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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Thirty parties are registered for '98 elections

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine's elections to Parliament will feature a very crowded field of political parties, with so many centrist parties registered that a major fragmentation of the vote among them is almost inevitable.

Thirty political parties and blocs met the December 18 deadline for registering for the March 29, 1998, elections by presenting petitions of 200,000 registered voters, with at least 10,000 signatures from each of 14 regions of Ukraine, to the Central Electoral Commission.

Among the 30 are more than 20 parties that are considered democratically inclined, from the right-leaning National Front bloc to the Social Democrats on the other side of center. However, they have failed to form any substantial political blocs, which leaves the center fragmented against a tightly organized group of Communists and Socialists. Many political pundits and politicians believe voters will scatter their votes, leaving few of the centrist parties able to garner the 4 percent required in the new mixed system electoral law to seat candidates in the next Verkhovna Rada.

"It is a sign of the times that so many centrist parties have registered," said Anatolii Matvienko, chairman of the National Democratic Party, which is considered the party of power. "The many parties with a centrist orientation are going to get in the way of one another."

Vyacheslav Chornovil, head of the Rukh Party, said the 30 political choices will "pull the vote apart." He believes that most of the parties that have registered are not true parties but merely groups organized to protect political and individual interests. "Thirty parties is a fiction," said Mr. Chornovil. "There is no such thing as a Liberal Democratic Party or a Christian Democratic Party. There are three parties or political interests: the Communists, Rukh and the party of power, or the nomenklatura. The rest is political clutter."

The Hromada Party, under the guidance of its leader Pavlo Lazarenko, who is considered a master organizer, was the first to register its petitions with the CEC. On December 1, its representatives submitted signatures of 360,000 voters. Publicly, it had claimed to have gathered more than 1 million.

Rukh and the Communist Party came second, submitting their documents almost simultaneously on December 8. Rukh delivered 560,000 voters' signa-

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Kyiv Chamber Choir performs at White House



The Kyiv Chamber Choir, following its performance of Ukrainian carols during the VIP viewing of the White House Christmas decorations. The choir members are flanked (on the left) by Managing Director Mykola Trofimov, The Washington Group Cultural Fund Director Laryssa Chopivsky and Music Director and Conductor Mykola Hobdych, and (fourth and fifth from the right) Chief of Staff to the First Lady Melanne Verveer and Kyiv City Minister of Culture Alexander Bestrushkin.

by Yaro Bihun
Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — The Kyiv Chamber Choir, on its debut tour of the United States, brought the best of Ukrainian ecclesiastical and Christmas music to the nation's capital last weekend.

The choir sang Ukrainian carols at the White House, baroque and contemporary religious music masterpieces at the National Cathedral, and a program combining both before a large audience at the George Mason University Center for the Arts.

Washington was the second of four cities on the choir's East Coast tour, which began December 18 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Philadelphia and included concerts also in New York City's Carnegie Hall and at the Music Hall in Portsmouth, N.H.

"The group has only 20 singers, but what singers they are — big, marvelously focused voices, the kind that might easily hold their own on the opera stage but without the kind of operatic vibrato that can make an ensemble rattle," wrote Washington Post reviewer Joan Reinhaller following their December 20 performance at the George Mason Arts Center. "They can sing wonderfully clean unisons and the basses have low E's to die for," she added. "These are, of course, the sort of voices that the music on their all-Ukrainian program was written for."

The ecclesiastical part of the concert program included works by such noted composers as Artem Vedel, Mykola Diletsky, Kyrylo Stetsenko, Mykola Leontovych and

Mykola Lysenko, as well as by two contemporary composers, Lesia Dychko and Victor Stepurko.

The second half of the program, devoted to Ukrainian Christmas music, highlighted even more contemporary works. In addition to carols by Ms. Dychko and Mr. Stepurko, the choir sang carols by Yuriy Alzhnev, Anatolii Avdiievsky, Yevhen Stankovych and Alexander Yakivchuk.

Most of the program was sung a cappella, but some works included accompaniment by sopilka, pan flute, alto sax and jingle bells, and parts were choreographed and animated.

The Washington Post reviewer singled

out two memorable pieces from what she perceived to be an otherwise uninteresting program: "the lovely, anonymous 16th-century monody sung beautifully (to the accompaniment of a single pedal point hummed by the men) by conductor Mykola Hobdych and the announcement of the good news of Christ's birth, played on a set of plaintive panpipes and recited (in Russian [actually, Church Slavonic — ed.]) by one of the singers with a stunning bass voice. The rest was full of gorgeous sounds, but not of very interesting music."

The audience, however, which filled

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Plane wreckage found near Mt. Olympus

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The remains of the YAK-42 Ukrainian aircraft and its passengers that disappeared while attempting to land at the Greek port city of Salonika were finally found on December 20 outside the city in a heavily wooded area near Mount Olympus.

After a three-day trouble-filled search by land and by air, which included 5,000 civilian and military personnel and a U.S. military plane with weather-piercing surveillance equipment, rescuers discovered the charred wreckage of the three-engine turboprop jet in a snow-covered valley near the village of Fotina.

There were no survivors among the 70 passengers and crew members, among

them 25 Ukrainian and 34 Greek citizens. "It's an area of total disaster," said Fillipos Petsalnikos, a government minister who represents the area, according to the Associated Press.

The plane disintegrated on impact, which left a nearly 200-meter swath of clipped and uprooted trees. Only a piece of wing and part of the cockpit remained intact, possibly giving investigators important data from the flight recorder and other instruments.

The intense fire that followed charred and fused many of the human remains. Clothes and valuables were found in the trees and scattered about the crash site. According to Interfax-Ukraine, the remains of 15 Ukrainian citizens have

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Ukrainian National Assembly registered as political party

by Zenon Zawada

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV — After two years of political stagnation, due to repeated refusals of recognition by Ukraine's Ministry of Justice, the Ukrainian National Assembly, the political arm of the ultra-nationalist, paramilitary Ukrainian National Assembly/Ukrainian National Self-Defense Organization (UNA-UNSO), achieved official recognition as a national political party in Ukraine.

As a result, the organization, which has significantly toned down its chauvinistic and ethnocentric rhetoric in recent years, held a national party convention on November 4 in Kyiv to approve candidates and their platform, during which delegates confirmed candidates on the party roll and leaders cast an ambitious tone for parliamentary elections, set for this coming March.

For a little over two years, the leadership of the paramilitary group's political branch the UNA, has fought with the ministry and its former head, Serhii Holovatyi, to become recognized as a political party, thereby including the UNA on voting ballots throughout the country for parliamentary elections. UNA leader Oleh Vitovych said among the key reasons for the ministry's refusal to acknowledge the UNA was political bias against his organization.

"In a normal, lawful country, [registration] would not have to rely on political will, sympathy or antipathy on the part of the country's leaders," Mr. Vitovych said. "Unfortunately, we live under the conditions of a not-totally just country."

Mr. Holovatyi once vowed that as long as power was in his hands, the UNA would not become registered as a political party in Ukraine. However, about a month after Mr. Holovatyi's removal the Justice Ministry on September 29 officially recognized the UNA as a political party.

Mr. Vitovych also attributed the success in registration to the UNA's legal representation, which assisted its cause.

Following its recognition, the UNA-UNSO underwent another significant political facelift, when the ideological leader of the organization since its birth in 1991, Dmytro Korchynskyi, resigned from party leadership on November 12. Mr. Korchynskyi, known by many Ukrainians for his bushy, Shevchenko-like mustache and provocative sound bites on television, cited his disinterest in politics as a major reason.

He said his years of work with the UNA-UNSO have resulted in the transformation of an "elitist organization into a right-wing petty bourgeois party."

"Politics turned out to be far worse than good old extremism," Mr. Korchynskyi said. "We will have to be more democratic and less authoritarian, with which I don't agree."

The resignation of Mr. Korchynskyi, a name and face that has been synonymous with the UNA-UNSO, and the new political status of the UNA, marks a new era in its brief but extremely controversial seven-year history, which includes public trappings of Romanian, Russian and Polish flags and dispatches of paramilitary troops to Chechnya to fight against Russian forces. Their red-and-black flags and armbands bear a Maltese cross; their right-arm, clenched-fist salute is gestured to the shout of "Slava Natsiyi" (Glory to the Nation).

Rabbi Yaakov Dov Bleich, chief rabbi of Ukraine, has said he sees the UNA as a potentially dangerous and extreme organization. Mr. Vitovych, however, maintained that parallels drawn between his organization and previous German and Italian fascist movements are merely based on emotions and images, and not concrete facts.

Mr. Vitovych also made it clear that there are 40 UNA members who are members of ethnic minorities in Ukraine, and Gen. Vilen Martyrosian, an Armenian, is among the party's leaders.

In unveiling the party's political platform at its convention, traces of an ultranational-

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NEWSBRIEFS

Adidas to sponsor Olympic team

KYIV — Adidas Ukraine signed a sponsorship agreement with Ukraine's National Olympic Committee on December 15. The agreement will secure valuable long-term funding for the team. (Eastern Economist)

June date set for first launch

KYIV — The Sea Launch company will start commercial launches of satellites in June 1998. According to Boeing, the construction of a base port in Long Beach, Calif., is almost complete. Sea Launch is a joint Russian-American-Ukrainian-Norwegian project. It will launch satellites produced by Ukrainian firm Pivdenne, the Russian firm Energia and the Boeing Commercial Space Co. from a mobile naval platform built by the Norwegian company Kwaener. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine, Greece sign three treaties

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma and Greek President Konstantinos Stephanopoulos signed three treaties in Kyiv on December 15. The treaties focus on international flight routes between the two countries, consular relations and economic, science and technical cooperation in the agricultural sector. Mr. Kuchma said that relations between two countries have been gradually growing. "We do not have any disagreements on economic and political questions," said President Kuchma, who thanked Greece for aiding Ukrainian efforts to integrate into European structures. President Stephanopoulos said that trade relations between Ukraine and Greece are not at a satisfactory level but hoped this visit would change the situation. "We will do everything possible for Ukraine to get closer to the West European Union," he asserted. He also said Greece is ready to give a \$40 million (U.S.) credit to Ukraine for the Chernobyl nuclear power station. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine, Croatia to increase trade

KYIV — An agreement on the mutual

protection of Ukrainian and Croatian investments was signed by Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Minister Serhii Osyka and Croatian Economy Minister Nenad Porges on December 15. Talks focused on the first meeting of the bilateral commission on economic cooperation scheduled for the first half of 1998. It is expected that the committee will meet once a year. Trade between Ukraine and Croatia fell disastrously in the 1992-1997 period. Ukrainian exports in the first 10 months of this year totaled \$6.7 million (U.S.) and consisted mainly of metal and chemical products. Imports to Ukraine totaled \$8.6 million (U.S.) and were concentrated in the paper industry, paints and varnishes, batteries and medicines. (Eastern Economist)

Russia to push for CIS integration

MOSCOW — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent an unequivocal message to the presidents of other CIS member-states outlining proposals for further integration within that body, presidential press spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembskii told journalists on December 17. The letter focuses on issues raised at the CIS summit held in Chisinau in October, at which several participants expressed extreme dissatisfaction at relations between member-states and at Russia's role. Responses to Mr. Yeltsin's letter will be incorporated into his address to the Commonwealth of Independent States summit scheduled for late January 1998. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russia-Belarus budget approved

MOSCOW — The Parliamentary Assembly of the Russia-Belarus Union on December 15 approved the alignment's first joint budget, the Kommersant-Daily reported. That move, however, is not legally binding. Russia is to provide 65 percent of planned revenues amounting to 385,811,000 Russian rubles (\$64,302,000 U.S.) and Belarus 35 percent or 206,196,000 rubles (\$34,366,000). The

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1997: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Ukraine: instability in economy, politics

For Ukraine, 1997 was another year marked by economic and political instability. There were shake-ups in the government, foreign investors leaving the country, problems getting foreign aid, a plan to fight corruption that may have failed before it was even implemented, and preparations for elections that at times seemed would not be held.

Politicians from the political center began criticizing the programs of the president and distancing themselves from him as elections to Parliament drew near, while leftists in the Verkhovna Rada continued their battle with the president and his policies, which made the passage of every law a highly political contest.

Foreign policy

President Leonid Kuchma can, however, claim some successes. In 1997 foreign policy became his strong suit. His biggest accomplishment occurred in May with the signing of accords with all of Ukraine's major neighbors, the highlight of which was the signing of the "big treaty" on friendship and cooperation with Russia's President Boris Yeltsin on May 31 in Kyiv. Most notably, the document recognizes the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. The two sides also signed a series of economic and cultural cooperation agreements.

The long-awaited visit by the Russian president finally took place after the two countries had agreed on the division of the Black Sea Fleet based in the city of Sevastopol on Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. That event occurred three days earlier with the initialing of the Black Sea Fleet pact between the prime ministers of Ukraine and Russia, Pavlo Lazarenko and Viktor Chernomyrdin, respectively.

The BSF pact gives Russia a 20-year lease on three of the four bays of Sevastopol with a five-year option for renewal by permission of Ukraine. Ukraine receives more than \$500 million for the portion of its fleet that had been given to Russia in 1994. Neither side would divulge the value of the actual lease agreement, other than to say that payment would be made through debt relief of money owed to Russia and on future oil and gas purchases by Ukraine.

The BSF pact was strongly criticized by national democratic leaders, led by the leader of Rukh, National Deputy Vyacheslav Chornovil, who said a day after the signing: "Given Russia's imperialistic and aggressive tendencies vis-à-vis Crimea in general and Sevastopol in particular, which is reflected in the several declarations of the [Russian] State Duma to leave the Russian Black Sea Fleet [in Sevastopol] for 20 years is to force a pervasive and permanent atmosphere of agitation and strain, not only in Crimea, but in Ukraine."

Mr. Chornovil was referring to statements by Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and Chairman of the Nizhnyi Novgorod region Boris Nemtsov (today a vice prime minister of Russia) in January 1997 that Sevastopol belongs to Russia. Mr. Luzhkov went so far as to visit Sevastopol illegally on January 17 for the opening of an apartment building for military servicemen of Russia's Black Sea Fleet based in the city's port. While there he reiterated that the city "has been, and will continue to be, Russian."

Another event that exacerbated Ukraine-Russia relations before the big treaty was finally signed occurred four days before Mr. Luzhkov's visit. Vseukrainskie Viedomosti, a Russian-language newspaper published in Ukraine, received and published a report allegedly prepared by Russia's Vice Foreign Minister for Foreign Affairs Sergei Krylov for an aide to Russian President Yeltsin that outlined a plan to cause the impeachment of Ukraine's President Kuchma. The letter called for a coordinated effort to have President Kuchma made out to look like a puppet of Russia and to use pro-Russian contacts in Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada to move to impeach the president for serving the wishes of Ukraine's eastern neighbor.

During his two-day May visit to Ukraine to sign the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation, Mr. Yeltsin tried to show that Russia's 350-year colonial domination over Ukraine is history. At a ceremony before the monument to the "Liberator Soldier" in Kyiv, he told the assembled, "Ukraine is an independent country, and we hold this promise sacred." He added that Russia "does not lay claim on any part of Ukraine or any of its cities."

President Kuchma had begun his busy month of May by meeting in Kyiv with Belarus' controversial president, Alyasander Lukashenka, on May 12. The two sides formally delineated their 1,200-mile common border and worked to develop a repayment schedule for a \$217 million debt



Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kuchma sign the Treaty on Cooperation, Friendship and Partnership.

Belarus owes Ukraine. Mr. Lukashenka was greeted by thousands of demonstrators upon his arrival in Kyiv, who lined the highway into the city from Boryspil Airport to protest the Belarusian president's strong-arm tactics in stifling domestic opposition and freedom of the press.

Then on May 20 Poland's President Alexander Kwasniewski arrived in Kyiv, where he and President Kuchma agreed to formally set aside historical animosities and conflicts between the two neighboring countries. On May 21 they signed the Declaration on Concord and Unity, which addressed two major points of contention between the two countries in the 20th century: Akcja Wisla, in which 150,000 ethnic Ukrainians in Poland were displaced by Polish government decree, and those resisting killed; and the killing of Poles in the Volyn region of Ukraine during World War II.

The president's busy month concluded on June 2, when he traveled to Bucharest and signed a general treaty with Romania that settled territorial disputes over Serpent (Zmiinyi) Island and the Bukovyna region along the southwestern border of Ukraine.

May also provided another jewel for President Kuchma's foreign policy crown. On May 29 Ukraine and NATO achieved preliminary agreement on a special partnership charter at a meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Sintra, Portugal. The special agreement was formalized on July 9 when President Kuchma and the leaders of the 16 NATO countries signed the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership between NATO and Ukraine. The charter re-emphasized the obligation and commitments undertaken by the NATO countries and Ukraine in the U.N. Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and the Budapest Accord, in which the U.S., France, Great Britain and Russia gave Ukraine security assurances against nuclear attack. Arriving in Madrid, Spain, for the signing, President Kuchma said, "Ukraine has obtained what it wanted."

During 1997 President Kuchma also met success in Mexico, where he traveled for the first time on September 24-26. He met with Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon to discuss expanding bilateral trade and facilitating cooperation between Ukrainian and Mexican corporations. The two signed several agreements and declarations on diplomatic and economic relations.

