with representatives of Ukrainian American organizations at the Harvard Club. From left are Ulana Diachuk, president of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council; Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Basil Losten of Stamford, Conn.; and Olga Trytjak, vice-president of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

Kuchma speaks on the environment

Following is the text of remarks by President Leonid Kuchma at the 19th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on June 24.

The five years since the Rio de Janeiro Conference have proven the historic and practical value of its decisions. For the first time ever, the ecological dimension of ensuring peace and further economic development was upgraded to the level of the key problems facing the mankind.

May I recall in this respect that almost 10 years ago Ukraine was one of the initiators of elaborating the concept of international ecological security, which served as a starting point for drafting "Agenda 21."

Regrettably, we have not managed so far to attain the principal goal: to translate the words into resolute actions, to take concrete practical measures. The state of the environment on our planet is still a matter of serious concern.

The years after Rio have coincided with Ukraine's establishment as an independent nation, with the beginning of profound political, social and economic reforms. This process has become complicated by the ecological crisis in our country. Its roots derive from the Chernobyl disaster and an excessive technological burden on the environment.

This is why the ecological component of our national security is becoming a dominating factor of the domestic and foreign policies of the Ukrainian state.

From the former Soviet Union, we have inherited a resource- and energy-wasteful economy, as natural resources were considered to have no cost and to be practically inexhaustible.

It is worth mentioning that the resource-consumption of Ukrainian products is two to three times higher than the world standard, and its energy-wastefulness is six to nine times more than the world level. The technological pressure on Ukraine's territory exceeds by six to seven times the level of developed European countries.

Equally disturbing are the following figures: Ukraine's agricultural lands have undergone plowing up to 80 and in some regions even to 90 percent. More than 25 billion tons of accumulated wastes cover the territory of 130,000 hectares of the famous Ukrainian soils.

During the last five years the population of our country has dropped by almost 1 million. Naturally, ecology is not to be blamed for everything, but, unfortunately, its "contribution" is enormous.

That is why for Ukraine "Agenda 21" is not a simple abstract idea with an indefinite term for implementation, but the concept and strategy of our survival.

With this in mind, we are aiming our efforts at real integration of environmental protection policy into the strategy of social and economic development. To ensure ecological security and maintain ecological balance on the territory of our country is one of the priorities of state policy determined by the Constitution.

Legislation in the sphere of environmental protection and the rational use of natural resources has been radically reviewed. Based on the decisions of Rio '92, the concept and guidelines of state ecological policy have been drafted.

We have started the transition from administrative to market methods of managing the activities of environmental protection. Payment for special use of natural resources and for pollution of

the environment, and a new system of funding and crediting for the protection of nature have been introduced.

The protection of nature has become one of our major priorities. Only during the last three years the size of the reserve areas has been increased by 1.5 times. This is a sort of "Golden Fund" of our nation.

Active measures are being taken to harmonize national legislation in the sphere of ecology with international measures. Today, Ukraine is party to 17 international conventions on environmental protection and 15 protocols to them.

The next step will be the practical implementation of the Concept of Sustainable Development of Ukraine to be approved by the government in the near future.

However, the implementation of these and other measures has been complicated by a number of factors. Apart from the difficulties related to the complex process of a market transformation of the economy, the problem of Chernobyl continues to be a substantial obstacle to attaining the sustainable development of our country.

To minimize the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster, Ukraine spends about \$1 billion (U.S.) a year. However, 11 years after the catastrophe, we still feel its threatening breathing — and not for us only.

Seeking to save mankind from this threat, we made the decision to decommission the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant by the year 2000. Shutting down the first reactor in 1996 was the first step in this direction.

We expect that the G-7 countries will live up to their commitments in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding.

I would like to emphasize that Ukraine has radically reformed its state system for ensuring nuclear and radiation safety, taking into account broad international experience.

Today, we have every reason to state that in Ukraine we have laid down the foundations (structural, scientific and methodological, legal and economic) of a new state policy that is based on the principles of sustainable development typical for countries with market economies. It is economically unprofitable for the state to pollute the environment and to excessively consume natural resources. And this is the main result of our efforts.

This session proves that, on the eve of the third millennium, mankind is fully aware of the biospheric scale of its activities. More than 70 years ago, Volodymyr Vernadskyi, our great compatriot and the founder of the science devoted to the Earth's biosphere, said this: "The whole of mankind is turning into a powerful geological force. And they, their thoughts and labor are facing the task of rebuilding the biosphere in the interests of free-thinking mankind as a whole."

It took us a very long time to realize this truth. The future of our children depends on our ability to comprehend this truth and, first and foremost, to act adequately.

That is why the time has come for us to start drafting a universal international legal instrument aimed at guaranteeing global ecological security — an instrument that would establish the norms of permissible ecological behavior for every country in the interests of the survival and the prosperity of our civilization in the 21st century.

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Washington's Bondra scoring machine

Scoring goals is a hoot ... when your team is winning. So when Lutsyk, Ukraine, native Peter Bondra sat stone-faced in the visitor's dressing room at The Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim after scoring three goals this past season, he was not dissatisfied with his own performance. Rather, his Washington Capitals had just suffered their fifth straight loss and Bondra was struggling to find any enjoyment in his personal success. He had done his job extremely well, as usual, but it was just not enough.

"When you score a hat trick you know you have made a contribution," Bondra said. "But when your team loses the game, what do your goals mean? I want to be happy and that means our team has to win more."

That, unfortunately for Bondra and the Capitals, was familiar scenario. The hapless Capitals were in a fight with the Ottawa Senators, Tampa Bay Lightning, Montreal Canadiens and the then Hartford Whalers for a playoff spot in the Eastern Conference most of this past season (a fight eventually won by the surprise upstart Senators).

They didn't make it, but don't blame Bondra. Since the start of the 1994-1995 season, only one player — Jaromir Jagr of the Pittsburgh Penguins — has scored more goals than the Capitals' star right winger.

And Jagr has a distinct advantage. The opposition can't afford to concentrate solely on defending against him. The Penguins also have scoring stars Mario Lemieux (since retired from hockey), Petr Nedved, Ron Francis and others.