President Kuchma was not the only one making foreign policy news in Ukraine in 1997. Minister of Foreign Affairs Hennadii Udovenko, well-known in United Nations circles because of a lengthy stay there as the Ukraine's ambassador to the U.N. before the fall of the Soviet Union and after Ukraine became independent, was elected president of the 52nd session of the General Assembly on September 16. On hand was President Kuchma, who addressed the session a week later, on September 22, asking the world not to forget about Chernobyl.

Ukraine-U.S. relations

As Ukraine and the U.S. developed the strategic partnership to which they have committed, visits between leading government figures occurred more often.

On May 16 President Kuchma traveled to Washington for the first formal gathering of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission, commonly known as the Kuchma-Gore Commission. The daylong meeting, which was co-chaired

by President Kuchma and U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, culminated in the two men signing a joint initiative on gas sector reform for Ukraine and a far-reaching statement on the work of the commission in the areas of foreign policy, security, trade and investment, and sustainable economic cooperation.

Five weeks later he was back, this time in New York, for a special session of the United Nations on the environment called Earth Summit+5. There he met with several world leaders, including Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and Vice-President Gore.

President Kuchma was in the U.S. a fourth time on November 19 to witness the liftoff of the space shuttle Columbia at Cape Canaveral, Fla., in Ukraine's first collaborative space mission with the U.S. Aboard the flight was Ukrainian cosmonaut Col. Leonid Kadenyuk.

Afterwards, President Kuchma traveled to New York, where on November 20 he took part in a Chernobyl Pledging Conference organized by the United States as this year's chairman of the G-7 industrialized countries. The conference was attended also by Vice-President Gore, who seemed to be everywhere President Kuchma went in the U.S. in 1997. Thirteen countries pledged \$36.25 million for the rebuilding of the sarcophagus encasing reactor No. 4 at the Chernobyl nuclear complex.

That sum was in addition to the \$300 million that the G-7 pledged at its annual summit, this year held in Denver. Although President Kuchma did not attend the talks, Ukraine figured prominently. In a strongly worded statement, the seven member-countries called on Ukraine to tackle the challenges of economic reform and make itself more investor-friendly.

Meanwhile at the United Nations, Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Udovenko criticized the pace at which the G-7 was disbursing promised aid for the closure of the Chernobyl complex.

U.S. officials also traveled to Ukraine in 1997. Two days after the signing of the special charter between NATO and Ukraine, U.S. Secretary of Defense William Cohen visited the western region of Ukraine where he took part in the closing ceremonies of joint military exercises held within the framework of the NATO Partnership for Peace program. The exercises, called Cooperative Neighbor '97, involved 1,200 troops from eight countries.

More controversial was a second series of Partnership for Peace exercises held in Ukraine on August 23-31. Sea Breeze '97, a mock sea-landing exercise by PFP countries that border the Black Sea and the U.S., whose aim was to bring humanitarian relief to the Crimean Peninsula after an earthquake in a fictitious country dubbed the "Orange Republic," elicited a strong protest from Russia, which refused to take part in them. Russia did not like the concept that the troops' fictitious mission was to quell an uprising of separatists sponsored by a neighboring state.

Special Ambassador to the CIS Richard Morningstar visited Ukraine several times. On October 22 he led the U.S. delegation in the latest round of the Kuchma-Gore Commission meetings and praised Ukraine's progress in reforms.

Less than a month later he was back, this time with Hillary Clinton, who visited Lviv during a whirlwind tour of countries of the former Soviet Union.

1997: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In Lviv, U.S. President Bill Clinton's spouse spent a busy day and a half on November 17-18 visiting historic, cultural and religious landmarks.

Politics and corruption

The year in Ukrainian domestic politics was much more turbulent than on the foreign affairs front, and much of it centered on corruption and how to clean it up. In 1997 Prime Minister Lazarenko came under strong criticism from President Kuchma and resigned after a convenient illness, only to reappear as a major critic of the presidential administration.

As problems associated with corrupt government officials, including the decision by Motorola to cancel a large contract to build a mobile phone system, became more public, President Kuchma tried damage control by coming out forcefully for an anti-corruption campaign.

On February 14, days after a meeting with World Bank Chairman James Wolfensohn, during which the banker noted the increase in corruption in Ukraine, President Kuchma fired his vice minister of transportation and minister of agriculture, and replaced the chairman of the committee on corruption and organized crime with First Vice Prime Minister Durdynets. He also hurled the first dart at his prime minister, Mr. Lazarenko, stating that he had been soft on corruption.

Then, on April 11, just after the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee was holding hearings on corruption in Ukraine and how it has affected foreign investment in a review of its support of foreign aid for Ukraine, Kyiv announced a "Clean Hands" anti-corruption effort.

Justice Minister Serhii Holovaty, whom the president had charged with developing the plan, said his program would target not only the individual corrupt bureaucrats but also the heavily bureaucratized system. "How many levels of bureaucracy must a business go through to receive all the permits and licenses it requires?" asked Mr. Holovaty when announcing the campaign.

Even then it was clear that the effort would take an extraordinary effort against a well-entrenched bureaucracy. As Mr. Holovaty announced his ambitious program to revamp government structures and set stringent guidelines for accountability and oversight, he acknowledged that certain Cabinet ministers had done their utmost to resist changes. "Many simply do not want a battle against corruption. It does not further their own interest," said Mr. Holovaty.

Meanwhile, after returning from a trip to Canada on June 18, Mr. Lazarenko is said to have taken ill and was hospitalized. But most political observers believe the prime minister used the cover of illness for a face-saving resignation from the government. He and his longtime ally, President Kuchma, had been at odds for several months. The president had criticized Mr. Lazarenko several times for not leading the fight against corruption more forcefully and for failing to put together a passable 1997 budget, which at the time of his resignation still had not been approved.

The president appointed First Vice Prime Minister Vasyl Durdynets the acting prime minister during Mr. Lazarenko's illness, which doctors said was thrombophlebitis. The prime minister officially resigned two weeks later, on July 1.

The impediments to the anti-corruption campaign became larger and larger, and on July 8 Mr. Holovaty called a press conference to accuse factions of the Cabinet of Ministers of sabotaging the effort. He said he could not publicly reveal who was derailing the process, but did accuse Acting Prime Minister Durdynets for threatening him after he had criticized certain ministries for resisting the anti-corruption program during the introduction of the Clean Hands campaign. He also said government funds were not being allocated, the executive branch was not cooperating and the implementation of many measures had been delayed.

Mr. Durdynets remained acting head of government until July 16, when Valerii Pustovoitenko, formerly the minister of the Cabinet of Ministers, was named to head the government. Mr. Pustovoitenko, like his predecessor, is from Dnipropetrovsk and a confidante of the president.

Mr. Lazarenko, around whom accusations of corruption continued to swirl, quickly moved back into politics, joining the Yednist faction of the Verkhovna Rada and taking over the leadership of the Hromada Party.

On August 21 newly confirmed Prime Minister Pustovoitenko, who as minister of the Cabinet of Ministers had headed the bureaucratic organization that Mr. Holovaty was trying to reform, replaced the justice minister with Suzanna Stanik, previously the minister of families and youth in the Lazarenko Cabinet.

But Mr. Holovaty did not go out quietly. At a press conference on September 17 he blasted President Kuchma for saying one thing and doing another when it came to the



Official White House Photograph

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks in Lviv at the memorial to victims of Soviet repression.

corruption fight and economic reform. He said that even though the president had initially supported the campaign, support had become increasingly hard to find. "In June an order came from Bankivska Street (the presidential administration offices) that I should be muzzled," explained Mr. Holovaty. He also said the president had repeatedly refused to meet with him after the program was met with resistance.

Criticism of the president's half-hearted anti-corruption effort was heard also from the international community. On December 3 a World Bank representative said the organization was not pleased with the results of a symposium on corruption it co-sponsored with Ukraine's Ministry of Justice in Kyiv on November 28-29, and would review its commitment to Ukraine's anti-corruption program.

"Ukraine must do more than express a desire to work, it must follow the action plan," said Volodymyr Omelianenko, economic development representative for the World Bank. "It depends on who is leading the effort. The committee (on the fight against organized crime and corruption headed by Mr. Durdynets) is currently working poorly; it is not serious."

Two killings of journalists in Ukraine in 1997 also appeared to be connected to the fight against corruption. Petro Shevchenko, a reporter stationed in Luhansk for the large daily newspaper *Kievskie Viedomosti*, was found hanged in an abandoned building near the Kyiv train station on March 14. Although Ukraine's Security Service said it was a suicide, friends and relatives said that in his last days Mr. Shevchenko had not acted like a person preparing to kill himself. Mr. Shevchenko, who was in Kyiv to collect money owed him by the newspaper, had been investigating Secret Service corruption in Luhansk.

Then, on August 11, the founding editor of Odesa's leading newspaper, *Vechernaya Odesa*, was shot four times during his morning walk. The procurator general of Odesa explained that "critical statements in the paper about the situation in Odesa and Odesa Oblast" may have prompted the killing. Odesa has several very active organized crime syndicates.

Economy

This was the year in that President Kuchma hoped the free fall of the economy would cease and stabilization would take place. About all that stabilized was the currency, which held its ground against the dollar until the last quarter of the year, when the currency quakes of Asia caused the hryvnia to drop some. But inflation was kept under control and remained much lower than the 25 percent rate that had been predicted. At year's end it looked as if the rate would not exceed 14 percent.

The major economic problems centered on the Verkhovna Rada, which took half the fiscal year to approve a budget chiefly because it resisted tax reform.

Vice Prime Minister for Economic Reform Viktor Pynzenyk undertook an ambitious effort in late 1996 to reform the tax structure of Ukraine. Dubbed "Economic Growth '97," the tax package consisted of a series of bills, including a value-added tax of 20 percent and the reduction of corporate and personal income taxes, reform of unemployment and disability compensation, and a debt write-off for state-owned enterprises. The effort was met by resistance in the Communist-Socialist-controlled Verkhovna

Rada, which took its time reviewing the bills, a situation not helped by Prime Minister Lazarenko's tepid support for Mr. Pynzenyk's tax package, particularly his stand against tax breaks for foreign investors.

But the government did stand firm on its refusal to resubmit the budget, which had been approved in its first reading in December 1996, until the Parliament had acted on the tax bills. By March there still was no budget.

To shake-up the process and to give impetus to an economic reform program that had bogged down in fights with the Verkhovna Rada over its pace and purpose, President Kuchma replaced his ministers of finance and the economy with Ihor Mitiukov and Yuri Yekhanurov, respectively. The two had been part of a team of young, reform-oriented economists that had pushed through initial reforms in 1995.

On March 21, still with no budget and with the economy continuing its downslide, President Kuchma gave his state of the state speech, coming down hard on Prime Minister Lazarenko and on the Verkhovna Rada. He called the budget that Mr. Lazarenko's government submitted "unrealistic" and the work of the ministers "unsatisfactory." He termed the failure to pay wages and pensions an "economic crime."

He also accused the Verkhovna Rada of doing all in its power to upset the budgetary process, and said he would consider dismissing the legislative body.

The president's speech did not have the intended effect of breaking the budget logjam, and on April 2 the chief architect of economic reform, Vice Prime Minister Pynzenyk, resigned, stating that he did not feel economic reform could proceed further in the current political environment. After trying to bring his young reformer back into the government, President Kuchma accepted his resignation several days later. His replacement was Serhii Tyhytko, a young banker who is president of PryvatBank, headquartered in Dnipropetrovsk.

With only the VAT tax bill of the tax package approved by the legislature and no end in sight to the budgetary battle, President Kuchma asked the Verkhovna Rada to approve a second emergency budget based on 1996 expenditures for the term of April 1- July 1. An initial emergency budget had been approved for the January-April period.

The paralysis held until June 27. Then, with the prospect of the government shutting down after the second emergency budget expired on July 1 and with a pronouncement by the IMF that it might cancel \$3 billion in promised loans if no budget was approved soon, the Cabinet of Ministers decided to resubmit the budget, even though only the VAT portion of the tax reform package had been passed, and the Verkhovna Rada quickly approved it.

Two weeks later, as many had predicted, the IMF refused to release the next tranche of its extended loan of approximately \$2.8 billion, citing the Verkhovna Rada's failure to implement tax reform and to approve a budget along the guidelines that the IMF had directed, including a deficit under 5.7 percent.

The budget deficit was in part exacerbated by the government's inability to find a way to bring Ukraine's shadow economy out into the open, which meant that about half of the taxes owed by Ukrainian businessmen in 1997 were not collected.

The government also had problems bringing foreign

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investment dollars into Ukraine. Even with the allure of Ukraine's large market, and inexpensive and trained workforce, international firms were hesitant to enter the Ukrainian marketplace because of widespread graft and the instability of business legislation, including the withdrawal of tax subsidies to foreign investors.

On April 14 President Kuchma initiated a foreign investment council to engage government officials and leaders of major multinational corporations in an open exchange of ideas and proposals to make doing business in Ukraine easier. The council officially met for the first time on October 3, with 21 business leaders, representing the largest corporations in the world, present.

Even though economic reforms had slowed considerably from the initial push of 1995, incremental gains were still being made. Towards the end of the year, Volodymyr Lanovyi, the acting chairman of the State Property Fund, announced that the SPF would revamp its privatization program for 1998, to move away from the sale of government-owned enterprises via share vouchers (whose outcome was deemed unsatisfactory by the government), to one of direct cash payment, and would allow foreign banks to market the sale of individual enterprises. By the end of 1997, 6,500 medium- and large-scale government enterprises had been privatized, with another 2,500 slated for privatization in 1998.

Then, on December 4, the deputy chairman of the Ukrainian State Committee on Land Resources, Volodymyr Kulynych, said the liquidation of collective farms from the Soviet era was "virtually complete." He said that 8 million hectares of government land had been handed to workers' collectives and individual farmers. But he also stated that infrastructures and markets, and the legislation that would support them, had to be fully developed.

Elections

Although elections to the Verkhovna Rada will not take place until March 1998, the election pre-season began during the budgetary process, when President Kuchma repeatedly accused the Verkhovna Rada of election-year political posturing in the way it handled the tax package and the budget.

The Verkhovna Rada had haggled since the beginning of the year over a new election law to supplant the old system still in place from the Soviet era. It took 13 attempts over six months — six votes alone at the September 24 parliamentary session during which the bill was finally approved — before a new mixed electoral system was introduced. The new system partially replaces the old majoritarian system where individuals were elected from 450 electoral districts on a first-past-the-post basis. It redivides Ukraine into 225 electoral districts that will elect half the Verkhovna Rada national deputies based on the majority system and leave 225 seats to be chosen through a popular vote for parties. Parties that gain at least 4 percent of the electoral vote will divide up the seats proportionally to the percentage of the vote they get.

The push for a law, any law, was spurred by a fear that as elections neared the old law could have been rejected by the Constitutional Court as unconstitutional, which would have left too little time to pass a new law cancelling next year's elections as a result.

President Kuchma, who had said that he supported the new mixed electoral system, did an about-face. On October 14, after holding the bill for two weeks, the president sent it back to the Parliament with suggested changes attached, without which he said he would be compelled to veto the bill. Although the president said he wanted to make sure the law passed constitutional muster, political pundits suggested the president wanted to sink the law because a mixed electoral system favors political parties. The president's political base does not lie within any political party but within the local political structures that he has developed in the regions. But the Parliament quickly removed the threat of veto by approving 13 of the 15 changes.

President Kuchma went on national television a week later to sign the bill, after which he openly admitted that he had just signed a bill he didn't like. He also spent 10 minutes explaining to the nation the dangers of a Ukrainian Parliament up for election, among them the passing of certain laws that are unworkable but popular in an election season, which he called "psychotic acts."

The September 24 passage of the electoral bill for all practical purposes marked the opening bell of the election season. Political parties and organizations held conventions and picked their candidate lists in the following weeks. By November 28, 32 political parties had held conventions and received official petitions to gather the 200,000 signatures to officially qualify for the March elections. That process was completed on December 19, with 30 parties fulfilling all the requirements to field candidates in the March 1998 elections.

Our Churches: strides toward reconciliation

Strides towards inter-confessional and intra-confessional unity and reconciliation influenced many of the religious events this year, continuing a trend evident in both Ukraine and the diaspora in recent years. The violent nature of many of the battles over church property, personal harassment, threats and beatings that were the sorrow of Ukraine's religious life several years ago have decreased markedly. Nonetheless, tensions developed, most notably within the Orthodox confession, as well as certain tensions that carried over from 1996.

Tensions from previous year

The issue of a visit by Pope John Paul II to Ukraine, raised in 1996, continued to meet resistance in Ukraine from Orthodox hierarchs as well as many government officials. President Leonid Kuchma met with the papal nuncio, Archbishop Antonio Franco, in Kyiv on January 22. The papal nuncio reiterated the pope's desire to visit Ukraine, and though President Kuchma praised the pope, he also spoke of the need to create "appropriate conditions" for a papal state visit.

Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate, after at first denouncing such a visit, in an interview on February 22, modified his stance and claimed that "we would welcome [such a visit] since it would benefit Ukraine and all Churches," but added that the issue of a visit "is a complex question."

President Kuchma, along with presidents from Germany, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Slovakia and Hungary, met with Pope John Paul II on June 3 during the pope's visit to Poland, yet no invitation for a state visit to Ukraine was extended.

The meeting between a delegation from the Holy See and the patriarch of Moscow held in Moscow on December 17-18, 1996, during which issues concerning the Orthodox Church and Greek-Catholic Church in Ukraine, including the topics of expansion and evangelization, were discussed without representatives from either Ukrainian Church present, also exacerbated tensions on all sides.

A conflict in the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC) in Ukraine over issues of financial impropriety came to a head on November 19, 1996, and Patriarch Dymytrii was dismissed by the UAOC synod of bishops. This resulted in a split in the UAOC, and now four Orthodox Churches operate in Ukraine: two factions of the UAOC, as well as the Ukrainian Orthodox Church — Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) headed by Patriarch Filaret, and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church — Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP), headed by Metropolitan Volodymyr Sabodan.

The tension within the UAOC that resulted from the split was further exacerbated when on March 2 Bishop Ioan Boichuk quietly left the UAOC for the UOC-KP. Seminarians from the UOC-KP entered UAOC premises in Kyiv, physically evicted Patriarch Dymytrii and several

bishops, occupied the chancery premises and confiscated financial records. Patriarch Dymytrii's dismissal had been predicated on accusations of financial impropriety, but in turn, Patriarch Dymytrii has denied the charges and instead has accused Patriarch Filaret of plotting the entire process in order to take over the UAOC.

Tensions between Russian and Ukrainian Churches

While tensions increased between the Orthodox Churches in Ukraine, tensions were evident also between the Russian and Ukrainian Churches. In January the leaders of the Ukrainian Republican Party issued a protest to President Kuchma over the "quiet transfer" to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate of artifacts, books and buildings located on the property of the Kyiv-Pecherska Lavra (Monastery of the Caves).

On February 20 the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) High Clerical Council, meeting in Moscow, formally excommunicated Mykhailo Denysenko, former ROC metropolitan and now Patriarch Filaret of the UOC-KP. Also excommunicated was the Rev. Gleb Yakunin, a human rights activist and member of the Russian Duma. The Rev. Yakunin believes he was excommunicated for stating that senior Russian Orthodox clergy had collaborated and cooperated with the KGB during the Soviet era. Patriarch Filaret claims he was excommunicated because he is trying to create one unified Ukrainian Orthodox Church outside the jurisdiction of Moscow. In his statement reacting to his excommunication by the ROC, Patriarch Filaret claimed that "he was in good company" because Hetman Ivan Mazepa also was excommunicated by the Russian Church.

A controversy between the Ukrainian and Russian Churches that affected the Orthodox Church in the diaspora as well began on September 24, when Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople responded to an invitation from Patriarch Aleksii of the ROC to meet in the Black Sea port city of Odesa, a meeting that excluded representatives of the UAOC and UOC-KP. The ecumenical patriarch was on a multi-city tour of Black Sea ports to promote ecological awareness in the region.

Subsequent press reports stated that the ecumenical patriarch, as a result of the meeting, had called for unity of all Ukrainian Orthodox Churches under Moscow. In his statement the ecumenical patriarch did call upon Patriarch Aleksii "to do his utmost for a successful resolution of the issues of Orthodox Church unity in Ukraine." The ecumenical patriarch also restated a historic reality: that the only canonical jurisdiction (authority that is recognized by the other Orthodox Churches as legitimate) of an Orthodox Church on the territory of Ukraine is that of the Moscow Patriarchate. Patriarch Aleksii's press office interpreted these remarks and issued a statement that Patriarch Bartholomew had called upon the patriarch of Moscow to unite all the Orthodox in Ukraine under Moscow's jurisdiction.

These statements, as well as the subsequent press reports, caused great consternation among Ukrainian Orthodox faithful worldwide. Strong statements of protest about the meeting itself and about both statements were issued by the UOC-KP and the UAOC.



Mourners outside St. George Cathedral in Lviv during the funeral of Archbishop Volodymyr Sterniuk.

Roman Woronowycz

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Rather than rely on press reports, Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and Diaspora headed a delegation that traveled to Constantinople on October 7. The ecumenical patriarch met with the delegation and, while he reaffirmed that "we recognize the jurisdiction of the Patriarch of Moscow as canonical here [in Ukraine]," he added, "we believe that this is not enough, that this does not solve the concrete problem which exists."

Tension between the Ukrainian and Russian Churches turned into conflict when on September 29 buildings that belonged to the UOC-KP were seized in Noginsk, a town on the outskirts of Moscow. In reaction to the seizure of their property, UOC-KP hierarchs faulted a new Russian law signed by President Boris Yeltsin on September 26 that severely limits activities of all religions that have not been registered with Moscow authorities for at least 15 years. For all intents and purposes, the new law curtails the activities of all religious faiths and denominations except for those of the Russian Orthodox Church, and of certain Muslim and Jewish organizations.

Close to 100 worshippers and clergy were seized, beaten and arrested in Noginsk, and buildings were occupied by the militia on order of the Moscow regional arbitration court. The Foreign Affairs Ministry of Ukraine issued a formal protest on October 7.

Emphasis on unity

In November of 1996, in a move to bring unity to the Orthodox Church outside of Ukraine, various Orthodox Churches united under the omophor of the ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople. On March 2 Bishop Vsevolod (Majdansky), former primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America (UOCA), was installed in Chicago by Metropolitan Constantine of the UOC-U.S.A. as archbishop of the Western Eparchy of the UOC-U.S.A.

In his remarks after his enthronement, Archbishop Vsevolod spoke of unifying the Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox into one Church, citing Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky and Ukrainian Orthodox saint Petro Mohyla (Petro Mohyla was canonized by the UOC-KP at a special Sobor on December 12, 1996). Hierarchs of the Orthodox Churches in the diaspora stated that the unification of Orthodox Churches outside Ukraine is intended to serve as an example for the Churches in Ukraine.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew made a pastoral visit to Ukrainian Orthodox faithful with a visit to St. Andrew Archdiocesan Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. in South Bound Brook, N.J., on October 27. He was greeted by more than 1,200 faithful. He made no references to earlier press reports that alleged he had stated that all Orthodox Churches in Ukraine should unite under Moscow. He did stress reconciliation among all Orthodox faithful in Ukraine. His hosts, hierarchs of the UOC from the U.S. and Canada, stressed that unity in Ukraine must occur, and a canonical Ukrainian Church be recognized. These statements reiterated the position taken by the UOC-U.S.A. hierarchs in a statement released on October 14 that the leadership of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church seeks canonical autocephaly for Orthodoxy in Ukraine, but "will not wait idly" while the Church in Ukraine refuses to seek unity, and puts the spiritual life of the Church at risk.

Other steps towards reconciliation

Throughout the year, there were small, often symbolic, steps taken to encourage intra- and inter-confessional harmony. During the first week of January, a group of national deputies of the Verkhovna Rada held a press conference in which they issued a call for Orthodox unity for the sake of Ukraine and her people.

On April 16 a decision was made by Patriarch Filaret, Patriarch Dymytrii and the Rev. Serhii Prudko of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC), while meeting in Kyiv, to hold a joint ecumenical service in St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv on Ukraine's Independence Day in August. They issued a statement that one faith is key to a strong Ukrainian nation and that the formation of a "pomisna" (particular) Orthodox Church would be historically proper.

In the Mariyinskyi Palace on July 21, with President Kuchma present, 15 representatives from Ukraine's various confessions signed a memorandum in which they promised to peacefully resolve inter-confessional disputes. The Memorandum of Christian Confessions in Ukraine on the Unacceptability of Using Force in Inter-confessional Relations was signed by representatives of the UOC-MP, the UOC-KP, the UGCC, both factions of the UAOC, the Roman Catholic Church, the Armenian Apostolic Church, Seventh Day Adventists, the Evangelical Baptist Church and the Lutheran Church.

Members of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian

Orthodox Bishops outside Ukraine held their annual convocation in Genk, Belgium, on July 1-2 during which they decided to dispatch a delegation to the World Forum of Ukrainians to be held in late August in Kyiv. On August 23 President Kuchma received a delegation of Orthodox bishops from the diaspora, which included Archbishop Vsevolod of the UOC-U.S.A., Bishop Yuriy of UOC-Canada, Bishop Jeremiah of UOC-South America, and Anatole Lysyj and Michael Heretz of the U.S. as advisors. The delegation also met with Patriarch Filaret, Patriarch Dymytrii and Bishop Ioann of the UOC-MP.

The delegation attended the World Forum of Ukrainians and participated in a roundtable discussion on spiritual unification. During his opening remarks at the World Forum, President Kuchma called for unity among the Orthodox Churches.

In reaction to statements made during the World Forum roundtable, Bishop Lubomyr Husar, auxiliary to the archbishop major of the UGCC, said on September 3 in Kyiv that unifying all the various Christian confessions in Ukraine is an impossible task and that the Churches should look for "spiritual unification." "If we mean one confession," he stated, "that will be almost impossible. If we mean one Orthodox tradition, I think that is doable." He added that he hoped celebrations of the year 2000 would be the vehicle by which spiritual union could be achieved.

UAOC Metropolitan Petro Petrus of Lviv announced on October 29 that he is joining the UOC-KP, citing as his reason the desire to seek one unified Church in Ukraine. On October 28, 150 parishes in the Lviv Metropolia of the UAOC joined the UOC-KP for the same reason.

In print

On January 30 the U.S. State Department issued its annual human rights report in which it praised Ukraine for "significant progress towards building a law-based civil society," at the same time focusing on several shortcomings. In the area of religious rights, Ukraine received generally high marks, though incidents of religious discrimination are evident, as well as "some government control of non-native religious groups." According to the report, Jews have "expanded opportunities to pursue their religious and cultural activities, but anti-Semitic incidents continue to occur" and the government is not prosecuting many violations of the law forbidding the sowing of inter-ethnic hatred.

In the April edition of the Kyiv-based journal *Lyudyna i Svit* (Man and the World), an article appeared concerning the religious situation in Ukraine. Among the information cited was that, whereas in Poland 83 percent of those surveyed claim to attend divine liturgy or prayer services at least once a month, only 20 percent in Ukraine, and 7 percent in Russia claim to do so. Nonetheless, 63.4 percent in Ukraine consider themselves to be religious believers, while 29.5 percent consider themselves to be non-believers, and 7.1 percent cannot decide.

Of the religious organizations registered in Ukraine, 52 percent are Orthodox, 24 percent are Protestant, 17 percent are Greek-Catholic, 4 percent are Roman Catholic, 1 percent are Muslim and 0.5 percent are Jewish. This differs from the results obtained from individual respondents. Of those who claim any religious identity, 71.8 percent claim to be Orthodox, 17.5 percent to be Greek-Catholic, 5.3 percent to be Muslim, only 2.2 percent to be Protestant, 1.6 percent to be Roman Catholic, 1.2 percent "simply believers" and 0.4 percent Jewish. The UOC-MP continues to claim the largest number of believers.

The American Jewish Committee released "Anti-Semitism World Report, 1996" on July 22. The report is issued annually, and this year's report listed the Jewish population in Ukraine at 450,000. The report assessed anti-Semitism in Ukraine as a "marginal phenomenon," though economic instability and an underdeveloped civic and political culture allow for acts of anti-Semitism to occur with little public reaction.

Religious leaders pass away

Within days of each other, two renowned religious leaders passed away this fall. Archbishop Volodymyr Sterniuk of the UGCC died on September 29 in Lviv. He was 90. A former Soviet political prisoner who had been imprisoned in the late 1940s and early 1950s following the Soviet liquidation of the UGCC, he served as bishop in the underground Church for several decades and became locum tenens of Lviv in 1972. On August 19, 1990, after spending almost his entire life clandestinely ministering to Ukrainian Catholic faithful, he openly celebrated a divine liturgy in St. George Cathedral, the first Ukrainian Catholic liturgy to be celebrated in the cathedral since the takeover by the Russian Orthodox Church in 1946. His funeral was attended by more than 13,000 people on October 2.

On October 4 the Rev. Olexa R. Harbuziuk, world leader of Ukrainian Evangelical Baptists, died in Chicago. He was 77. The Rev. Harbuziuk was a devoted religious leader who headed the All-Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Fellowship for 18 years, and was general secretary of the Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Convention for 28 years. He was buried on October 10.

Other notables

- On January 12 Bishop Basil Losten of the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford celebrated 25 years of his episcopal ordination and 40 years of his priestly ordination.

- On January 14 the Rev. Laurence Daniel Huculak, a 45-year-old member of the Order of St. Basil, was appointed by the Vatican to head the Edmonton Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

- On May 11 the cornerstone was blessed for the new Cathedral of the Mother of God in Zarvanytsia in Ternopil Oblast, an event attended by 15,000 people. For several hundred years, Zarvanytsia has been considered to be a place of religious pilgrimage, and is associated with the protection of the Ukrainian people.

- As part of Akcja Wisla commemorations, the (Ukrainian) Basilian complex in Peremyshl, Poland, is undergoing renovation.

- The 50th anniversary of the Ukrainian Orthodox League was held in Carneige, Pa., on July 16-20.

- The Muslim Party was formed on September 28 in Donetsk. It is headed by Rashit Bragin and founded by 50 delegates from 15 oblasts of Ukraine.

U.S.-Ukraine: agenda dominated by corruption

Topics on the U.S.-Ukraine agenda in 1997 ranged from NATO expansion to joint space flight. Relations between the two countries were dominated, however, by allegations of government corruption at the highest level, including Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko. Congress responded swiftly and brutally — it threatened to cut off U.S. aid to Ukraine and devoted much of the year to holding hearings to that effect. President Leonid Kuchma traveled to the United States several times to reassure Congress and the U.S. government that fighting corruption and resolving American investor disputes were his top priority. In July the Senate voted to earmark \$225 million in aid to Ukraine, with the caveat that half of the aid would be "held" until the secretary of state determined that economic reform, the resolution of investor disputes and the campaign to combat corruption were moving forward.

On January 8 Madeleine Albright, then U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, made a successful appearance before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to explain her vision of U.S. foreign policy as President Clinton's second-term nominee for secretary of state. A proponent of NATO expansion, Ambassador Albright proposed increasing funding for foreign affairs and noted that assistance to countries of the former Soviet Union is in the United States' national security interest. She acknowledged the special relationship between the United States and Ukraine, and proposed continued U.S. support to the country. She was confirmed as the first woman secretary of state in U.S. history on January 22.

The Senate also confirmed Republican Sen. William Cohen of Maine as secretary of defense on January 22. Also a proponent of NATO expansion, Mr. Cohen told a Senate confirmation hearing that he would like to expand the military alliance over the next several years to include countries of the former Warsaw Pact, but not without first consulting with Russia.

On January 30 the State Department released its annual human rights report for 1996 in which it praised Ukraine "for significant progress toward building a law-based civil society." The report lauded Ukraine's adoption of a Constitution but pointed to several shortcomings in the "unreformed legal and prison systems." It also noted that in 1996 there were government attempts to control the media in Ukraine; there were limits on the freedom of association and the work of non-native religious organizations; and there was evidence of "significant societal anti-Semitism," discrimination and violence against women, and incidents of discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities. The State Department report is compiled on the 194 countries that either receive U.S. foreign assistance or are member-countries of the United Nations.

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Applications for the 1998 Diversity Visa Lottery, which made 55,000 permanent resident visas available to people from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States, were accepted on February 3-March 5. In September close to 100,000 applicants out of 4.7 million entries were registered and notified to apply for immigrant visas. The federal government moved up its application process for the 1999 Diversity Visa Lottery by four months, and accepted applications for permanent resident visas on October 24-November 24.

On February 6 President Bill Clinton presented his budget for Fiscal Year 1998, in which he requested \$19.45 billion in international affairs spending — an increase of \$800 million from 1997 levels. The president's request included the following programs that directly or indirectly benefit Ukraine: \$900 million for assistance to the new independent states (40 percent over the FY 1997 request of \$640 million); \$70 million for the Partnership for Peace program; \$1.1 billion for United States Information Agency (USIA) programs; and \$50 million for the International Military Education and Training program. The president's direct request for Ukraine, which falls under his general request for the NIS, was \$225.5 million — an increase of only \$500,000 over the 1997 level. The request for Russia was \$241.5 million, a 150 percent increase from the FY 1997 level of \$95.4 million.