The hapless Capitals? Well, there's Joe Juneau. You know, the talented center who rarely shoots the puck. There's Adam Oates, whose scoring reputation is based mostly on his play-making abili-

ties. They also have fellow Ukrainian Steve Konowalchuk. He was the Capitals' second leading goal scorer in 1995-1996 with 23 — less than half the number of goals Bondra scored.

Bondra's 52 goals in 1995-1996 represented 27 percent of the Capitals' offense in games he played and led the NHL in that department for the second straight year. The year before, he topped the NHL, scoring 25 percent of the Capitals' goals in games he played.

This past season it was more of the same. Bondra continued to be Washington's sole scoring threat. He had 46 goals in 77 games. It's an old notion, but oh, so true: stop Peter Bondra and you stop the Washington Capitals.

"The amazing thing about Peter's success this year is he did it without a No. 1 line left winger most of the time," said ex-Washington coach Jim Schoenfeld. "Chris Simon would have been his left winger, but he was out for a month plus with a bad back. Even his center, Michal Pivonka, was out for a couple of months, so on most nights it was Peter against the other team's top defensive pairing and top checking line."

Over his first three years in the NHL, Bondra showed decent progress, scoring 12, 28 and 37 goals, respectively. Then, in 1993-1994, he slipped to 24 goals in 69 games.

"I had a very disappointing year and I decided something had to change," Bondra readily admitted. "I decided I needed to get stronger, especially in my upper body. Not to run over people, but to stay on my feet when I get hit and to help me get to where I want to be when I'm carrying the puck."

Getting stronger helped him take his scoring to the next level. He scored at 60-goal paces the next two seasons. But his real strength is his skating. Bondra won

(Continued on page 13)

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Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 12)

the fastest skater competition at the NHL All-Star Game last January. And even though the competition was a little watered down — defending champion Mike Gartner wasn't present and speedster Paul Coffey declined to participate — it was a good indicator of how fast Bondra really is.

"Speed is his greatest asset," Schoenfeld said. "When he's going, he's as exciting a player to watch as there is in the league. And he's very difficult to defend. Defensemen are forced to back up or they risk getting burned. When they back up, he has such a quick release, he can beat them with his shot. He's the complete scoring machine."

Schoenfeld said he was conscious of not overplaying Bondra for fear of wearing him out, but liked to use him when the Capitals were a man short. Bondra equaled last year's total of four short-handed goals. Bondra said the situation in the game dictates his approach.

"If we're down a goal or two, you look for the opportunity to burn the other team's defensemen," Bondra said. "If their defenseman makes a mistake, you have to punish him. On the other hand, you have to remember why you are out there: to kill the penalty."

In the movies, there's Bond. James Bond. On NHL ice rinks there's Bondra. Peter Bondra. Goal scorer, opposition punisher and penalty killer!

Andreychuk injured

At a team meeting a few days after he suffered a fractured left ankle in the final game of the regular season, Ukrainian Dave Andreychuk asked his New Jersey Devils teammates for a favor: get to the third round of the playoffs. That would have given the 33-year-old left winger a chance to return for a crack at his first Stanley Cup ring.

"That's all I can hope for, I guess," Andreychuk said at that time. "The only nightmares I have are if the team loses and I don't have a chance to play."

Andreychuk must have had some restless and sleepless nights.

The Devils did their best to accommodate their fallen teammate. They eliminated the Montreal Canadiens in five games in the first round, before being eliminated themselves by their archrivals from across the river, the New York Rangers, also in five games.

Andreychuk's injury occurred in a meaningless game last April 13 against the Philadelphia Flyers. Steve Thomas, Martin Brodeur and Scott Stevens were all rested, but Andreychuk played. With 7:09 remaining in the second period, he was hooked around the neck by Flyers' rookie defenseman Janne Niinimaa and fell awkwardly behind the net. At first it was thought he would not require surgery for a fractured ankle, but that changed when it appeared the fracture became displaced. Surgery was performed on April 19.

"It's tough that I had to watch and I hoped that I got a chance to play, but I couldn't do anything about that," the frustrated Andreychuk said. "I just wanted to be ready if I got a chance."

The Hammer Schultz comes down in Madison

Dave Schultz, 47, wanted to get back into coaching next year, after his youngest son graduated from high school. But when the Colonial League's Madison Monsters offered him a job last summer, the former Philadelphia Flyers' enforcer jumped at the chance. So, with his family in Philadelphia, "The Hammer" is behind the bench for the first time since coaching a roller hockey team in 1993.

"I was going to spend the winter pursuing something for 1997-1998," said Schultz, who coached the short-lived Atlantic Coast League's New York Slapshots during the 1980s.

Leaving his family behind in Philadelphia, where he managed a hockey rink for seven years, was difficult. "You have to make sacrifices to get where you want to go," Schultz said. "It's more difficult for them."

The Monsters had a respectable record sitting fourth in the West Division. Surprisingly, the Monsters didn't play the same style of hockey that made Schultz famous during the Broad Street Bullies era in Philadelphia. Madison was the least-penalized team in the league.

"I'm more prepared than ever," said the half-Ukrainian (His mother is 100 percent Ukrainian-blooded). "There is nothing I don't enjoy about it."

Russian rearguard takes bite

Russian defenseman Nikolay Marinenko ended his tour of the West Coast League a little early. The Central Army defender bit off part of the ear of Reno Renegades' forward Stu Kulak, a Ukrainian, during a December 22, 1996, exhibition game. WCHL commissioner Mike Myers suspended Marinenko the final three games of the team's tour.

Kulak and Marinenko were involved in a fight late in the first period when Kulak emerged, claiming he was bitten.

"The top part of his ear was disattached," said WCHL spokesman Sammy Wallace. "It wasn't very pleasant. Doctors will be able to have it reattached, though."

The game had to be forfeited by the Renegades because Reno players refused to continue playing after the incident. The Russian team completed its tour last December with a 7-4-1 record. Ouch!

Tymchyshyn's decision keeps Big Red in hunt

Sometimes recruiting contacts pay off in the most unforeseen ways. When Cornell assistant coach Matt Carlin was an assistant at Dartmouth, one of the players he tried to get to Hanover, N.H., was center Darren Tymchyshyn. But the young Ukrainian, a native of Vegreville, Alberta, instead decided to accept a scholarship offer from Illinois-Chicago.