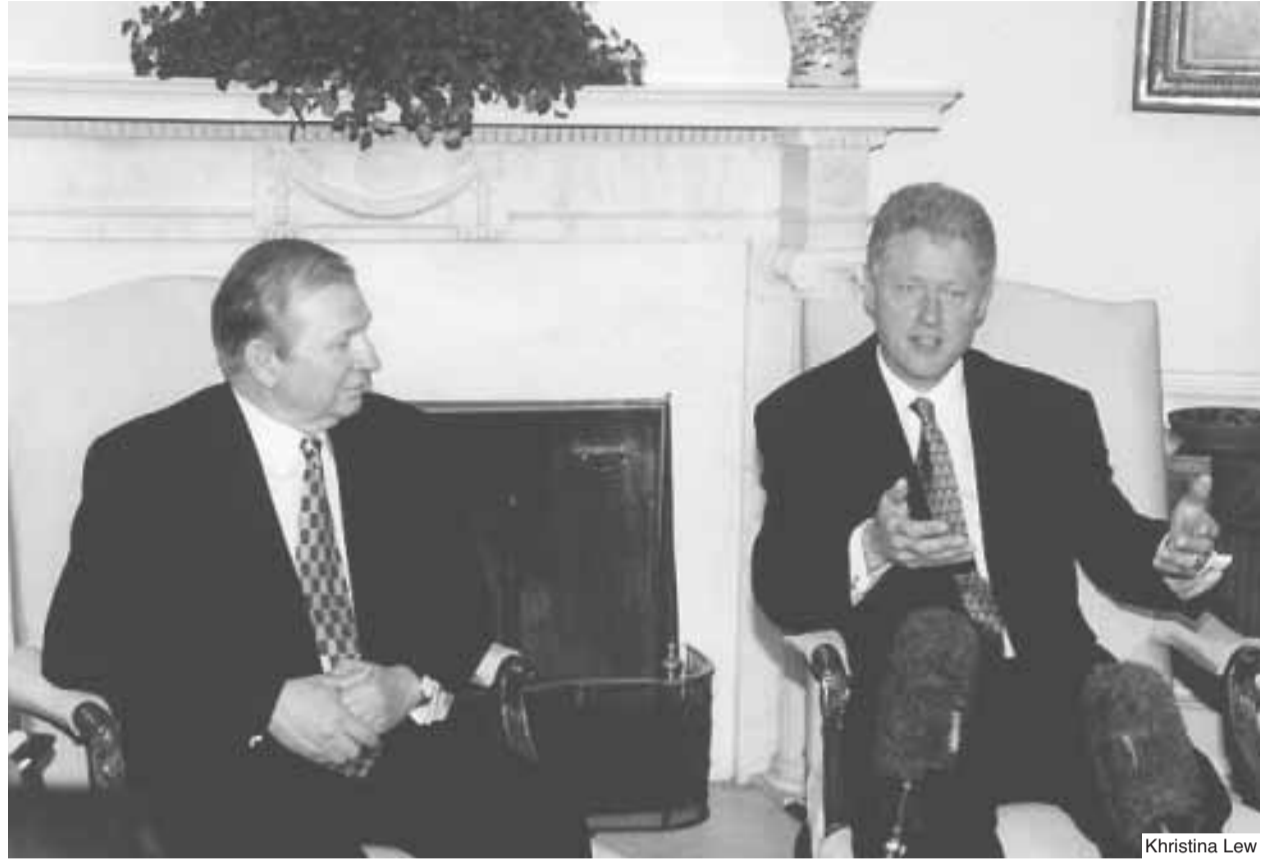
On March 7 Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadii Udovenko met with newly confirmed Secretary of State Albright in Washington. Talks centered on NATO expansion and a proposed NATO-Ukraine charter delineating Ukraine's relationship with the military alliance as it expands into Eastern Europe. Secretary Albright underscored U.S. commitment to elevate relations with Ukraine to a level of "strategic partnership" several times during their 90-minute meeting.

On March 11 the International Relations Committee of the House of Representatives heard testimony on the president's request for \$900 million in aid to the NIS.

On March 12 Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission), and Rep. Christopher Smith, co-chair, sent a letter to President Clinton on the eve of his March 20-21 summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The letter requested that, in discussing the proposed NATO-Russia charter, it be made clear to Russia that Russia will not be given a veto, or an implied veto, over the timing of admission of new Eastern European members; that the charter will firmly oppose any moves by Moscow to create "spheres of influence" in Central and Eastern Europe; and that the NATO-Russia charter will in no way impede the development of enhanced relations between NATO and non-members. The legislators also urged the president to underscore "unwavering U.S. support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within internationally recognized borders."

On March 13 the Immigration and Naturalization Service granted 12-year-old Vova Malofienko and his parents, Olga and Alexander, a last-minute extension on their visas to the United States on humanitarian grounds. Vova, a victim of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion, has been treated for leukemia in the U.S. since 1990. His leukemia is in remission, and despite his father's efforts to obtain a permit to work in the United States, the INS insisted that the family return to Ukraine on April 10. New Jersey Sen. Frank Lautenberg and Vova's classmates and teachers at the Millburn Middle School in New Jersey lobbied on his behalf. The Malofienkos are permitted to remain in the United States for one more year. In December Sen. Lautenberg and New Jersey Reps. Steven Rothman (D) and Bob Franks (R) introduced a special resolution in the House of Representatives and the Senate to admit Vova and his parents for permanent residence in the United States.

On April 9 the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations of the House Appropriations Committee heard government testimony on U.S. assistance to the NIS for FY 1998. Chairman Sonny Callahan (R-Ala.) voiced his reservations on funding assistance programs to Ukraine, referring to an April 8 New York Times article on government corruption titled "Ukraine Staggers on Path to Free Market." Ambassador Richard L. Morningstar, special advisor to the president and secretary of state on assistance to the NIS, testified on the successes in the NIS and in Ukraine specifically, and outlined the Partnership for Freedom (PFF) program, a new presidential initiative that refocuses the U.S. approach to assistance to the NIS. The PFF will target investment and capital mobilization, and expanded law enforce-



Presidents Leonid Kuchma and Bill Clinton meet at the White House on May 16.

ment and criminal justice reform.

On April 16 the Ukrainian "Blakytyna Stezha" (Azure Observer Squad) landed at Dulles International Airport near Washington to begin openly "spying" on the United States. The Ukrainian military observation aircraft is the first plane of the former Warsaw Pact to fly over the U.S., as permitted by the Open Skies Treaty signed in 1992. "Blakytyna Stezha" flew over 13 American states in the Midwest and South, photographing sites in Ohio, Oklahoma, Georgia and Florida.

On April 24 the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations of the House Appropriations Committee heard testimony from congressional and public witnesses on U.S. assistance to the NIS for FY 1998. Testimony centered on corruption in Ukraine. Joseph Lemire, president of Gala Radio in Ukraine, and Marta Fedoriw, partner of the Grand Hotel in Lviv, detailed their difficulties in trying to conduct business in Ukraine. Ms. Fedoriw proposed that "a part of U.S. assistance should be allocated to a mechanism which will address and resolve immediately the more than 20 American investor problems in Ukraine." During the hearing Chairman Callahan stated: "Until Ukraine gets its act straight, Ukraine will receive zero money from my committee ... unless they make some serious, drastic changes."

On April 28 Ukraine's minister of defense, Col. Gen. Oleksander Kuzmuk, arrived in Washington for a four-day visit — his first to the United States. Minister Kuzmuk toured U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps bases in the southeastern United States; met with Secretary of Defense Cohen at the Pentagon, officials at the National Security Council and the State Department, and members of Congress; and visited the National Defense College for discussion with military strategists and historians. During their meeting Minister Kuzmuk and Secretary Cohen signed three bilateral agreements: the Amendment to the Strategic Nuclear Arms Elimination Agreement, which gives Ukraine an additional \$47 million to destroy its remaining strategic delivery vehicles and silos; the Reciprocal Health Care Agreement, which gives Ukrainian military personnel and their dependents access to U.S. military medical facilities and U.S. military personnel reciprocal rights in Ukraine; and the Statement of Intent for Future Military Medical Cooperation.

On April 30 the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) held a conference titled "Security and Stability in Central and Eastern Europe: A Vital U.S. Interest" in Washington. The conference addressed NATO expansion, U.S. assistance to the NIS for FY 1998 and the efficacy of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) programs in the region. The CEEC comprises 19 ethnic grassroots organizations, including the Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, representing more than 22 million Americans who trace their heritage to Central and Eastern Europe.

On May 6-7 two separate Senate subcommittees heard testimony on U.S. assistance to the NIS for FY 1998. Witnesses testified that U.S. aid should be linked

to Ukraine's effort to combat corruption and resolve business disputes with American investors. Ambassador Morningstar told the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 6 that cutting aid to Ukraine as "pure punishment" was not in the U.S. interest. Thomas Dine, assistant administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development for Europe and the NIS, told the Subcommittee on European Affairs of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on May 7 that "Ukraine faces excruciating problems, including political stalemate, budget problems, failed investments, among other problems, but we must work with our friends."

On May 14 the American Friends for Ukraine (AFU), a cultural and educational non-profit foundation incorporated in April, launched its activities with a reception at Washington's chic Carlton Hotel. The goal of AFU is to introduce Ukraine into America's consciousness through education, exchanges and cultural exhibitions. In December AFU sponsored the U.S. tour of the Kyiv Chamber Choir.

On May 16 President Kuchma and Vice-President Al Gore presided over the first full session of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission at the White House. The daylong session culminated in the signing of a joint initiative on gas sector reform and a far-reaching joint statement on the work of the commission in the areas of foreign policy, security, trade and investment, and sustainable economic growth.

The Ukrainian president and his delegation of senior Cabinet ministers had arrived in the nation's capital for a two-day working visit on May 14. On May 15 President Kuchma devoted a large block of time to reassuring lawmakers on Capitol Hill that he was focused on combating corruption in Ukraine and determined to settle disputes with American investors.

In a meeting with Rep. Callahan, the chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee warned President Kuchma that "if American businesses continue to suffer, Congress will find it difficult to justify further strong support to Ukraine." The Ukrainian president asked for American tolerance as Ukraine struggles to achieve a free market and cited progress in resolving several high-profile investment disputes. President Kuchma also met with Sens. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), William Roth (R-Del.), chairman of the Senate's NATO Observer Group and president of the North Atlantic Assembly, and Arlen Specter (R-Pa.); Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich; and Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), chairman of the House Committee on International Relations.

In addition to his meetings on Capitol Hill, President Kuchma met with President Clinton, Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund; James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank; philanthropist George Soros; and heads of large American corporations.

On May 15 President Kuchma recognized the achievements of American friends to Ukraine by presenting former Secretary of Defense William Perry and

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Christina Lew

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

Zbigniew Brzezinski, chairman of the American-Ukrainian Advisory Committee, with the State Award of Ukraine. In turn, he was presented the 1997 IFES Democracy Award by the International Foundations for Election Systems at a banquet at the State Department.

On June 23, five weeks after co-chairing the inaugural session of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission, President Kuchma returned to the United States to meet with Vice-President Gore at the U.N. General Assembly's special session on the environment and development. President Kuchma addressed the session, called Earth Summit + 5, on June 24. Vice-President Gore requested the 45-minute meeting in New York to discuss progress made in Ukraine's business climate and anti-corruption measures since the May 16 commission meeting. Mr. Gore told Mr. Kuchma that U.S. lawmakers had noted visible progress in Ukraine's investment climate since the Ukrainian president's visit to Washington. During his June 22-24 visit to New York, President Kuchma toured "The Glory of Byzantium" exhibit at The Metropolitan Museum of Art; met with Henry Kissinger, President Richard Nixon's secretary of state, and heads of commercial and investment banks; and was hosted at a dinner at the Harvard Club by representatives of Ukrainian American community organizations.

On June 26 the creation of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus was announced at a reception marking the first anniversary of the adoption of the Ukrainian Constitution held at Ukraine's Embassy to the United States. The purpose of the caucus is to organize an association of members of Congress who share the common goal of building stronger bilateral relations between Ukraine and the United States. The Congressional Ukrainian Caucus was initiated by Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.) and co-sponsored by Jon Fox (R-Pa.), Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.) and Bob Schaffer (R-Colo.).

Rep. Fox, a member of the House International Relations Committee, offered an amendment to the State Department Authorization Bill in June that called for sustained assistance to Ukraine for FY 1998 and FY 1999 at levels equal to what was allocated for FY 1997. The amendment also indicated the mood of Congress regarding problems associated with foreign investment in Ukraine and requested that U.S. government agencies support the implementation of anti-corruption measures there. Four hundred and fifteen representatives voted to pass the amendment, including Rep. Callahan.

In a letter to Secretary of State Albright dated July 10, the Central and East European Coalition protested the nomination of Stephen Sestanovich, vice-chairman of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, as ambassador at large to the NIS because of his stand against NATO expansion. The letter also noted the CEEC's concern "about his views that the United States should not oppose Russian efforts to turn the area of the former Soviet Union into its own exclusive sphere of influence by 'non-violent' means." On July 15 Dr. Sestanovich appeared before the Senate Foreign

Relations Committee to explain his views on U.S. foreign policy in the former Soviet Union. On October 10 he was sworn in as ambassador at large for the NIS.

On July 11, two days after President Kuchma signed the NATO-Ukraine Charter in Madrid, Secretary of Defense Cohen traveled to Yavoriv, Ukraine, to address the closing ceremonies of the Cooperative Neighbor '97 peacekeeping exercise held within the framework of the NATO Partnership for Peace program. Secretary Cohen met Defense Minister Kuzmuk and American soldiers in the field, and toured the 181st Tank Regiment. In Kyiv the secretary of defense met with President Kuchma and Volodymyr Horbulin, secretary of the National Security and Defense Council, to reaffirm the United States' strong relationship with Ukraine; visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and addressed an audience of 500 at the Armed Forces Academy.

On July 17 the Senate passed President Clinton's foreign aid bill that included \$800 million to the NIS. The Senate's version of the bill retains a \$225 million earmark for Ukraine in FY 1998, and includes subearmarks for programs focusing on Chernobyl-related safety assistance, commercial law and legal reform, democratic initiatives, and law enforcement procedures. The bill also states that half of the earmarked funds will be "held" until the secretary of state certifies that economic progress is continuing in Ukraine, corruption is being dealt with appropriately and American investor disputes are resolved.

On August 4 the office of Vice-President Gore held a briefing at the Old Executive Office Building for Ukrainian community representatives. Leon Fuerth, Vice-President Gore's national security advisor, and Ambassador Morningstar reassured representatives of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine, the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and The Washington Group that while the U.S. has every intention of maintaining close relations with Ukraine, it is not always clear whether Ukraine is capable of putting through the needed reforms, particularly in the areas of the nation's economy, energy and agriculture.

On August 14-15 Sen. Mitch McConnell visited Crimea and Kyiv to access Ukraine's progress in domestic economic reform. Sen. McConnell met with a vacationing President Kuchma in Sevastopol and newly confirmed Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko in Kyiv. He also participated in a signing ceremony of two grant agreements between the Ukrainian Ministry of the Coal Industry and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency.

On August 24 the sixth anniversary of Ukraine's independence was celebrated throughout Ukraine and communities in the West. In Ukraine President Kuchma received a telegram of congratulations from President Clinton. In Washington Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Yuri Shcherbak participated in a ceremony at the Taras Shevchenko Monument and hosted a reception at

the Ukrainian Embassy. On September 17 a congressional Ukrainian Independence Day reception was held at the Rayburn House Office Building. An estimated 150 members of Congress and their staff, diplomats, military officers and Ukrainian Americans attended the event sponsored by the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council.

On September 17 U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller announced the start of open competition for 10 U.S. government, academic exchange programs at a press conference held in Kyiv. The programs, including the Freedom Support Act Future Leaders Exchange, sends hundreds of Ukrainian administrators, teachers and students to the U.S. to develop relations and contacts on a grassroots level.

On October 2 President Clinton announced his nomination of Steven Karl Pifer as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine. Mr. Pifer, a career Senior Foreign Service officer, in August completed an assignment as special assistant to the president and senior director on the National Security Council staff for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasian affairs. On October 29 Mr. Pifer testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at a confirmation hearing that "Ukraine's development as an independent, democratic, market-oriented and prosperous state is of critical importance to the United States. Such a Ukraine will be a key partner as we tackle today's international challenges, expand trade and investment, and shape a more stable and secure Europe." He was confirmed ambassador to Ukraine on November 6.

On October 14 the Commercial Service of the United States Embassy in Ukraine celebrated its fifth anniversary at a reception held at the American Business Center in Kyiv. The Commercial Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, coordinates and promotes U.S. business activity in Ukraine.

On October 21-22 members of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission met in Kyiv to discuss macroeconomic targets for the Ukrainian economy, and deregulation of the energy and agricultural industries in Ukraine. Meetings were led by Ambassador Morningstar and Ukraine's Minister for Economic Reform Serhii Tyhytko.

On November 12 the House of Representatives passed President Clinton's foreign aid bill with a \$225 million earmark for Ukraine.

On November 19 Col. Leonid Kadenyuk became the first Ukrainian cosmonaut to fly on a U.S. spacecraft. The 46-year-old Col. Kadenyuk, who traveled aboard the Columbia space shuttle for 15 days as a payload specialist and conducted a series of science experiments called the Collaborative Ukrainian Experiments, is also the first Ukrainian to fly into space since Ukraine declared its independence in 1991.

Canada-Ukraine: good news and bad

Canada's relationship with Ukraine this year began on a sour note, after Canada's Foreign Affairs Ministry sent Ukraine's vice-consul in Toronto, Oleksander Yushko, home on December 24, 1996.

The 32-year-old diplomat was declared persona non grata after he was charged with impaired driving, possession of stolen property, offering a bribe to a police officer, and allegedly trying to lure two teenage girls into his car with the intent of administering a noxious substance (a handkerchief soaked with the anaesthetic solvent, xylene). Compounding Mr. Yushko's troubles was the fact he had no official diplomatic identification when Metropolitan Toronto Police arrested him.

On a brighter note, a group of Ukrainian Canadian bands from Toronto released a CD titled "I Am Alive" in mid-January, with proceeds from the disc's sale going to the Help Us Help the Children fund.

Fortunately, things appeared rosier on the aid front, when Canada's International Cooperation Minister Don Boudria told The Weekly in mid-February that Ukraine could benefit from more Canadian financial assistance in the future. That would depend on the European Union's admission of Hungary and the Czech Republic, both of which would have to relinquish their claim to Canadian foreign aid. But the reassurance didn't stop some Canadian groups working in Ukraine from wondering how that would be possible, given statements made by Mr. Boudria's boss, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, who said that Canada would re-focus

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its attention from developing countries to international security issues.

Around the same time, Mr. Boudria announced a new Canadian project to support notarial reform in Ukraine. The Canadian International Development Agency, which he headed, gave the Order of Notaries in Quebec \$1.2 million (\$870,000 U.S.) to develop the two-and-a-half-year program with Ukraine's Justice Ministry.

In the meantime, Mr. Axworthy's Ukrainian counterpart, Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadii Udovenko, paid his second official visit to Canada, arriving in Ottawa on March 4 and meeting with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Mr. Axworthy the following day.

Mr. Udovenko also met with Governor General Roméo LeBlanc before visiting Winnipeg on March 6, where he met with Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon and addressed a joint meeting of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce.

Spring found officials from the Canadian Department of Justice setting up court in the Ukrainian coal-mining town, Selydove, where they spent the period from May 26 to June 2 gathering testimony about Vasily Bogutin, an 88-year-old retired Canadian construction worker. Mr. Bogutin is accused of being a member of the Selydove auxiliary police, and the Canadian government wants to strip him of his Canadian citizenship and deport him on the grounds that he lied about his Nazi connection when he applied to enter Canada in 1951.

In June now-former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko arrived in Canada, where he spent five days touring the country with 150 business and government leaders from Ukraine.

During his visit, Mr. Lazarenko attended the Canada-Ukraine Business Initiative '97 Conference in Calgary, where several bilateral agreements were signed and where the ex-PM met with premiers Ralph Klein (Alberta), Roy Romanow (Saskatchewan) and Filmon of Manitoba. Mr. Lazarenko also stopped in Ottawa, where he huddled with Prime Minister Chrétien, just days before Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma sacked him. If his first official trip to Canada proved to be his last, Mr. Lazarenko managed to find some family here, including Winnipeg City Councillor Harry Lazarenko.

Tragedy befell Ukraine's diplomatic community on August 6 when Borys Poliachenko, first secretary for science and technology at the Embassy in Ottawa, fell to his death from a 19th-story balcony. Ottawa-Carleton police considered the incident a suicide. Mr. Poliachenko was scheduled to return to Ukraine three days later as part of a normal rotation.

The community mood was more buoyant later in the month when Ukrainian Canadians celebrated independent Ukraine's sixth birthday. A new festival to mark Ukraine's independence, the Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival, was launched on August 23 with a crowd of 3,000 watching a colorful parade. Former Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk was also in the area, addressing another group of about that size at the St. Volodymyr Cultural Center in Oakville, Ontario, about 30 miles from Toronto. Recalling December 1, 1991, the happiest day of his life — and not because he was elected president — Mr. Kravchuk said he and former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev were wrong in guessing the outcome of Ukraine's sovereignty referendum.

"Mikhail said we would not even get 50 percent, while I said the yes side would poll about 75 percent. The result was over 90 percent supporting independence," said Mr. Kravchuk.

Anniversary celebrations were more somber in Ottawa where Canada's former consul general to Ukraine, Nestor Gayowsky, gave Ukraine a failing grade in its reforms.

Accusing Ukraine's decision-makers of doing little to change the country's image as a "backwater" to Russia, Mr. Gayowsky admitted part of the reason behind Ukraine's sluggish economic performance had to do with the aftereffects of Chernobyl, pollution, energy inefficiency, as well as an "ineffective police force and weak judiciary."

There was good news for Radio Canada International, which has had its share of financial woes. On August 18, Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy and Canadian Heritage Minister Sheila Copps announced that the country's foreign radio service would receive annual funding beginning in 1998. RCI, which broadcasts programming in Ukrainian, Russian, Spanish, Mandarin and Arabic, operates on a \$16 million (\$12 million U.S.) annual budget. Previously, Ottawa had guaranteed money for RCI only until March 31, 1998.

Ukrainian diaspora: forums and contacts

Six hundred and fifty delegates of organizations representing the scattered Ukrainians of the diaspora were gathered with their compatriots in Kyiv on August 20-24 for the second World Forum of Ukrainians, the first having been held in 1992. Although those who attended were unanimous about the great opportunity this presented to mingle and attend concerts and parades with individuals of the same ethnic background, most also deemed it a fundamentally flawed exercise. Khristina Lew's report from our Kyiv Press Bureau described the organizational chaos and Soviet-style voting irregularities in plenary sessions.

The resolutions, more akin to a thematic essay on the use of the Ukrainian language, and vague calls on the diaspora to help improve the mother country's image worldwide, were later deemed "unusable" by officers of the Western-based Ukrainian World Congress.

However, the Forum did serve as a platform for a statesman-like address delivered by President Leonid Kuchma, in which he sought to make Ukrainians all over the world partners in an international effort to shore up Ukrainian culture and his country's economy. It also prompted Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz to comment positively on "the Ukrainian National Association, which is 100 years old," and for UWCC President re-elect Ivan Drach to criticize Ukraine for being "an untransformed remnant of the Soviet Union."

The last 12 months brought varied tidings to the Ukrainian World Congress, as it marked its 30th anniversary with a banquet and a symposium. The fiscal austerity program conducted by the world diaspora body's chief financial officer, William Sametz, began to pay off, in the form of a revived Human Rights Commission (now known as the Commission on Human and Civil Rights) and the hiring of Christina Isajiw as UWC headquarters executive director. Stronger links of communication were established with the Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian community in Russia, thanks in part to the recent arrival in Toronto of Volodymyr Kolomatskyi, a young and energetic Ukrainian-Russian expatriate.

However, the trench between the UWC and the Kyiv-based Ukrainian World Coordinating Council continued to widen, as participants in the UWCC's convention held in Kyiv immediately prior to the World Forum of Ukrainians returned home bedeviled by a variety of frustrations.

Issues of concern — such as UWCC officers' fundamental inability to communicate effectively, difficulties with accountability and reporting, and a failure to grasp the necessity of weaning a non-governmental organization off direct state involvement — were highlighted in an interview with UWC President Dr. Dmytro Cipywnyk prior to the forum and reports in the fall on the Western diaspora body's meetings. Prompted by Mr. Sametz, the UWC decided at a November Presidium meeting to suspend payment of dues until a "report card" on the UWCC is received.

While on duty at the Kyiv Press Bureau, Ms. Lew also

provided a sketch of Ukrainian community life in Poland just prior to the World Forum and, via the words of Jurij Rejt and Mirosław Czech, related the dim view the Association of Ukrainians in Poland also had of the UWCC, and of Ukrainian efforts to raise their status as a minority above that created during Soviet times. Also highlighted were commemorations of the 50th anniversary of Akcja Wisła, the ethnic-cleansing operation conducted by the Polish army and security forces begun in 1947.

Thanks to his attendance at the second congress of the Association of Ukrainians of Russia on October 24-25, Roman Woronowycz provided readers of The Weekly an in-depth look at community politics in the Eurasian country, as well as the Russian Federation government's nationalities policy (based on the concept of "national cultural autonomy"), which AUR President re-elect Oleksander Rudenko-Desniak described as "a social-political experiment on a grand scale that should show whether the government is able to deal with the new realities that exist in national life in the process of the restructuring of society on democratic principles." Mr. Rudenko-Desniak, a recent appointee to President Boris Yeltsin's government, expressed a hesitancy to politicize Ukrainian organizations in the federation.

The AUR also appealed to Mr. Yeltsin regarding the seizure of the Ukrainian Orthodox Epiphany Cathedral in Noginsk, as well as the landmark resumption of "Days of Ukrainian Culture" in Moscow sponsored jointly by the Ukrainian and Russian governments.

Other notes

- 1997 was another busy year for the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO). On June 15-22 its delegates participated in the triennial International Council of Women (including representatives from Kyiv), relating concerns about health in Ukraine to their fellows, particularly as these were affected by the Chernobyl disaster of 1986. In its July 13 issue The Weekly reported that the Toronto-based coordinating body gained consultative status with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in order to provide coordination for assistance to Ukraine's needy children. On October 22-26 the confederation of 22 Ukrainian women's organizations from nine countries held its seventh congress, re-electing Oksana Bryzhun-Sokolyk as its president for another five-year term.

- The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) held its convention at Lake Tahoe, Nevada, on June 18-22, awarding Lifetime Achievement awards to Drs. Bohdan Shebunchak and Oleh Wolansky, and electing Dr. Maria Hrycelak as president for a two-year term.

- On August 23 the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations (AFUO) convened a special meeting of Ukrainian professional and businesspeople's organizations in Sydney to map out a strategy for their future role in the Ukrainian Australian community.

- Ihor Lysyj took members of the "DP" (displaced persons) generation down memory lane with reports on the 50th anniversary of the first graduating class of the Ukrainian Gymnasium in Berchtesgaden which, Mr. Lysyj wrote, "provides a snapshot of [an] immigrant group," and of the reunion held at Soyuzivka in Kerhonkson, N.Y., on October 3-4.



Khristina Lew

Ukrainian and diaspora leaders at the second World Forum of Ukrainians held in Kyiv.

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50th anniversary of Akcja Wisla

At the end of the second world war, Europe and the Soviet Union were patchwork quilts of new borders, administrative zones and occupied territories, among which were scattered millions of refugees. Millions of people who had not fled their homes were then subjected to involuntary deportation and forcible resettlement. Among those to be deported and resettled were Ukrainians who were living within the new borders of Communist Poland after the war.

The forcible resettlement, involuntary deportation and massacre by the Polish government of more than 650,000 Ukrainians from their native ethnic territory took place in two phases: from 1944 to 1947 the Polish government deported 500,000 Ukrainians to the U.S.S.R. (many of whom were subsequently sent to labor camps in Siberia, imprisoned or killed); and throughout the spring, summer and fall of 1947 the Polish government conducted an operation of planned destruction code named Akcja Wisla (Operation Vistula) that forcibly resettled 150,000 ethnic Ukrainians, as well as those of mixed Polish-Ukrainian marriages, from their homes in eastern Poland to territories in northern and western Poland.

Throughout the United States and Canada, events were held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Akcja Wisla and to honor the victims of this campaign. Commemorations included memorial services and concerts, conferences, lectures, photo exhibits and the publication of new material.

One of the groups targeted during Akcja Wisla was Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) supporters and leaders, and since this year was also the 55th anniversary of the founding of the UPA, many commemorative events jointly acknowledged the anniversaries of Akcja Wisla and the UPA.

The Pittsburgh community, where numerous survivors of Akcja Wisla and descendants of expatriated Ukrainians live, honored the memory of victims of Akcja Wisla on September 14. The New York community's commemorations spanned a week of events from October 17-26 that included a conference, a concert and an exhibit of photos and archival documents. The Toronto community organized an ongoing exhibit, which opened on March 26, of more than 200 photos



"Behind Barbed Wire": an exhibit on Akcja Wisla, which opened in Toronto on March 26.

from the period of deportation and detention in the Jaworzno concentration camp.

Among the new information to surface in recent years is evidence that contradicts earlier Polish government claims that Akcja Wisla was not planned in advance. Documents from the archives of the Polish Internal Affairs Ministry prove that plans to eliminate Poland's "Ukrainian problem" (as one of the documents stated), to selectively arrest, imprison and kill leaders of the community, to destroy homes and churches, and to confiscate property had been developed for at least a year prior to the beginning of the operation. Approximately 20,000 Polish military and internal security troops were mobilized to carry out Akcja Wisla, primarily in the Lemko, Sian and Kholm regions. Other archival materials show that though the plans originated with, and were carried out by, the Polish government, the campaign was done with approval and support in Moscow.

On the occasion of this solemn 50th anniversary, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) sent an appeal in January to Poland's President Aleksander Kwasniewski and to the Polish Sejm, asking that Poland's leadership condemn Akcja Wisla in accordance with the U.N. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, as well as consider compensatory actions such as the restoration of community property and financial measures to assist survivors. The UCCA received a response letter several weeks later in which Poland's Secretary of State Marek Siwets acknowledged the criminality and tragedy of Akcja Wisla and condemned it as a "black chapter" in the history of the 20th century.

During the final week of May, in Kyiv, President Kwasniewski and President Leonid Kuchma signed the Declaration on Concord and Unity in which Poland and Ukraine agreed to put aside historical animosities, including Akcja Wisla.

Ukrainians in the U.S.: looking to the future

The year got off to a promising start as far as the significance of our community in the United States is concerned. The second inauguration of President Bill Clinton featured an ethnic perspective as the theme of the weekend celebration was "An American Journey."

A Sunday afternoon brunch on January 19, "A Celebration of the American Mosaic," was hosted by the National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee (NDECC), a subcommittee of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), one of the main organizers behind many inaugural events. A celebration of the strength of America's ethnic diversity, the brunch was entirely produced by ethnic leaders and communities throughout America. Planned as an ethnic salute to the victory of President Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore, the brunch was held in the elegant ballroom of the National Press Club in Washington where leaders and ethnic coordinators from the Democratic Party and more than 500 guests came together to reflect on the role of ethnic diversity in American culture and life.

Yuri Shcherbak, Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S., as well as ambassadors and dignitaries from more than a dozen embassies were also present to salute the accomplishments of ethnic Americans. Numerous representatives of Ukrainian American organizations also were present.

Among the exhibits in the parade, which was held after the president's oath and the traditional luncheon hosted by Congress for the new president, current and former volunteers of the Peace Corps carried the flags of over 130 countries, including Ukraine, where Peace Corps programs have been, and are, active.

The year was marked by several new initiatives within the Ukrainian American community, as well as renewal

and consolidation, plus the commemoration of several significant milestones.

Early in 1997, in an effort to make itself more accessible to the community at large, the Ukrainian American Bar Association instituted a toll-free number available to anyone calling from the United States and Canada. The toll-free number, 1-888-UABA-LAW or 1-888-822-2529, provides pre-recorded information about the association in the English and Ukrainian languages, and permits the caller to leave messages for UABA officers and governors. The number's pre-recorded message also contains referrals of UABA attorneys by state. The Ukrainian American Bar Association commenced its third decade by electing a new president, Bohdanna (Donna) T. Pochoday, the first woman to serve in this capacity. The election of the new slate of UABA officers and board of governors took place at the UABA spring meeting held in Toronto on May 30 - June 1.

During the weekend of November 14-15, the UABA celebrated its 20th anniversary at its fall meeting. The kick-off to the event was a reception at the Embassy of Ukraine. A full-day conference the next day focused on internal and external issues affecting the organization, as well as a special portion titled "UABA: Quo Vadis?" that examined the UABA's past and looked at where the organization is heading.

The largest association of Ukrainian American businesspersons and professionals in the United States, The Washington Group (TWG), elected George Masiuk to an unprecedented third term as president. Mr. Masiuk, a telecommunications engineer, and his slate of board members were elected unanimously during TWG's annual meeting, held on February 15.

TWG, which has 366 members in more than half of the United States, in Canada, Ukraine and France, is widely known for the annual Leadership Conference it sponsors in Washington, featuring prominent government, business and academic leaders from the United States and Ukraine. This year's conference, held on October 10-12, was unique because it took on a tone of introspection to focus on our

community's needs under the theme "We Can do Better: Expanding Horizons for Ukrainian Americans." Panel discussions were held on how Ukrainian American and other ethnic groups organize their efforts, the best ways of influencing the U.S. government and society, working and building connections with Ukraine, and winning and executing government grants.

Individual communities and local institutions also got involved in projects aimed at improving our community life here in the United States.

In April the Ukrainian Heritage School in the Philadelphia area announced "Project Renaissance." According to its mission statement, the project, whose benefits will be available to Ukrainian studies schools nationwide, aims "to develop new materials, methods and strategies for Saturday Ukrainian studies, with a high probability of success in educating present and future generations of American-born children of Ukrainian background." The project has the support of the Educational Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

These goals will be achieved by publishing a new series of textbooks to serve as teaching tools. Separate volumes of new course materials will be developed for different grades and subjects. Each volume will present subjects in a comprehensive manner, including a side-by-side translation of less familiar Ukrainian words into English. There will be activities, exercises and workbook materials with attractive, topical illustrations. A dictionary of all the new words used in the textbook will be compiled at the end of each volume. Separately, there will also be suggested test materials for use by teachers.

Meanwhile, in Chicago, Julian E. Kulas, president and chief executive officer of 1st Security Federal Savings Bank, announced on January 6 that 1st Security has established a not-for-profit charitable foundation called The Heritage Foundation of 1st Security Federal Savings Bank Inc., and committed \$5 million to fund the foundation's initiatives.

The purpose of the foundation is to provide charitable

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financial support to Ukrainian American civic, educational, religious and youth organizations in our communities. 1st Security has set aside \$2.5 million as initial funding for the foundation. The additional \$2.5 million will be funded over the next few years. According to Mr. Kulas, "The Ukrainian community has been very supportive of 1st Security Federal Savings Bank throughout its 32-year history. We view the establishment of The Heritage Foundation of 1st Security Federal Savings Bank Inc. as one way of recognizing the community's support. We hope that the foundation will be helpful in preserving our national identity, our heritage and our organized communities in the United States."