But when Illinois-Chicago dropped its hockey program in the offseason last year, Carlin again went out after Tymchyshyn and convinced him to transfer to Cornell.

Tymchyshyn was a welcome addition for the Big Red. With the graduation of several forwards, Big Red coach Mike Shafer needed another offensive threat and someone with experience. Tymchyshyn fit the bill.

"He was a great pick up off the waiver wire," Shafer joked.

Tymchyshyn scored two goals and totalled 17 points in 34 games with Illinois-Chicago two seasons ago. Through his first 19 games this past season (later stats not yet available), he had a team-high nine goals and 13 points.

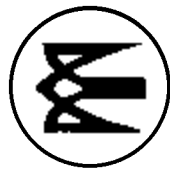
"We asked him to shoot more," Shafer said. "Hopefully, he'll start picking up the assists he left behind in Chicago."

Shafer enjoyed another talented freshman class, but the addition of an experienced player such as Tymchyshyn was a real plus.

"It's nice to get a guy with college experience," Shafer said. He's a natural center who has been playing right wing for the first time and he has made a nice adjustment."

Tymchyshyn's contributions helped Cornell stay right in the thick of the Eastern College Athletic Conference title race.

(Quotes courtesy of Mike Brophy, Rich Chere, Brendan Savage and Tom Boggie of The Hockey News.)



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Chess championships held in Michigan

WARREN, Mich. — The 1997 chess championship of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK) took place on June 7 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren, Mich., sponsored and hosted by the Ukrainian Sport Club Chernyk of Detroit.

The contest comprised five rounds of action chess, where each game was limited in duration to one hour. Three sports clubs were represented: the host club, the S. Popel Club of Buffalo, N.Y., and Chornomorska Sitch of Newark, N.J.

Dr. Orest Popovych (Sitch) won the tournament with a score of 4 1/2:1/2. The champion received a cash prize of \$200 and a traveling trophy donated by Sitch in memory of Lev Blonarovych, a former USCAK champion.

Other players finished as follows: 2-3 (tied) Bohdan Andrushkiw (Chernyk) and Dr. Ihor Podebriy (Popel Club) at four points; (each received \$100 in prize money); 4. Rostyslav Smal (Chernyk) — three points. (\$75 prize); 5-8 (tied) the

Rev. Marian Procyk (Popel Club), Hryhoriy Malynovsky (Chernyk), Volodymyr Lysenko (Chernyk) and Pylyp Procyk (Popel Club) — three points. (Pylyp Procyk received the top junior prize of \$100 and the new traveling trophy donated by the Ukrainian National Association); 9-13 (tied) Dr. Bohdan Haydukevych (Chernyk), Roman Lazarchuk (Chernyk), Zenobius Tomkiw (Chernyk) and Oles Podebriy (Popel Club) — two points (Mr. Podebriy, the runner-up among the juniors, received as his prize a chess clock); 14-15 (tied) the Rev. Mario Dacyshyn (Chernyk) and Stepan Procyk (Popel Club) — one point.

Chernyk, and particularly its chess organizer, Mr. Andrushkiw, were commended for their excellent effort in staging this event. Special thanks were expressed also to the Self-Reliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union of Warren, Mich., and to the Ukrainian National Association for their respective donations of \$300 and a trophy for juniors in support of this event.

Golf challenge slated for October

COOPER CITY, Fla. — In 1998, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., will host the first Ukrainian World Golf Challenge on October 3-10. The Sheraton Yankee Clipper will be the meeting place for approximately 100 Ukrainian golfers representing their countries and playing for team and individual honors.

A little background might be in order. In 1989, Fort Lauderdale was the birthplace of Ukrainian Golf Association of America (UGM) and the beginning of golf outings around the U.S.: South Carolina, Arizona, Florida, etc. As the organization sent ads to The Ukrainian Weekly, friends from down under (particularly Ron Shymko from Sydney) contacted the UGM. The result was the first international U.S. vs Australia challenge that happened in October 1993 on Maui.

Since the U.S. lost that challenge (a beautiful sculptured pineapple out of wood made in Ukraine), its golfers had to go to Australia in January 1996 to win the

second challenge (a nice piece of 3,000-year-old wood from Tasmania). So now it's back to the U.S. for the third challenge. This time, due to broader interest, event has become the World Challenge. Players not only from the U.S., Australia and Canada are expected, but also from England, Ukraine and South America.

Presently, the golf package is approximately \$750, which includes an eight-night/nine-day stay at the Sheraton Yankee Clipper (beachfront rooms, double occupancy), four rounds of golf, welcome party, door prizes, trophies for daily outings and over-all championship, and banquet. Also included is a four-hour gambling cruise on the Ukrainian registered ship Odesa. An established handicap (USGA) or a minimum of 10 scorecards are required.

If interested, contact Roman Luzniak, (954) 434-3565, or write to 10154 SW 51st St., Cooper City, FL 33328. A \$100 deposit will be required no later than October 1, 1997. Make checks payable to UGM.

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St. Demetrius dancers participate in international folk fest

ELIZABETH, N.J. – The dancers of St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of Carteret, N.J., on June 7 took part in the International Folk Fest Dukati 1997. The group, under the direction and choreography of Walter Yurcheniuk, was invited for the first time to this festival, which is sponsored by the Dukati Serbian Folklore Ensemble.

Among the other groups participating were: Kolo Serbian Group of South Chicago; Jubilee Polish Dancers of Edison, N.J.; Avala Tamburitzans of Youngstown, Ohio; Portuguese Dancers of Yonkers, N.Y.; Morava Dancers of Cleveland; Opancici Folklore Group of Glendale, N.Y.; The Youth of Sterea Hellas of Astoria, N.Y.; the Dukati of Elizabeth, N.J.

The festival was held at the Jefferson High School Auditorium in Elizabeth, N.J. St. Demetrius Ukrainian Dancers performed five dances: a Moldovan dance, the Kozachok, a couple dance (performed by Adia Kuzyszyn and Volodya Yurcheniuk), "Viz" and the Hopak.