Another hallmark of 1997 was consolidation as three Ukrainian fraternal organizations moved closer to a merger. The Ukrainian National Aid Association of America (UNAAA) and the Ukrainian Fraternal Association (UFA) are in the process of negotiating mergers with the Ukrainian National Association [see "The UNA: moves, mergers and missions"].

Things seemed to be proceeding without major impediments on the UNAAA merger, but when it came to the UFA there was one major sticking point: the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance (which regulates the activity of fraternal societies chartered in that state) was calling for the sale of that fraternal society's Verkhovyna resort in Glen Spey, N.Y., as the UFA's entire reserve is tied up in the resort.

During the year there were at least two groups that tried to rally support for keeping the Verkhovyna in Ukrainian hands, particularly because many Ukrainians have purchased or built homes in the immediate vicinity, as well as two churches, one Catholic and one Orthodox. At year's end, the fate of Verkhovyna remained unclear.

Unity remained elusive on another front, however, as the two central organizations of Ukrainians in the United States — the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council (UACC) — let another year go by without achieving community unity.

One local community, that of North Port, Fla., sponsored two town-hall-type meetings at which the principal topic was unifying the UCCA and UACC into one umbrella organization for the benefit of the entire community. The speakers were UCCA President Askold Lozynskyj (on February 22) and UACC President Ulana Diachuk (on March 19). Both stressed the importance of the Ukrainian community in the U.S. speaking with one voice to the entire world.

The two organizations continued to collaborate during 1997 on various joint projects, such as a reception for President Leonid Kuchma (June 23) and a testimonial dinner for Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadii Udovenko (December 6), who had been elected president of the 52nd session of the United Nations General Assembly in September. By year's end, however, unity still had not been achieved and the rift that occurred in 1980 remained a blemish on community life.

There were several milestones in our community life in 1997.

At the New York-based Ukrainian Institute of America, in preparation for a simultaneous celebration of the building's 100th anniversary and the institute's 50th birthday in 1998, scaffolding and netting was set up as workmen tackled a roof repair project expected to cost \$250,000: removing and replacing 25 percent of the slate, and repairing valleys and gutters around the dormers, where leaks have been developing.

Built in 1898 for banker/broker Isaac D. Fletcher, the magnificent limestone mansion has a French Gothic style characteristic of the work of C.P.H. Gilbert — a profusion of crockets, pinnacles, moldings and other details. Mr. Fletcher left the house in 1917 to The Metropolitan Museum, which retained his art collection, but sold the building to Harry F. Sinclair, the self-made oil magnate who founded the Sinclair Oil Co., who later sold his home to Augustus Van Horne Stuyvesant Jr., a descendant of Gov. Peter Stuyvesant.

The Ukrainian Institute of America, founded in 1948 by Ukrainian-born inventor William Dzus, bought the house in 1955 as a center for the preservation of the culture, history, art and music of Ukraine. Located along Fifth Avenue's "Museum Mile," the building received national landmark status in 1978 from the U.S. Department of the Interior and has been listed in the New York State Register of Historic Places since 1981.

The institute has played an important role in New York's Ukrainian cultural life for almost 50 years. In its early years it served as rehearsal space for Walter Bacad's Ukraine Dancers and as the home of the fledgling Ukrainian Museum (now located downtown on Second

Avenue and soon to move into its own building on East Sixth Street [see "The arts: music in the forefront"]. The 400-member organization has developed a variety of programs, including literary evenings, sociopolitical lectures, academic seminars, press conferences, drama presentations and a regular season of musical soirees held under the banner of Music At The Institute (MATI).

Two very visible and active Ukrainian organizations marked significant anniversaries this year. The Ukrainian American Military Association marked the first anniversary of its founding by a particularly active group of U.S. military personnel; and the Ukrainian American Veterans began celebrations of their 50th anniversary. Both organizations met at Soyuzivka during the weekend of September 26-28, and the official announcement of the UAMA's affiliation with the UAV was proclaimed during a joint banquet. Steven Szewczuk was elected national commander of the UAV; Maj. Roman Golash (USAR), was elected to head the UAMA.

The Ukrainian American Military Association was established by active and reserve personnel from various military services who were already using their Ukrainian heritage to bridge contacts between the United States and Ukraine. Members of the UAMA provide Ukrainian military interpreters for missions between their land and the land of their forefathers.

The Ukrainian American Veterans organization unites more than 500 veterans who served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. Its goals are to promote veterans' concerns and also, as noted in the organization's mission statement, "to sustain the Constitution, government and laws of the United States." As noted in its constitution, one of the purposes of the UAV is "to aid the Ukrainian people in promoting the growth of democracy in the newly proclaimed Ukraine, and to acquaint the people of the United States with the true allegiance and fidelity of all Ukrainians to the principles of the government of the United States, its Constitution and laws ..." The organization traces its roots to the 1947 convention of the Ukrainian Youth League of North America, where a group of activists took steps toward the establishment of a permanent national veterans' organization (Ukrainian American veterans' posts date back to the period after World War I). Its founding convention was held on Memorial Day 1948.

The Washington office of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, which is known as the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) marked its 20th anniversary with a gala banquet on November 1. UCCA President Askold Lozynskyj spoke about the effectiveness and importance of its work in the nation's capital. As a result of UNIS efforts with Congress and the various administrations over the past two decades, Mr. Lozynskyj said, "today, the Ukrainian community is not some amorphous mass; it established itself in Washington and government circles as a force to be reckoned with."

Also addressing the 100 guests who came to honor UNIS at the Key Bridge Marriott Hotel were the Ukrainian Embassy's chargé d'affaires, Volodymyr Belashov; the principal deputy to the State Department's ambassador-at-large and special advisor to the secretary of state for the new independent states, Ross Wilson, who gave the

keynote address; former UCCA president Lev Dobriansky; the first UNIS director, George Nesterchuk; and its current director, Michael Sawkiw Jr. UNIS also received written greetings from Vice-President Al Gore, Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadii Udovenko, and the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus [see "U.S.-Ukraine: agenda dominated by corruption"].

UNIS Director Sawkiw pointed out that the one word that describes UNIS best is "dedication" — the dedication of those who worked for it and those who supported its work. Mr. Sawkiw presented a special UNIS award to its founder and first director, Mr. Nesterchuk.

Our community round-up would not be complete without a mention of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, which held its third national convention on September 13-14 with 45 delegates from 10 chapters participating and pledging to continue the mission of helping victims of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The convention featured an address by Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak; panel presentations on a variety of topics, ranging from women's and children's health in Ukraine to a session on public relations and marketing geared toward helping CCRF chapters succeed in their work; and a banquet attended by nearly 250 people during which special awards were presented to chapters, individual activists and supporters of the CCRF's work. Delegates to the biennial convention elected a new 14-member board of directors, which met immediately after the convention's adjournment and elected Orest Dubno, who has served on the CCRF board since 1993, as its chairman.

It was an occasion also to announce a major contribution: an unrestricted gift of \$350,000 from John Deere & Co., \$250,000 of which will be used by the CCRF to establish an endowment fund. A portion of these funds was used for the relief organization's 19th airlift of medical supplies and equipment which arrived in Ukraine in November, as well as to support the CCRF's Women's and Children's Health Initiative in the Dnipropetrovsk region of Ukraine whose first sponsor was the Monsanto Corp.

Earlier in the year, on March 10, the CCRF had airlifted its 18th shipment of humanitarian aid to Ukraine. The 42 tons of cargo, valued at \$1.7 million, benefited a children's hospital in Chernihiv and the Women's and Children's Health Initiative.

1997 marked a somber note for lovers of Ukrainian culture. The largest Ukrainian festival in the United States, the Ukrainian Festival USA held annually in Holmdel, N.J., has historically played an important role in demonstrating and differentiating Ukrainian cultural and national identity. Regularly a stop for politicians including state governors, members of Congress, ambassadors and even presidential candidates, it served as a proud and festive day for Ukrainian Americans, Canadians and lovers of Ukrainian heritage, showcasing the finest in Ukrainian entertainment from all over the world, as well as hundreds of arts and crafts vendors showing off the beauty and diversity of Ukraine and its people.

For a number of reasons, this past year's festival may have marked the end of a 22-year tradition. Along with new ownership of the Arts Center, there is a desire by the current New Jersey governor to consolidate all the Eastern



A tête-à-tête during the presentation of the CCRF's ambulance to the Lviv Regional Children's Specialized Clinical Hospital for Chernobyl Problems: First Ladies Hillary Rodham Clinton and Liudmyla Kuchma with Nadia Matkiwsky (right).

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European festivals into one. Also, the past three Ukrainian festivals have not been profitable. Most recently, the Ukrainian festival committee, although consisting mostly of members with good intentions, has been ineffective in identifying and addressing the root causes of the recent problems. Some committee members have indicated that a lack of responsible and democratic committee leadership over the past two years has helped seal the fate of one of the most popular and significant Ukrainian cultural events in America.

Pointing to the fact that the 1997 Ukrainian Festival USA was nothing like those in the past, as everything seemed to be scaled down, one reader from Lawrenceville, N.J., wrote: "We felt that we were witnessing the demise of this marvelous festival."

As 1997 drew to a close, there was news in the historical sphere.

The California State Historical Resources Commission named the Rev. Ahapius Honcharenko's ranch and burial place a California Historical Landmark during its hearing on November 14 in Oakland. The "Ucraina" ranch, located in Hayward, Calif., about 30 miles southeast of San Francisco, was home from 1873 until his death in 1916 of the first Ukrainian political émigré to the United States. The Rev. Honcharenko, who settled in San Francisco, published the trilingual (English-Russian-Ukrainian) newspaper *Alaska Herald*, subtitled *Svoboda*, from 1868-1873 to serve the Ukrainian and Russian population of Alaska.

The Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford dedicated its vastly expanded, renovated and modernized Ukrainian Cultural Research Center on November 22. The center, which is located in two large buildings on the campus of St. Basil College Seminary and the diocesan center, combines museum, library and archival collections. Brought to fruition by Bishop Basil Losten, the center's roots can be traced to the vision of Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky who first spoke of establishing a Ukrainian educational center in the United States for those who had left their homeland and for their descendants.

Thus, as we concluded 1997, Ukrainian Americans in general seemed to be looking back and ahead at the same time and rightfully so. For in order to make a better tomorrow for our community here, we have to be aware of its past.

Ukrainians in Canada: redress still unresolved

The year began with a new Ukrainian Canadian face in the Manitoba Cabinet when Premier Gary Filmon, himself a Ukrainian Canadian, named Franklin Pitura the new government services minister. The other Ukrainian Canadian government officials are Darren Praznik, who was moved from the energy and mines portfolio to health, and Leonard Derkach, who remained minister of rural development.

In nearby Alberta, Ed Stelmach, re-elected to the provincial legislature on March 11, was appointed Alberta's minister of agriculture. Mr. Stelmach, of Andrew, Alberta, represents the Vegreville-Viking constituency in northeastern Alberta. As Alberta's agriculture minister, he secured one of the highest profile portfolios in the Alberta government, whose agricultural sector is the province's largest employer.

But there wasn't much of a change in the relationship between the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the federal government this year. Ottawa still said no to the UCCLA's redress claim for the internment of some 5,000 Ukrainian Canadians during World War I.

In a February interview with *The Weekly*, Canadian Secretary of State for Multiculturalism Dr. Hedy Fry questioned the effectiveness of the association's plans to place individual memorials at internment camps across the country. "We can only try to change our future by having learned from the past," said Dr. Fry, a physician, who represents the downtown riding of Vancouver Center in House of Commons.

Speaking in Parliament on October 10, Member of Parliament Indy Mark, who represents the Manitoba riding of Dauphin-Swan River, displayed a hand-written registry of enemy aliens interned at the Spirit Lake Camp in Quebec; the list contains the names of 257 Ukrainians interned there. Nearly all evidence of Canada's internment camps, save for this registry, had been destroyed by the government. Mr. Mark spoke out against the injustice done to Ukrainian Canadians and asked MPs to bring about justice and closure to this regrettable event in Canadian history.



The Red River's flood waters in Manitoba.

Over on the West Coast, the Vancouver Island city of Nanaimo acknowledged its role in the interment of Ukrainian immigrants during World War I. On May 24 a plaque was unveiled to remember the almost 150 internees who were held in a camp there from 1914 to 1915. Funds for this project were raised entirely within the Ukrainian community.

The next unveiling took place June 7 in Vernon, British Columbia, the internment camp where thousands were imprisoned between September 18, 1914, and February 20, 1920. MacDonald Park and Seaton High School now stand on that site. The Vernon camp's only known survivor, Fred Kohse (internee No. 5019), attended the solemn ceremony. Late in the year, Mr. Kohse suffered a stroke.

Albert Bobyk and Sonya Karashowsky, the adult children of two Ukrainian Canadians who were unjustly interned at the Canadian concentration camp once in operation in Brandon, Manitoba, watched in quiet reflection as a memorial plaque for those who were interned there from November 27, 1914, to July 29, 1916, was unveiled on November 27. Mr. Bobyk's and Mrs. Karashowsky's fathers, William Bobyk and Michael Tuer, were two of the more than 900 Ukrainian Canadian men who were interned in Brandon. The plaque unveiled in Brandon was the eighth plaque placed by the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association. It is the goal of the UCCLA to dedicate a similar plaque at each of the 26 internment sites across Canada.

Over 5,000 Ukrainians were imprisoned in concentration camps established across Canada during Canada's first national internment operations in 1914-1920. They were rounded up because they came from the Austrian crownlands of Galicia and Bukovina, areas held by the Austro-Hungarian empire, and, under the War Measures Act of 1914, they were categorized as "enemy aliens."

In February, a traveling exhibit recalling the historic episode arrived in Ottawa. "The Barbed Wire Solution - Ukrainian Canadians and Canada's First Internment Operations" opened at the Karsh-Masson Gallery at Ottawa City Hall. The display was produced by the Toronto-based Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center.

Also in February, CBS-TV's "60 Minutes" came under fire from the Ukrainian Canadian community over its "Canada's Dark Secret" program, which examined the presence of alleged Nazi war criminals in the country. In a January 31 letter to the federal broadcasting regulator, the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, sent two days before the show was aired, Ukrainian Canadian Congress President Oleh Romaniw suggested the segment would "misrepresent the Canadian government's measures in regard to alleged war criminals in Canada, as well as the numbers and nationalities of these persons." An Edmonton television station did not air the program. A couple of weeks later, after it was accused of censorship by a local newspaper TV critic, the station broadcast the show.

The war-crimes issue within the Ukrainian Canadian community was revived on February 25 when the federal government named Serhij Kisluk, 74, of St. Catharines, Ontario, as a suspected Nazi collaborator. Accused of participating in "atrocities against the civilian population" in Ukraine as a member of the German-organized Ukrainian

auxiliary police, Mr. Kisluk faced losing his Canadian citizenship and deportation. He became the ninth Canadian accused of being a Nazi war criminal by the federal government.

Two months later, the community was again rocked when Steven Rambam, a private investigator from New York City who appeared on the controversial "60 Minutes" episode, and Bernie Farber, national director of community relations for the Canadian Jewish Congress, unveiled a "1-800-rat-on-a-Nazi" toll-free telephone strategy to help hunt down war criminals in Canada.

Mr. Farber denied the campaign was aimed at any one ethnic group, and the UCC's Mr. Romaniw insisted relations between the Jewish community and the Ukrainian Canadians wouldn't be hurt by the project - though the UCC maintained its "made-in-Canada" solution for bringing suspected war criminals to justice.

At year's end, Canada's Ministry of Justice announced that American lawyer Neal Sher, former director of the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, had been appointed as a special consultant to the ministry's War Crimes Unit. The Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association reacted by noting the OSI's less than pristine record in pursuing war crimes cases in the U.S., as its personnel have been accused of using forged documents and of failing to disclose exculpatory evidence. The appointment of Mr. Sher came despite the fact that a group of Ukrainian Canadian leaders had met on November 13 in Edmonton with Justice Minister Anne McLellan and voiced their strong objections to Mr. Sher being put on the Canadian government payroll.

The UCC and the Canadian Jewish Congress held a roundtable on Canadian unity in March, in Winnipeg where Canada's Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion called on members of both communities to keep the country together.

Federal politics were also on the mind of some members of the Ukrainian Canadian community in April who worried that Canada's commitment to funding multicultural programs was wavering.

Following an April 21 meeting of the Canadian Ethnocultural Council in Ottawa, Dr. Bohdan Kordan, co-chairperson of the UCC's Government Relations Committee, blamed the federal government's preoccupation with preventing Quebec's separation from Canada for interfering with its commitment to other ethnic groups. "Ultimately, Canadian society is a federation of communities," he said, "which includes the multicultural community." Saying that Ottawa has been highlighting social justice issues, particularly those that affect recent immigrants to the country, Dr. Kordan added, "The Ukrainian Canadian community has also been subject to historical discrimination, such as the redress question."

Winnipeggers had something more immediate on their minds on May 1 when the Red River's floodwaters reached their crest. Some 8,000 people were evacuated from their homes in the city, bringing the province-wide flood exodus to almost 25,000.