The 21 members of St. Demetrius Ukrainian Dancers range in age from 4 through 15. They have performed at Ukrainian and international festivals, church holiday brunches and their yearly festival in September. In September 1996 the group was invited to take part in the plaza show of the Ukrainian Festival U.S.A. at the Garden State Arts Center in Holmdel, N.J. The troupe's spiritual director is the Very Rev. Taras Chubenko.



The dancers of St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral.

UUARC Information Bureau aims to help new immigrants

PHILADELPHIA – For the past four months, the Information Bureau of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, has been helping Ukrainians who have come to the United States during the last several years and those who are here temporarily visiting their families or friends.

Established in January, the Information Bureau of the UUARC provides free assistance to newcomers in the following areas: immigration problems; extensions of legal stay in the U.S.; obtaining "green" cards, Social Security cards and/or individual taxpayer identification cards; employment; opening bank accounts; obtain-

ing driver's licenses and medical or dental insurance.

The Information Bureau is led by the following: Metodij Boretsky, chairman, Andre Michniak, an attorney who specializes in immigration law, and Vera Andryczyk, member. The bureau is open on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month from 10 a.m. to noon at 1206 Gottman Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111.

Additional information may be obtained by calling (215) 728-1630, faxing (215) 728-1631, or writing to the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee Information Bureau at the above address.

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UNA executives...

(Continued from page 1)

Jersey Insurance Department on April 29.

As is customary, each executive reported on his activities during the report period beginning with the treasurer's report.

Treasurer's report

The treasurer noted that the UNA's total assets in 1997 rose to \$67,702,834. The treasurer submitted the first quarter report for the UNA. Income from the Ukrainian National Urban Renewal Corp. (UNURC) was higher due to the fact that the UNA recaptured income earned, but not received, in 1996. The building is currently almost fully occupied, with small pockets of space still available. In preparation for the sale of the building, the buyers have conducted a full due diligence, which also kept the UNA's accountant, Stefan Kaczaraj, and staff very busy.

During the discussion it was proposed to explore the possibility of selling promissory notes on a limited scale for the purchase of the new UNA headquarters. There are two possible alternatives the UNA can offer all present noteholders: allow them either to buy new promissory notes or to buy UNA annuities. The UNA Investment Advisory Committee, which meets on a monthly basis, has given a full report and recommendations to the Executive Committee. The recommendation of the advisory committee is to unload some of the low-yield mutual funds and buy into stocks.

Secretary's report

Mrs. Lysko reported that April was a very successful organizing month for the UNA. Branch secretaries organized 66 new members, and the Canadian office and professional sales department organized 27 members, for a total of 93 new members. To date UNA has achieved 21 percent of the quota established at 1,250 new members for 1997.

At the last UNA convention in 1994, new requirements for convention delegates were set. The secretary said that she will write to each branch secretary individually advising him or her of the number of vot-

ing members in their branch. This will be done by July so that each secretary can work to achieve the desired member count for the convention in May 1998.

In April Jaroslaw Bylen of Branch 17 handed over the duties of branch secretary to his son, Peter Bylen. On May 1, Juliana Lozynsky assumed the duties of branch secretary from Anne Remick, UNA advisor and longtime secretary of Branch 238 in Boston. To both Mr. Bylen and Mrs. Remick Mrs. Lysko extended sincere thanks for their many years of service to the UNA and for having provided for continuity in finding persons to take up their posts. Mrs. Lysko also thanked Jaroslaw Krysztalovych, secretary of Branch 222 in Cleveland, and Ruth Jaworsky, secretary of Branch 395 in Chicago, for their years of service to the UNA. Both branches merged with local area branches.

Two new projects were initiated by the UNA secretary: in order to market UNA term insurance products to the Ukrainian community, 200 promotional packets were mailed to mortgagees of the Selfreliance Credit Union in Newark, N.J., and 300 packets were sent to the Selfreliance Credit Union in Warren, Mich. The UNA also received full cooperation from the pastor, the Rev. R. Lucavei, and the Parents' Club of Immaculate Conception Schools in Detroit. With the help of UNA Branch Secretary Lesia Lawrin of Branch 175, Mr. Lysko said nearly 200 promotional packets were mailed to the parents of the parochial schoolchildren.

Reports of vice-presidents

Ms. Dydyk-Petrenko presented the summer entertainment program for Soyuzivka. Entertainment programs at Soyuzivka have been Ms. Petrenko's pet project for years. This year again she has planned an outstanding summer entertainment program for Soyuzivka. She noted that, due to high travel expenses, fewer groups from Ukraine are available to perform at Soyuzivka. Two groups from western Canada will perform at Soyuzivka and at the nearby SUM-A resort, and both organizations will share

(Continued on page 17)



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UKRAINIAN FOLK DANCE WORKSHOP: SUNDAY AUGUST 10 - SATURDAY AUGUST 24, 1997

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UNA executives...

(Continued from page 16)

the costs. She noted that Sunday afternoon programs will be canceled for this season due to poor attendance last year.

Mr. Olesnycky reported on his attendance at the UNA District Committee meeting in New York. There was a lot of criticism and negative publicity at the meeting regarding the sale of the building and other issues. Mr. Olesnycky further reported on his trip to the National Fraternal Congress of America meeting in Florida. The Fraternal Code is currently being revised in New Jersey and every member-society, including the UNA, can make recommendations for these revisions until June. He briefly commented on the aforementioned sexual harassment case. A special UNA committee has been called to prepare a mission statement for the UNA, and Mr. Olesnycky said he will contact all members of the committee to send in their ideas.

The director for Canada, Dr. Savaryn, was unable to attend the June meeting due to prior commitment, but mailed his report.

President's report

Mrs. Diachuk presented a detailed report on the organizing department. She reported that between January and April UNA organizers had enrolled 266 members for a total amount of insurance of \$8,454,456. The four highest organizers were Bianca Hrnjak of the Toronto Office, and Andre Worobec, Branch 76, 16 new policies each; Maria Chomyn of the Toronto Office, 11 policies; and Vira Banit, Branch 473, eight policies. Leon Hardink, Branch 206, had seven policies; Joe Chabon, Branch 242, Nick Diakivsky Branch 161, and Frank Kozemchak, Branch 113, enrolled six members each. The UNA District of Woonsocket, R.I., achieved 80 percent of its organizing quota.