Winnipeg's Ukrainian Catholic archeparchy, whose archbishop's residence overlooks the Red River, started its own flood-relief effort and sent monies raised to the

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Canadian Red Cross-Manitoba Flood Appeal. The Toronto branch of the UCC also helped out in the fund-raising push, sending \$30,000 to Manitoba's flood victims. With floodwaters on their mind, Manitobans also didn't fancy the idea of thinking about the federal election, the campaign for which was under way. When the day arrived on June 2, several Ukrainian Canadians won seats in the House of Commons, including Ontario Liberal MP Walt Lastewka and Saskatchewan New Democrat John Solomon.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's return to power for a second term also mobilized the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation, which distributed an informal questionnaire to candidates on issues affecting the community and planned to work with MPs in the new Parliament to get the UCPBF's own agenda addressed. "All I hear from the community is that the government doesn't do this or the government doesn't do that," said former federation president Raya Shadursky. "But at no point in time does anybody provide solutions on how we can access politicians and get our message across."

Earlier in the year, in New Westminster, near Vancouver, the first and only Ukrainian Canadian to receive the Victoria Cross, Filip Konowal, was honored with his own plaque at an April 5 ceremony. The Ukrainian émigré was celebrated for his heroic efforts during the battle of Vimy Ridge. Konowal died in Ottawa in 1959.

There were several signs of new directions for Ukrainian Canadians.

The future of Canada's Ukrainian community in the next century was the principal issue discussed at the 1997 biennial convention of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation (UCPBF) held in Calgary on August 1-4. Some 135 persons representing Ukrainian professional and business associations from coast to coast participated. The UCPBF also elected a new president: Calgary journalist Donna Korchinski, who became the second woman to hold the post. Federation delegates agreed to focus on 21st-century themes, such as the Internet. Among other top issues: seeking redress for interment and expanding youth involvement.

The 34-year-old Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko in June welcomed a new president, Andrew Hladyshevsky of Edmonton, who also represents the UCPBF on the foundation's seven-member board of directors.

Ukrainian educators from across Canada met in Winnipeg on October 24-25 to develop an action plan, including an advocacy campaign for expanding use of the Ukrainian language and a nationwide needs assessment program. The conference led to a division of labor among the Ukrainian Canadian Committee (both national and provincial), the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, the Ukrainian Canadian School Board of Toronto bilingual program, parental organizations and educators. The results of the needs assessment are to be presented at the 19th Congress of Ukrainian Canadians in October 1998.

The 31-year-old National Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin received an injection of new blood, with Dr. Mark Symchych, just a year older than the annual celebration, taking the helm as president.

Academia: conferences and major publications

Ukraine's emerging presence in geopolitics has certainly made an impression on academia, since a number of this year's conferences turned out to be policy talk shops, which often included U.S. government personnel, expatriate scholars currently serving as advisors to the Ukrainian government and officials from Kyiv.

NATO expansion talk shops

Bookending the signing of a NATO-Ukraine Charter in July were two conferences on the significance and direction of the Black Sea state's relations with the Euro-Atlantic alliance. On June 4, the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City hosted a one-day affair, titled "After NATO Expands: Consequences for Ukraine and the Baltics," that featured Estonian diplomat Riina Kionka, Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Yuri Shcherbak, U.S. National Security Council representative Carlos Pascual, Victoria Nuland of the U.S. State Department's Council on Foreign Relations and Dr. Alexander Motyl of Columbia University's Harriman Institute. The Freedom House co-sponsored event also attracted several East European members of the United Nations diplomatic corps.

Dr. Shcherbak revealed that Ukraine had a target date for alignment and integration with European institutions



Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj

Seated at the conference "Toward a New Ukraine" (from left) are: Ambassador Anatolii Zlenko, Mykola Zhulynsky, Dr. Bohdan Hawrylyshyn and Ramon Hnatyshyn.

(the year 2020), greeted the prospect of Poland and Hungary's admission into NATO, and expressed confidence that NATO would reinforce a zone of peace and stability on the continent.

The other speakers complimented Ukraine's diplomatic corps and foreign policy apparatus for its "brilliance" in recent years, and Ms. Nuland praised Kyiv for having forged an independent stand between a "grumpy, trapped Russia and an empowered, robust NATO." On the other hand, Prof. Motyl cautioned that recent successes are not likely to be sustained for a long time, since he contended Russia would move to counter NATO's gains.

On October 10, it was York University's turn to host a one-day symposium in Toronto under the rubric "Ukraine between Russia and NATO." Another impressive list of participants included Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovainyi, the former commander of Ukraine's Black Sea Fleet; Dr. Hryhorii Perepelytsia, chief analyst at the Institute of Strategic Studies in Kyiv; Sherman Garnett of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; the Rand Corporation's Dr. Roman Solchanyk; and Waterloo University's Prof. John Jaworsky.

Admiral Bezkorovainyi and Dr. Perepelytsia expressed their satisfaction that Western support in general and NATO expansion specifically had finally allowed their country room to maneuver in negotiations with its obstreperous neighbor, Russia.

Mr. Garnett said Ukraine's recent foreign policy success has prompted ambitions that could not be supported given the country's present economic condition and current political reality, and pointed out that neither NATO countries nor Russia would be keen to see Ukraine's military-industrial complex become too successful, for the simple economic reason that it is a high-tech competitor in a world glutted with weapons now that the massive confrontation of the Cold War is over.

Independence evaluated at Harvard, Ottawa

More broadly evaluatory were two symposia whose participants surveyed the first five years of Ukraine's independence. For the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at Ottawa University, the "Toward a New Ukraine: Ukraine and the New World Order, 1991-1996" conference held on March 21-22 was its first major initiative and a resounding success, as just under 300 people packed the university's largest classroom for the sessions.

Speakers included Dr. Bohdan Krawchenko, vice-rector of Kyiv's Academy of Public Administration; Dr. Bohdan Hawrylyshyn, chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament's Council of Advisors; former Minister of Foreign Affairs (then serving as ambassador to the U.N.) Anatolii Zlenko; former Vice Prime Minister Mykola Zhulynsky; Andrii Veselovsky, deputy director of policy analysis at Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Taras Kuzio, fellow of the University of Birmingham Center for Russian and East European Studies; and Dr. Borys Gudziak, director of Lviv's Institute of Church History.

Principal organizer Prof. Theofil Kis and his Ottawa-based committee oversaw an intensive discussion of everything from Kyiv's bureaucratic and social inheritance from the defunct USSR to the Ukrainian diaspora's

role in supporting Ukrainian governmental initiatives.

On the eve of the sixth anniversary of Ukraine's independence, the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) completed a yearlong project devoted to the examination of the country's most recent five years of statehood with a conference, "Ukraine Since Independence: A Symposium on Politics, Economics, Society and Culture," held in Cambridge, Mass., on July 31-August 2.

Tackling subjects relating to the political and economic situation in Ukraine were conference regulars Drs. Krawchenko and Solchanyk, joined by HURI's James Clem, the University of Toledo's Margarita Balcemeda, Harvard Ukrainian Studies editor Dr. Andrew Sorokowski, Harvard Institute for International Development Director Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, the former director of the World Bank Kyiv Office, Dr. Daniel Kaufmann, the International Monetary Fund's Oleh Havrylyshyn, and Anders Aslund of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Solomea Pavlychko of the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Literature, University of Nevada Prof. Virko Baley and Yuri Shevchuk of the New School for Social Research held forth on cultural and linguistic matters.

Columbia's Dr. Motyl rounded out the conference by suggesting that many analysts' "fetish of economic policy" blinds them to Kyiv's avoidance of authoritarian solutions to its problems and pursuit of relatively balanced development.

Hrushevsky part of banner year for publications

It would seem that Ukrainian academia has little to fear from the cliché that rules university life: "publish or perish." The Weekly noted at 1997's outset the appearance of University of Toronto Prof. Paul Robert Magocsi's "A History of Ukraine," a tome certain to find broad currency and to stir healthy debate.

But on this front 1997 will remain notable as the year the first volume of "Istoria Ukrainy-Rusy," the seminal work by the unrivaled giant of Ukrainian historiography, Mykhailo Hrushevsky, was issued in English translation by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) Press.

The Hrushevsky Translation Project, an undertaking of the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research (PJCUIHR) at the CIUS, is led by director Dr. Frank Sysyn and draws on the expertise of an international team of scholars.

Book launches were held at the CIUS's home base in Edmonton, in New York, Philadelphia, Toronto, and in Seattle, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, to celebrate the achievement of New York-based translator Marta Skorupsky and the team of editors.

In its November 9 issue, The Weekly carried an interview with Harvard's Ihor Sevchenko, a participant in several of the book launches, who compared Hrushevsky's scholarly method and style to that of Fernand Braudel, the influential French founder of the "Istoire Totale" (Total History) school, and said "[the English translation in question] could very well be useful ... for a person for-

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At the Toronto book launch for the first volume of the English-language *History of Ukraine-Rus'* by Mykhailo Hrushevsky (from left) are: Prof. Ihor Sevcenko, Petro Jacyk and Dr. Frank Sysyn.

mulating policy in Europe.”

The CIUS Press issued a Ukrainian translation of Dr. Kohut's "Russian Centralism and Ukrainian Autonomy" as part of an effort to make examples of Western historiography on Ukraine more readily accessible in that country. Also launched were "Ukraine Between East and West," a collection of Prof. Ihor Sevcenko's essays based on his lectures at Harvard University.

The Weekly's Canada Courier columnist Chris Guly focused on Ukrainian Canadian artist William Kurelek's biographer, Michael Ewanchuk, and in the July 6 issue The Weekly carried a review of the recent release.

For the October 15 issue, the Shevchenko Scientific Society submitted a descriptive list of publications with which it complemented, via anthologies and monographs on literature and linguistics, the above-mentioned CIUS effort of bringing Western scholarship by such noted academics as Prof. George Shevelov and Prof. George Luckyj to readers of Ukrainian.

An institution that has served readers in Ukraine for over 50 years, the Vasyl Stefanyk Scientific Library of Ukraine's Academy of Sciences in Lviv found itself financially imperiled, and issued an urgent call for support. A number of Western-based institutions and individuals responded, most notably publishing and research entrepreneur Oleksander Kobasa, of Chester, Pa., who donated \$50,000.

Institutional doings in U.S. and Canada

- Thanks to the efforts McMaster University Emeritus Prof. Peter Potichnyj, the Petro Jacyk Central and East European Resource Center at the University of Toronto established a collection of archival material on the Ukrainian insurgent movement (including documentation of Soviet and Nazi countermeasures) in the Hamilton-based scholar's name on March 18.

- On April 4, the University of Toronto's Center for Russian and East European Studies hosted a roundtable on Ukrainian history and historiography, organized by frequent Weekly contributor Dr. Marta Dyczok, with Dr. Sysyn, Dr. Kohut, Prof. Magocsi, Prof. Subtelny, and the director of Lviv University's Institute of Historical Research Prof. Yaroslav Hrytsak participating.

- Yale University's Council on Russian and East European Studies and the Center for International and Area Studies, supported by the Chopivsky Family Foundation and The Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs held a two-day international conference on "Attaining Ukraine's Agro-Industrial Potential" on April 11-12.

- At the Ottawa-based St. Paul University, the Sheptytsky Institute established a second chair, in Eastern Christian Liturgy, and installed its holder, Dr. Petro Galadza, on April 28.

- The Harvard Ukrainian Business Initiative sponsored a seminar on "Prospects for Economic Reform and Development in Ukraine in Light of Recent Political and Economic Events" hosted by HURI on May 1.

- In July, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign hosted the 16th annual Conference on Ukrainian Subjects, focusing on the Ukrainian language in contemporary Ukraine and library cooperation

between Ukraine and North America.

- In The Weekly's July 27 issue, the Ukrainian Historical Association announced the election of a new slate of officers, headed by Prof. Lubomyr Wynar, president; Prof. Alexander Baran (Winnipeg), vice-president; Prof. Alexander Dombrowsky, secretary-treasurer; and including Prof. Mykhailo Braichevskyi (head of the UHA branch in Kyiv), Prof. Arkadii Zhukovskyi (Paris), Dr. Bohdan Klid (Edmonton), Prof. Stefan Kozak (Warsaw) and Dr. Andrew Sorokowski (HURI).

- The summer election of Encyclopedia of Ukraine editor-in-chief Prof. Danylo Husar Struk as president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) in Europe was noted in The Weekly's September 21 issue, and his vision for making it a major scholarly center on the continent was explored in an interview.

- The HURI conducted the 27th annual Ukrainian Summer Institute in Cambridge, with a record number of students from Ukraine participating (21) and others arriving from as far away as Taiwan, Germany and Austria, joining enrollees from Canada and the U.S.

- The HURI celebrated the launch of Dr. Vincent Shandor's "Carpatho-Ukraine in the Twentieth Century: A Political and Legal History," and honored Dr. Shandor's life as a Carpatho-Ukrainian statesman, scholar and champion of Ukrainian statehood, on November 7.

- The Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies, which fund-raises for the CIUS and other organizations to promote the development of Ukrainian studies in Canada, on August 1-2 elected a new executive headed by Christine Stodilka of Toronto.

The arts: music in the forefront

Music continued to be prominent on the cultural scene, both in terms of the calibre of individual performers, quartets and choirs and in terms of the promotion of Ukrainian music in the West.

The two outstanding events of the season were Ukraine's participation in "The Glory of Byzantium" exhibition, which opened at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in March, and the American debut of the Kyiv Chamber Choir, under the direction of Mykola Hobdych, in a series of performances, including Carnegie Hall on December 21.

Also, a big project finally got under way — the projected new building for The Ukrainian Museum in New York — entered the construction phase.

Among highlights of the season were the following.

MUSIC

Performers

- The Luba and Ireneus Zuk Piano Duo, with the participation of Eugene Husaruk, violin, and Marcel Saint-Cyr, cello, premiered new Ukrainian works in a

concert of Ukrainian chamber music titled "Music from Ukraine," held in Pollack Concert Hall in Montreal on February 10.

- Harpsichordist Nadia Bohachewsky-Soree was awarded first prize at the International Bach Harpsichord competition by the Baroque music society Les Idées Heureses, which took place on May 2-4 in Montreal.

- Nineteen-year-old Mykhailo Danchenko of Kyiv was the youngest contender and semifinalist at the 10th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, which opened on May 22 in Forth Worth, Texas.

- Concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky, professor at the Dana School of Music of Youngstown State University in Ohio, was on concert tours of Croatia, Oman, Malaysia, Great Britain and Australia.

- The CD recordings of the violin sonatas of Bartok and Brahms by violinist Oleh Krysa and pianist Tatiana Tchekina were reviewed in Classic CD and American Record Guide, respectively, as an "outstandingly sensitive performance" and as being "among the very finest recordings of these works ever made."

- Conductor and violinist Adrian Bryttan was appointed conductor of the Vassar Orchestra at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and of the New Jersey Youth Symphony in New Providence, N.J., this fall.

- Oleksander Havryliuk, Oleksander Hryniuk, Vitaliy Baran, Denys Proshchayev, Bryan Wallick and Oleksiy Koltakov — six outstanding young pianists from Ukraine and the U.S., winners of the second Vladimir Horowitz International Young Pianists' Competition held in Kyiv in April — appeared in a series of concerts in the U.S. in October.

- The Leontovych String Quartet — Yuri Mazurkevich, first violin; Yuri Kharenko, violin; Borys Deviatov, viola; and Volodymyr Panteleyev, cello — and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky appeared in concert at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall on November 24.

- Oboist Ihor Leschishin of Lviv and violinist/conductor Taras Krysa have been performing with the renowned New World Symphony in Miami Beach this season.

- Due to the efforts of violoncellist Gregory Bemko and his wife, concert pianist Yoshiko Niyya, the Lake San Marcos Chamber Music Society in California, of which they are the founders, has established a concert series with performances by world-class artists. Among invited performers this year have been leading Ukrainian musicians, among them: violinist Anatoliy Bazhenov, pianists Mykola Suk and Volodymyr Vynnytsky, and cellist Natalia Khoma.

Composers

- Tribute was paid to the creative legacy of Ukrainian diaspora composer Ihor Sonevtsky on the occasion of his 70th birthday with a composer's evening held at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York in January and in a series of concerts in Miami and in Washington this spring.

- A concert featuring the music of Evhen Stankovych, one of the central figures of contemporary Ukrainian music, was held on November 22 at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York.

Singers

- Stepán Stépan, lead baritone of the Lviv Opera, was in the U.S. in August for the opening concert of the summer series at the Music and Art Center of Greene County in Hunter, N.Y., and subsequently appeared in recital for various Ukrainian communities performing arias of the Western classic tradition and Ukrainian repertoire.

- Maria Stefiuk, lead soprano of the Kyiv Opera and recognized operatic soloist in Europe, was in the U.S. for a series of concerts, which commenced with her appearance at the Music and Art Center of Greene County in Hunter, N.Y., on August 30.

- Oksana Krovytska returned to the New York City Opera this season for her fifth consecutive year as leading soprano to sing Musetta in "La Bohème" and the title role in Puccini's "Madama Butterfly." Ms. Krovytska also appeared with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra and CSO Chorus, the Brooklyn Philharmonic at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and in recital at Carnegie's Weill Hall.