Mrs. Diachuk also reported that George Klapischak of Fraternal Benefit Associates was retained as an independent contractor to help the UNA find, hire and/or train new sales agents. So far Mr. Klapischak has brought in Yaropolk Kopychuk, who agreed to become a general agent starting June 1. Through the efforts of Joe Binczak, the UNA's sales manager, a new sales agent was hired for the Parma Office: Oleg (Alex) Palashenko.

In her report on UNA publications the president reported that both Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly had lost subscribers. In order to increase advertising revenue from the publications and in keeping with a recommendation of the Committee on UNA Publications, which met in November during the annual meeting, the UNA hired an advertising consultant: Tom Hawrylko of Tom-A-Hawk Promotions. Mrs. Diachuk emphasized that we need to increase advertising revenue, as well as the number of subscribers.

The appeal to Svoboda subscribers, regarding the mailing of Svoboda had a surprising response, Mrs. Diachuk reported. The results: 782 respondents, that is 10 percent of Svoboda subscribers approved the mailing of Svoboda twice a week; 38 insisted on five times a week; 12 suggested a weekly mailing; six argued for an increase in subscription price to retain a daily delivery.

UNA estate income for the first quarter of 1997 was \$59,206, almost the same as last year. The restaurant opened mostly on weekends, with Sunday brunch being the most popular. The schedule for the months prior to the 1997 summer season includes four weddings, one reunion, Priests Week and Seniors Week. Fathers' Day at Soyuzivka looks very promising this year with three districts planning to attend, Mrs. Diachuk reported. The UNA District of Albany-Watervliet, N.Y., has been cele-

brating Fathers' Day at Soyuzivka for many years; this time the New York and Northern New Jersey districts will do so as well.

For the fall, the president reported that Soyuzivka has already lined up four reunions, the Ukrainian American Veterans Convention, two more Priests Weeks, five weddings and the traditional Halloween, Christmas and New Year's Eve affairs. Summer season room rates were raised slightly due to the increase in the minimum wage mandated by the federal government.

The meeting with New Jersey Insurance Department on April 29 was attended by three members of the Executive Committee, Mrs. Diachuk, Mrs. Lysko and Mr. Blahitka; Mr. Nestor Olesnycky, the UNA's attorney; Stefan Kaczaraj, accountant; Bob Cook, director of Canadian operations; Peter Paluch of Ukrainian National Aid Association of America (UNAAA); and the UNA's actuaries, Sam Urda and Allan Ferrone of CPS. The UNA had proposed the agenda for the meeting, but the Insurance Department chose to discuss the Report on Examination which the department had concluded last year.

Regarding the UNA's merger with the UNAAA, the UNA's actuary presented to the Insurance Department a five-year projection. The merger with the Ukrainian Fraternal Association is pending due to the necessary sale of the Verkhovyna resort. Further discussions should be held with the UFA so that they may present their demands.

Mrs. Diachuk also briefly presented a report on the English Teachers for Ukraine program. This year 24 teacher volunteers will teach in 14 regional centers, and the Summer Institute for Teachers of English in Ukraine will be held in Luhansk with 60 participants enrolled.

Mrs. Diachuk reported on her two visits to the Toronto District in March and April to attend the meeting of the Toronto District and the initial meeting of the UNA Convention Committee.

As had already been reported in the press, the committee is headed by the Rev. Myron Stasiw, assistant chairman; Wasyl Didiuk, secretary; Mr. Roman Benesh, treasurer; and Ivan Szlapak. The concert committee is chaired by Yaroslawa Zorych, and her committee consists of Olya Svystoun, Larissa Hwozdulych, Svitlana Hrybinska, Vera Plavuschak and Jurij R. Karmanin. Anna Buriy is responsible for the convention banquet; Stefan Czorney is information chairman; Svitlana Medwidsky heads the cultural committee; and Mr. Worobec is responsible for the archives.

Mrs. Diachuk devoted the last part of her report to the sale of existing, and purchase of new, UNA headquarters.

The executives then discussed at great length the meeting of the Special Committee for the Sale and Purchase of the UNA Headquarters which was held on April 19. At that meeting the three highest bids for the sale of 30 Montgomery St., the present UNA headquarters, were discussed. The offers were submitted by: Denholtz Associates \$21,200,000; The Arden Group, \$21,100,013; Blumberg & Freilich Equities, \$21,005,100. The committee unanimously accepted the highest offer.

The same committee reviewed the purchase of a two-story building at 2200 Route 10 in Parsippany, N.J. The building, owned by the Fidelco Group, has 65,650 square feet of rentable space; 34,000 square feet are presently vacant. The committee found the building suitable for the new UNA headquarters. After negotiations and some changes in the proposed contract, Fidelco accepted the UNA's offer.

Under miscellaneous, the executives reviewed all requests for donations and decided not to honor any requests in this quarter. The UNA will keep all prior commitments, however.

This report was prepared by UNA Secretary Martha Lysko.

Lazarenko takes...

(Continued from page 3)

The next morning Prime Minister Lazarenko held a breakfast reception with the Ukrainian community at which the Ukrainian Canadian Congress transferred the title to the Ukrainian Ambassador's Residence in Ottawa, which was purchased through funds raised by the Ukrainian community in Canada, to the government of Ukraine.

From there, Mr. Lazarenko flew to Calgary and was whisked away by motorcade from the airport to the Rocky Mountain resort of Lake Louise for where he spent the evening. He arrived back in Calgary the following day at the closing of the IEC session.

Following the IEC, he was taken to the Palliser Hotel, where he met with Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow, Alberta Premier Ralph Klein and Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon in three separate, one-on-one half-hour sessions.

Following his meeting with Mr. Lazarenko, Premier Klein held a briefing for reporters in which he said the Ukrainian prime minister was most interested in the oil and gas sector. "If he emphasized one area, it was this area and mostly it pertains to technology. I told him we had some of the best technology anywhere in the world," he said.

Another banquet was held that evening, this time at the Calgary Convention Center. It was attended by the 320 delegates. Speaking at the banquet Mr. Lazarenko said CUBI '97 "is a significant event in enhancing our bilateral relations, and our economic and

political ties. This is exactly the type of initiative to strengthen the business relations between our two countries."

He added that he was gratified by the very positive response he had received during his meetings with Canadian government and business leaders. "Ukraine has always paid significant attention to its relations with Canada," he said. "Canada was the first country to recognize Ukraine's independence, and for the past five years, it has consistently put forward Ukrainian interests in the international arena."

He added, "Today's conference is a great opportunity to escalate the economic ties between Canada and Ukraine. With the help of the private sector and Canadians of Ukrainian descent, we will be able to further enhance the ties between the two countries."

Premier Klein said he was delighted to host the conference and recalled raising the flag to mark Ukraine's independence while he was mayor of Calgary "long before independence came. I am very pleased that the day has arrived."

"Albertans are very proud and excited by the prospect of building our existing relationship with Ukraine in the areas of legislative co-operation, health, energy, forestry and agriculture," he said.

Security during the visit of Prime Minister Lazarenko, who was the object of an assassination attempt in Kyiv last summer, was much tighter than during the visit of President Leonid Kuchma in October 1994. During the Kuchma visit, media liaison for the federal government was handled by the Department of Foreign Affairs. This time it was the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

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Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

who were displeased with President Kuchma's intimidation tactics, saw that the lawmakers could indeed pass the Constitution by the morning of June 28.

Chairman Moroz described the dramatic events, noting that he was concerned when the Parliament was short of a constitutional quorum because the Rukh faction and some of the Derzhavnist deputies had refused to register on June 27. But by evening, the requisite number of deputies had registered in the Parliament and the constitutional process began.

Giving almost a play-by-play of his strategy, Mr. Moroz said that another dramatic moment in the Parliament came at around 11 p.m. on June 27, when he saw that deputies were dozing off. But, as the debates got heated, many of the lawmakers began relying on adrenaline and coffee to get through the night.

At 2:10 a.m. there was an attempt to disrupt the session, but the deputies did not leave the hall as they had done on many previous occasions. Mr. Moroz said it was at that point in time that he knew by morning Ukraine would have a new Constitution. With numerous ad hoc committees working through the night on compromise documents, the Parliament was indeed able to unite and pass the Constitution on Friday morning, June 28, by a vote of 315-36.

"This was a great victory for the Ukrainian model of democracy, and the process was 100 percent legitimate," said Justice Minister and Deputy Serhii Holovaty, one of the principal authors of the fundamental law. He called the Constitution a document that "should make all Ukrainians proud."

"The Constitution was not adopted in one night," Mr. Holovaty explained. "It was a process that began on the day we declared Ukrainian sovereignty on July 16, 1990, continued with the Declaration of Independence on August 24, 1991, was reinvigorated in 1994 with the formation of a new Constitutional Committee, and so on," he explained.

"The constitutional process was not a one-night marathon session," concurred Dmytro Tabachnyk, President Kuchma's chief of staff, who added that the adoption of a new Constitution was a top priority for President Kuchma from the day he had assumed office in July 1994.

"Although we have a new Constitution, the bulk of the work is ahead of us," said National Deputy Vyacheslav Chornovil, leader of Rukh. "Our battles are not yet over, but at least we no longer have to ask the question: 'where are we going?' ... We have a legitimate, independent, sovereign, unitarian Ukrainian state."

Source: "New Constitution changes political landscape" by Marta Kolomayets, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, July 7, 1996 (Vol. LXIV, No. 27).

Chornobyl and the West

(Continued from page 6)

president of the European Commission, told reporters in Denver the EBRD's findings merit further analysis: the topic of completing the two stations was barely touched upon at the summit.

This has put Ukraine, which wants to decommission Chornobyl but doesn't have the money to do so, in an uncomfortable position. Mr. Kuchma — who wasn't invited to Denver although rumors circulated he might be present during discussions on Chornobyl — argued his country's case at the earth summit in New York on Tuesday.

"We expect that the G-7 countries will live up to their commitments and enforce the Memorandum of Understanding" signed between the alliance, Ukraine and the EC two years ago, the Ukrainian president said. He added that, in a show of good faith, Kyiv last year shut down Chornobyl's first reactor. That leaves only one reactor at the station on line. The destroyed No. 4 reactor remains encased in cement, while the second reactor has been out of commission since a fire in its turbine generator in 1991.

As they prepare for the pledging conference, in the following months the world's leaders would do well to remember that Ukraine has promised to shut down Chornobyl largely because the West feels uneasy with the station remaining on line, not because this nation of 52 million can afford to. The station, which has undergone a \$300 million modernization over the years, still supplies energy to 5 percent of the population; that is roughly equivalent to keeping the capital, Kyiv, a picturesque city of 2 million, up and running. Anyone who has experienced increasingly dark and cold Ukrainian winters because of present energy shortages knows that closing Chornobyl without providing alternative energy resources is not a viable option.

If the international community wants Ukraine to fulfill to its obligations in a timely fashion, it must keep its end of the bargain. To ease its own burden, the international community should also encourage Moscow, which in Soviet times was responsible for the station being built, to help finance Chornobyl's closure. In Denver, the Russians didn't even want to broach the subject of Chornobyl. Yet a true test of Moscow's ability to be an honorable member of the Western community, particularly on the eve of its acceptance into the Paris Club, will depend on how the country treats its closest neighbors. (There's little doubt, however, this will be a difficult undertaking. Anatolii Chubais, Russia's finance minister, told this correspondent that unless Ukraine resolves a number of "outstanding issues" between the two countries, Moscow will have to think twice before giving Kyiv financial aid in the future, especially for Chornobyl.) Coming through on aid to Ukraine, however, is also a test of the West's resolve to tackle problematic issues. If in the next few months Ukraine doesn't receive money already promised for Chornobyl's closure, there's no reason to believe the international community, especially the G-7, will follow through on assurances made to ravaged Africa, be successful in combating global warming, or, further down the road, assist in the expansion of NATO.

In that case, Mr. Clinton — who stressed in Denver that shutting down Chornobyl isn't just Ukraine's problem — should then turn to U.S. lawmakers and ask them to provide financial assistance for decommissioning the station. If politicians in Washington say "no," then it will be evident who is really backing away from closing Chornobyl. It will be the West, and not Ukraine.

Natalia Feduschak, a former staffer of *The Ukrainian Weekly* (1985-1987) and a former special correspondent in Kyiv for the *Wall Street Journal* (1991-1995), is a contributor to *The Ukrainian Quarterly*. She is based in Denver.

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

Diamond Fund, Mr. Buteiko said that issue should be settled independently of the zero option. (Eastern Economist)

... as Russians cite treaty violations

MOSCOW — The Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry has told its Ukrainian counterpart that Ukraine violated the spirit of the recently signed Treaty and Friendship and Cooperation between the Russian Federation and Ukraine by not allowing politician Konstantin Zatulin to enter Crimea, ITAR-TASS reported on June 24.

Russian Black Sea Fleet Commander Adm. Viktor Kravchenko had invited Mr. Zatulin to a June 12 flag-hoisting ceremony in Sevastopol, but Kyiv had barred him from entering Crimea two days earlier. As the State Duma's CIS Affairs Committee Chairman in 1994-1995, Mr. Zatulin repeatedly criticized Ukraine's Crimea policy. More recently, he co-authored an article published in "Nezavisimaya Gazeta" on March 28 that urged Russia to sabotage alliances within the CIS — such as the one between Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Georgia — and to refuse to recognize its current borders with Ukraine unless Kyiv agrees to sign a federal treaty with Crimea. (RFE/RL Newslines)

Trilingual plaque...

(Continued from page 8)

Very Rev. Orest Hudyma of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Ss. Peter and Paul of New Westminster; and the Rev. Helen Patterson, the regimental padre.

Wreaths were laid by the May Queen, Carlie MacKay and Kim McLennan, who was dressed in a Ukrainian national folk costume.

After the departure of dignitaries, the audience was served to a reception and refreshments in the Armory (which has the distinction of being Canada's only remaining wooden armory), where they viewed Konowal and Mahony displays and the war museum.

The tribute to Filip Konowal and Jack Mahony continued into the evening at a black-tie gala banquet attended by about 200 people at the Royal Towers Hotel.

Justice Sopinka of the Supreme Court

of Canada gave the keynote address. He was joined by greetings from Ambassador Furkalo, and Mayor Sparkes. Grace was said by the Rt. Rev. Bohdan Hanushevsky of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Master of ceremonies responsibilities went to Mr. West, president of The Royal Westminster Regiment.

Entertainment was provided by the Danube String Quartet consisting of Robert Clark, first violin (past president of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional Business Association of Vancouver), Kevin McDonnell, second violin, Mila Tymoshenko, viola (former member of the Kyiv State Opera Orchestra) and Peter Caton, cello.

This event was the last of three projects honoring Filip Konowal in Canada, and was organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association in cooperation with Branch 360 of The Royal Canadian Legion.

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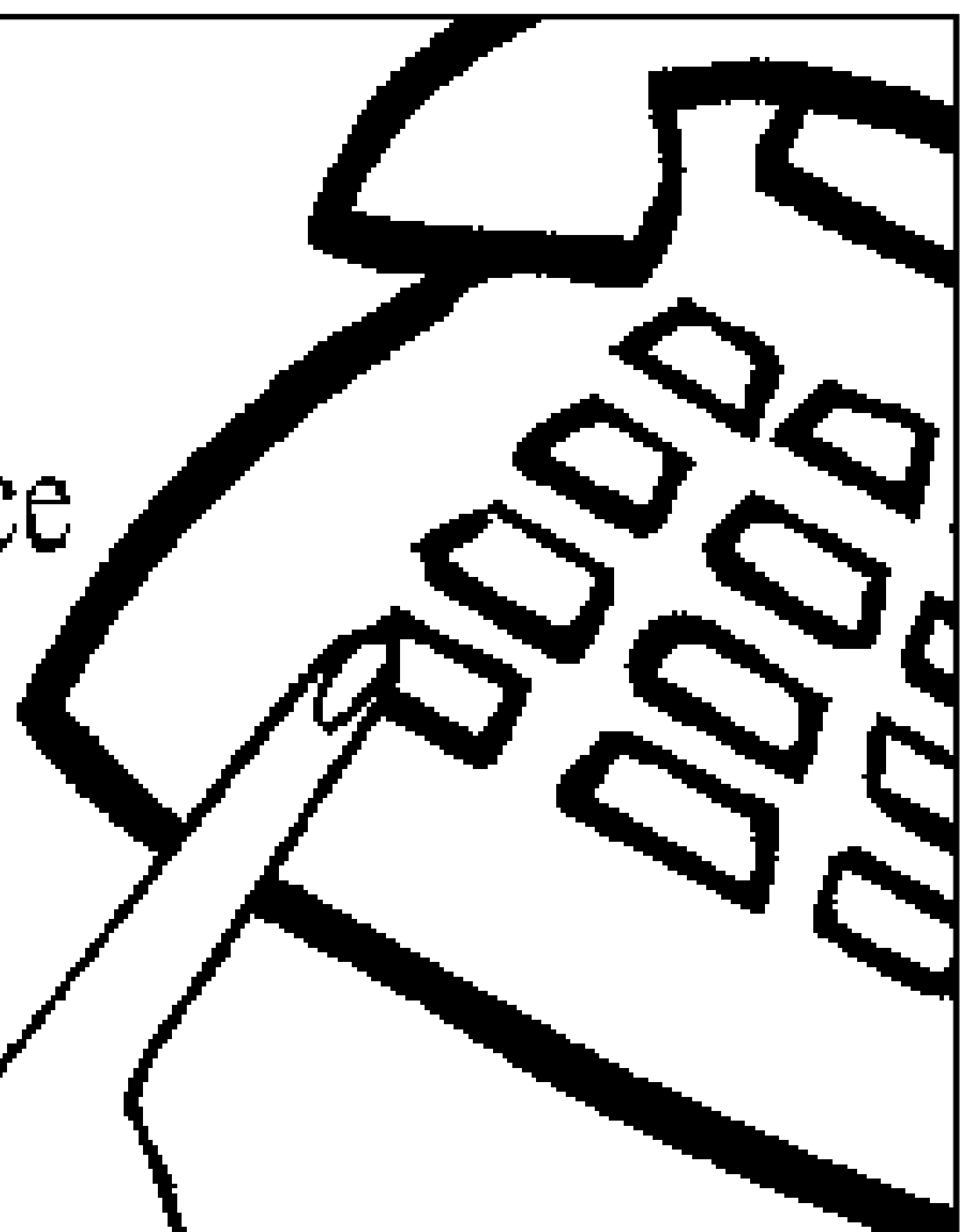
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SUMMER PROGRAMS 1997

Saturday, June 28

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – LVIVYANY
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by NA ZDOROVYA

Wednesday, July 2

6:00 p.m. Hutsul Night

Friday, July 4

10:00 p.m. Odesa Night
 DANCE – music provided by FATA MORGANA

Saturday, July 5

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – “VOLOSHKY TRIO”
 Banduryst OSTAP STACHIV
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by TEMPO, BURLAKY

Saturday, July 12

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – DUMKA CHOIR, New York
 VASYL HRECHYNSKY, conductor
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by VIDLUNYA

Sunday, July 19

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – Vocalists LUBA and MYKOLA
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by LUBA and MYKOLA

Saturday, July 26

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – Dance Ensemble DUNAI, vocalist VOLODYMYR TSMURA
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by KRYSHAL

Saturday, August 2

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – Folk Ensemble LVIVSKI MUZYKY
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by BURLAKY

Saturday, August 9

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – CABARET – OLYA CHODOBA-FRYZ
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by LUNA

Saturday, August 16

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – Vocalist OSTAP STACHIV
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by FATA MORGANA
 11:45 p.m. Crowning of “MISS SOYUZIVKA 1998”

Saturday, August 23 UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

8:30 p.m. CONCERT – SOYUZIVKA DANCE WORKSHOP RECITAL
 Director: ROMA PRYMA BOHACHEVSKY
 LVIVYANY
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by BURYA

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 CONCERTS, DANCES, EXHIBITS, TENNIS TOURNAMENT, SWIMMING COMPETITION
 (Details TBA)

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday-Sunday, June 4-6

KERHONKSON, N.Y.: The Carpathian Ski Club (KLC) is hosting the USCAK-East tennis championships at the UNA estate Soyuzivka. Registration is on Friday, July 4, at noon. Matches begin at 1 p.m. Registration fee: adults, \$15; juniors, \$10. Tournament director: George Sawchak.

Saturday, July 5

GLEN SPEY, N.Y.: The eighth International Soccer Tournament sponsored by USCAK and hosted by Ukrainian Chornomorska Sitch of Newark, N.J., will take place at the Ukrainian Fraternal Association's Verkhovyna resort at 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. It will feature five competing teams: Sitch, Ukrainian Sports Club of New York, Krylati of Yonkers, N.Y., S.C. Eintracht and Scala of Brazilia. A first-prize cup for the winning team and individual player trophies will be awarded. For information

call Myron Stebelsky, (201) 373-8695.

Tuesday, July 8-Saturday, July 19

VENICE, Fla.: The Ukrainian American Club of Southwest Florida, in cooperation with St. Andrew's Ukrainian Religious and Cultural Center of North Port, is sponsoring the Ukrainian exhibit at the Venice Heritage Festival, which will be held at the Venice Art Center, 390 S. Nokomis Ave. The Ukrainian exhibit will take place Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Scheduled appearances include Irene Kuc, pysanky artist, July 8 and July 15; Christine Lazor, pysanky artist, July 9 and July 16, 2-4 p.m.; and the Babiak Dance Ensemble, July 10, 10 a.m.-noon. Admission is free. The Venice Heritage Festival is a series of two-week exhibits, each of which features the arts, culture and history of a particular ethnic group. For more information, contact Karen Bapst, (941) 639-3942.

PLEASE NOTE: Individuals or organizations who have not taken into account the changes in Preview requirements announced on April 13 and have not submitted information in Preview format will find that their entries have not been published in this issue.

At Soyuzivka: July 2-6

KERHONKSON, N.Y. — The Ukrainian National Association Estate Soyuzivka opens its 43rd summer season with arts, dancing, fine cuisine and culture.

The weekend festivities start early, with the traditional Hutsul Night on Wednesday, July 2, at 6 p.m. Guests will enjoy a London broil dinner served by staff decked out in Ukrainian garb, while Soyuzivka General Manager John A. Flis greets all present with bread and salt. At dinner's end, guests and visitors may repair to the Trembita Lounge to continue the Hutsul theme.

On Friday, July 4, Soyuzivka presents Independence Day revelry, including impromptu volleyball and pool bumm/sunning — as well as the official USCAK-East tennis tournament. At 6 p.m., guests and visitors may put on their sailors' hats and sample seafood dishes prepared by Soyuzivka Chef Andriy Sonevtsky for the first-ever Odesa Night, featuring a wide variety of frutti di mare in a relaxed atmosphere.

At 10 p.m. Fata Morgana strikes up the tunes at the Veselka Pavilion patio, while Lviviany enrich the festive atmosphere at the Trembita Lounge. And when the clock

strikes 12, Trembita residents will be treated to the return of Midnight Bigos, a musical amalgam starring, among others, the very same Chef Sonevtsky.

On Saturday, July 5, guests and visitors alike may rest, soak in the sun (presuming the weather cooperates) by the pool, or take in the cultural offerings of the weekend, including a display of pysanky and ceramics by Sofia Zielyk and contemporary Uke-wear by Ukraina Limited, in the Main House Lobby.

At 8:30 p.m., following a sumptuous repast at Chef Sonevtsky's dining establishment, song and other music aficionados will be offered Canada's Voloshky Trio and bandurist Ostap Stachiv at the Veselka Pavilion. Both the Voloshky Trio and Mr. Stachiv have toured far and wide throughout North America, appearing in numerous concerts and festivals.

At the concert's end, the romping and stomping commences as Tempo and Burlaky fire up their engines and lay down serious riffs and rhythms for a double-decker dance at the Veselka Patio and Pavilion.

Guests may spend Sunday, July 6, recuperating from the previous evenings and relaxing in any manner they see fit.

Need a back issue?

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The Voloshky Trio: (from left) Marusia Kachkowsky, Christina Sokyryka and Nadya Foty.