- Bass Paul Plishka, star of The Metropolitan Opera, released a popular CD titled "Christmas with Paul Plishka" on the Naxos label, where he sings a selection of Christmas songs and carols in a variety of languages, including Ukrainian.

- A commemorative concert held on the 50th anniversary of Akcja Wisla and the 55th anniversary of the founding of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) was held at

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The Cooper Union in New York on October 19. Featured were prominent performers, among them internationally recognized pianist Alexander Slobodyanik, tenor Volodymyr Grishko of the New York City Opera, pianist Vitalii Baran of Lviv — one of the winners of this year's Horowitz piano competition — soprano Alexandra Hrabova, dancer Andriy Cybyk and New York's Promin vocal ensemble under the direction of Bohdanna Wolansky.

Choirs

- The late Hryhorii Kytasty, longtime artistic director of the Detroit-based Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, who recreated the bandurist tradition within the Ukrainian émigré community, was honored on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of his birth with a grand concert at the Ukraina House of Culture in Kyiv on January 17.

- The music of Maestro Kytasty was released on a CD recording titled "Hryhorii Kytasty: Music for Solo Bandura and Songs" by his great-nephew, Julian Kytasty, director of the New York School of Bandura in New York.

- The Kyiv Symphonic Choir and Orchestra, under the direction of Roger G. McMurrin, appeared in concert at the Riverside Church in Manhattan in October.

- The Winnipeg-based Olexander Koshetz Choir, under the direction of Walter Klymkiw, released a CD titled "A Festival of Ukrainian Choral Music," featuring religious works, songs of Christmas and New Year, historical and patriotic songs, and folk song arrangements.

- The 45-member Ukrainian Bandura Chorus, under the direction of 27-year-old Oleh Mahlay, was on a concert tour of the eastern U.S. and Canada this October.

- The 20-member Kyiv Chamber Choir, Ukraine's premier a cappella choir, which has earned international recognition as one of the outstanding chamber choirs in Europe, made its American debut in a series of concerts of Ukrainian liturgical and Christmas music of the 17th-20th centuries. Among the choir's appearances were performances at The White House and the Washington National Cathedral, and in concert at Carnegie Hall on December 21. The choir, under the direction of 36-year-old Mykola Hobdych, focuses on restoring ancient liturgical Ukrainian music that was suppressed and nearly lost in recent centuries, and is also actively engaged in performing contemporary works by Ukrainian composers.

Popular music/rock

- Almost half a million people attended the bi-annual "Chervona Ruta" music festival, dedicated to finding and presenting the best Ukrainian musical talent in the field of contemporary song and popular music. The festival was held in Kharkiv on April 27-May 11, with the finale held in Kyiv on May 25, with 200,000 in attendance.

- Alexis Kochan's Paris to Kyiv "Variances" was the latest CD by the Winnipeg-born Ms. Kochan and third-generation bandurist Julian Kytasty. The disc was released on the Olesia label.

- The Kyiv band Komy Vnyz, part of a vanguard of artists and youth that forged a democratic movement as communism fell apart, was back with the release of its new compact disc, "In Kastus."

ART

- The highlight of the season was Ukraine's participation in "The Glory of Byzantium" exhibition at The Metropolitan Museum of Art (March 11-July 6). Some of the greatest treasures of Ukraine's medieval history, many of which had never traveled before, were exhibited in a separate gallery devoted to the arts of the Kyivan Rus' state. The entry on Kyivan Rus' in the exhibition catalogue was written by Dr. Olenka Pevny, research assistant at the department of medieval art at The Metropolitan. The curators and organizers of the exhibition helped to correct misconceptions about Kyivan Rus' and contributed to an awareness of Ukraine and its rich cultural heritage.

- A traveling exhibition of prints by the late renowned artist Jacques Hnizdovsky toured Ukraine under the sponsorship of the America House in Kyiv.

- New York artist Laryssa Lawrynenko worked as senior editor of the 400-page Reader Digest book "Through Indian Eyes: The Untold Story of Native American Peoples" — one of the most extensive collections of American Indian art and artifacts ever published.

- The work of Aka Pereyema was the subject of a documentary film shot by filmmaker Valerii Pavlov of Kyiv, and was exhibited in Ukraine and at the Archetype Gallery in Dayton, Ohio, in April.

- An art exhibit focusing on three women artists — Sophia Lada, Halyna Cisaruk and Halyna Mordowanec-



Yaro Bihun

The Kyiv Chamber Choir performs a choral prelude during the main Sunday service at the National Cathedral in Washington on December 21.

Regenbogen — was held at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago on May 10. Titled "Three Journeys," the exhibit referred to the artists' personal quests for spiritual connection and relates to contemporary issues of self-discovery, identity and empowerment.

- An exhibit of contemporary icons by Ukrainian and Greek artists was held at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York on May 5-18.

- Temporarily Toronto-based artist Taras Polataiko, cited as "one of 10 artists to watch worldwide" by the prestigious ARTnews in 1995, continued to draw attention to himself and his projects. His latest work, "Mole: Installation," was shown at the Art Gallery of North York in Toronto on May 1- June 30.

- Canadian artist Christopher Griffin's solo exhibition titled "Selo" — 51 paintings and 20 ink drawings dedicated to the theme of a Ukrainian village, drawn while on a cycling tour of the Kolomyia region — were on exhibit at the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation on June 3-18.

- A mosaic of Ukrainian culture was featured as part of the Philadelphia Museum of Art's special programs on July 9 under the sponsorship of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Philadelphia.

- An exhibition of folk costumes and textiles from the Sokal region in northwestern Ukraine titled "The Preservation of a Heritage: The Village of Uhryniv of the Sokal Region" was held at The Ukrainian Museum in New York in September-February 1998. The exhibition was based on the collection of Iryna Kashubynsky of Parma, Ohio, who in 1972 returned to her native Uhryniv and areas where its inhabitants had been resettled as part of Akcja Wisla to collect and preserve Uhryniv folk art.

- Performance and graphic artist Yuri Onuch (formerly of Warsaw and since 1987 of Toronto) was named executive director of the newly created Center for Contemporary Art — International Charitable Foundation in Kyiv in September.

- The paintings — "Night Flight: Turks with Crusaders" by Delacroix, and "Still Life with Lobsters" by 17th century Dutch painter Pieters, which were stolen from the Ukrainian National Museum in the city of Poltava, Ukraine, on March 18 were recovered in Lancashire, England, on November 14.

ARCHITECTURE

- Construction of the new \$5 million building for The Ukrainian Museum in New York got under way with the blessing of the cornerstone on November 2. The fundraising campaign has been intensified in order to raise the remaining \$2.5 million. George Sawicki of Greenfield, Sawicki, Tarella, Architects, PC is the architect in charge of the new museum project.

- A symposium on modern Ukrainian church architecture was held at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg on September 26-27 with the aim of examining "the evolution of style, iconography and building methods in response to liturgy and enculturation in a new land." Among the presenters were Julian

Jastremsky, Walter Daneka and Radoslav Zuk.

- Philadelphia architect Zenon Mazurkevich designed a new cathedral for the city of Kolomyia in western Ukraine.

DANCE

- The Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, under the direction of Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, appeared in concert in a program of Ukrainian folk dancing, character and modern dance at Lincoln Center in New York on May 11.

- Vladimir Malakhov, in his third season as principal dancer with the American Ballet Theater, corps de ballet member Irina Dvorenko, and ABT soloist Maxim Belotserkovsky — three Ukrainian dancers with ABT — appeared in this season's productions which opened May 12 at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. Their performances received excellent reviews by leading dance critics in The New York Times (May 17) and the Wall Street Journal.

- The Kyiv Ballet of the National Opera of Ukraine in collaboration with guest artists of Canada's Shumka Dancers joined forces to bring a sumptuous production of "The Nutcracker: A Ballet Fantasy" to Canadian audiences in December.

THEATER

- "Virtual Souls," created by the Yara Arts Group and artists from the Buryat National Theater, under the direction of Virlana Tkacz, premiered at La MaMa Experimental Theater in New York on January 16-21.

- The first Ukrainian production of Samuel Beckett's play "Waiting for Godot," was staged this summer at Kyiv's Experimental Theater, a theater in residence at the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. The production, under the direction of Ala Zamans, was noteworthy for its fresh, dynamic staging in contrast to mimicking Beckett's sense of the absurd.

- Ukrainian director Anatole Fourmanchouk staged two vaudevilles — "The Proposal" by Anton Chekhov and "Counting the Ways" by Edward Albee at Michael Howard Studios/New York Art Theater in January and February.

- The Lviv Ukrainian Drama Theater aka The Zankovetska Theater, under the direction of Fedir Stryhun, embarked on its first tour of Ukrainian communities in the U.S. at the end of May with the staging of two Ukrainian operettas: Yaroslav Barnych's "Sharika" and "Natalka Poltavka."

FILM/PHOTOGRAPHY

- A documentary film on Ukraine in World War II, to be directed by Slavko Nowytski of Washington, was commissioned by the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center.

- A photographic series of portraits of the Hutsuls of the Carpathian region by Lida Suchy of Rochester, N.Y., was featured in an article titled "The Hutsul" in the November issue of the National Geographic.

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Sports: Bubka's year, but not Baiul's

Many sports have included individuals who seem to surpass even the wildest dreams of those whom they compete against. If they are in team sports, they seem to belong in a meta-league beyond "the majors." In hockey — Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux; in soccer — Pélé. In athletics, or track and field, there are many such names — Paavo Nurmi, Jesse Owens, Emil Zatopek.

For years now, Ukraine has been blessed by such an athlete, and if anyone hadn't heard of him before this year's World Athletics Championships in Athens, they have now. His name: Sergey Bubka.

On August 10 he became the only competitor to have ever won six world championships in any event. The Donetsk native achieved this in pole vault, clearing a height of 6.01 meters, and is still one of only three humans to have ever soared an even 6 meters above the ground. (He's done it 40 times.)

The achievement is all the more remarkable since Mr. Bubka was barely able to walk at the beginning of the year, when he was hobbled by shooting pains that gripped his back and legs. He steered clear of competition until going to a meet in Helsinki in June.

No contest — Bubka is the Ukrainian Athlete of the Year.

Baiul recovering from her skid

Oksana Baiul, so recently on top of the world in figure skating, capturing millions of hearts as well as the gold medal at the Lillehammer Olympics in 1994, suffered the exact opposite this year — a skid into ignominy. On the night of January 13, after drinking to excess, she drove her green Mercedes off the road near Bloomfield, Conn., and was subsequently charged with impaired and reckless driving.

Lucky to escape with a fine, a suspended sentence and community service, the 19-year old Ms. Baiul further antagonized many fans when she told talk-show host Oprah Winfrey on February 7 that she "wasn't drunk" despite consuming "four or five" strong cocktails, following this blasé comment with a stereotype: "I'm Russian [I can handle alcohol better]."

However, the skater has resurfaced of late with a more restrained version of her puckish charm. In the fall, in order to promote her glossy-paged book "Secrets of Skating," the Dnipropetrovsk native made appearances on the "Today Show" and "Regis and Kathy Lee," and granted an interview that appears in the Toronto-based Zdorov! magazine's winter 1998 issue. Ms. Baiul said she has simplified her life by ridding herself of fast-paced hangers-on and concentrates on making it as a professional. "My life is boring now," she is quoted as saying, "I eat, sleep and skate."

Some soccer dreams dashed, some continue

The Ukrainian national team's dream of qualifying

for its first World Cup tournament since the country became independent came to an end on a sleet-filled afternoon in November in Kyiv.

Despite some lackadaisical play against non-contenders such as Albania and Armenia, the sheer depth of talent on the blue-and-yellow side carried past a heavily favored Portuguese club, into second place in Group Nine behind defending European Champion Germany, and into the qualifying rounds.

Unfortunately, they drew powerhouse Croatia, which dispatched them 2-0 on home turf in Zagreb, and then held them to a 1-1 tie (aided in part by some floridly poor refereeing) on the miserable day of November 15. Despite the heroics of Dynamo Kyiv striker Andrii Shevchenko, they were out.

Although no Ukrainian will be going to France in 1998 (not even piggy-backed on a Russian squad, who were bounced by Italy in the playoffs), hope still endures in the Champions' Cup, where the "Dynamisty," powered by 90,000-strong home crowds (a mere 67,000 above the league average) have been laying waste to their opposition, inflicting a particularly decisive beating on Barcelona — with Mr. Shevchenko netting a hat-trick in the Spaniards' home stadium.

However, the side coached by Valerii Lobanovskyi and Jozsef Szabo cannot afford the lack of focus apparent when they lost to already ousted Group C rivals Newcastle United on December 10 in a "meaningless" (in terms of qualifying) match. They go into the new year facing the daunting prospect of March 4 and 18 matches against the Juventus juggernaut, currently rated best in Europe. Then again, Barcelona stands sixth in the rankings to Dynamo's 19th, so the dreams still live.

Tennis: Rusedski rising

This year, Montreal-born naturalized Britisher Greg Rusedski decisively dislodged Andrei Medvedev as the best Ukrainian tennis player ever. Powered by a new coach, amazing control over his atomic serve (clocked at a world record 142.8 miles per hour), and an improving all-around court game, Mr. Rusedski soared from a 56th world ranking to sixth by the end of the season, on the strength of an impressive march to the U.S. Open final in August (which even got his harshest critic, former world No. 1 John McEnroe on his side), and some searing hot performances since.

Mr. Medvedev, who is from Ukraine rather than Ukrainian, has not played altogether badly (he improved his beginning-of-the-year position from 36th to 27th on the Association of Tennis Professionals' ticker), but it does appear that his aching back and knees will likely prevent him from cracking the top five again, although he does do well against flame-throwing Young Turks of Mr. Rusedski's ilk.

Case in point: Mr. Medvedev's victory over the transplanted Ukrainian Canadian in a losing cause in a July Davis Cup qualifying tournament in Kyiv. In fact, the Russian from Ukraine's capital trounced England's human cannon 6-1, 6-1, 2-6, 6-2 and then beat England's other phenom, Tim Henman, 6-3, 4-6, 3-6, 6-4, 4-6.

Unfortunately, Ukraine lacks Albion's depth, and on



Sergey Bubka in classic form.

the strength of Mr. Rusedski's win over Andriy Rybalko in singles, and a Rusedski-Henman tandem win over Mr. Medvedev and Dmytrii Poliakov in doubles, the Brits won 3-2.

Athletics and various Olympics

In athletics, it wasn't all Mr. Bubka at the world championships in Greece. Sprinter Zhanna Pintusevych of Nizhyn scorched the track in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes, claiming silver and gold, respectively, while the U.S. media single-mindedly locked on Marion Jones, the woman who stole Ms. Pintusevych's 100-meter world title by 0.02 seconds. Shot-putter Oleksander Bohach disgraced himself and lost a gold medal when he tested positive for "pseudo-ephedrine." In all, Ukraine took seven medals home from Athens: two gold, four silver and one bronze.

Diaspora support for Ukraine's Olympic movement continues apace, as Australia's Ukrainian community conveyed news in the July 27 issue of The Weekly that an Australian Friends of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine (NOCU) had been struck and was active in seeking venues and support funding for Ukraine's contingent to the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.

On September 14, the Canadian Friends of the NOCU, led by the indefatigable Stan Haba, held a fundraiser in support of Ukrainian athletes traveling to the upcoming Winter Olympics in Nagano.

Somewhat surprisingly, at a November meeting of the Ukrainian World Congress Presidium, sports commissioner Vsevolod Sokolyk suggested that moneyed entrepreneurs in Ukraine, known for their extravagance and showy largesse (such as the recent handout of \$1 million-worth of tickets to a Kyiv Dynamo game to the capital's residence) should ante up, and that the diaspora community's money and resources could be better allocated than on Ukraine's elite athletes.

The alternative? World Ukrainian Games, expected to be held in Kyiv in 1999. Mr. Sokolyk said planning had begun and expectations of drawing young athletes from all around the world to the city of the golden domes are running high.

Judging from The Weekly's pages, there will likely be considerable interest in such a project in North America, where, at the Ukrainian American Youth Association's resort in Ellenville, N.Y., over 160 young athletes age 10-18 stoked their competitive fires at the Ukrainian Youth Olympic Games on August 9.

Toronto also witnessed an unalloyed expression of Olympic spirit, as Ontario's capital hosted the Special Winter Olympics — the largest single international sporting meet of 1997 — in February 2-9, with eight disabled athletes from Ukraine participating.



Efrem Lukatsky

Andrii Shevchenko (right) with teammates during Ukraine's soccer match against Croatia on November 15.

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Other sporting notes

- In the fall, The Weekly carried Team Ukraine Head Coach Basil Tarasko's Baseball Journal, chronicling the successes and wild rides of Ukraine's cadet, junior and senior "boys of summer" from Kyiv, Kharkiv and Kirovohrad in tournaments in England, the Czech Republic and France. Results: the juniors won their European Pool B competition and were promoted; the cadets were bronze medalists at an international tournament, and the seniors were demoted to Pool B. On the strength of live arms of prospects such as Serhii Hlukhyi and Yevhen Tkachenko, and the impressive hitting of kids like Alexander Trokhymenko (junior tournament MVP) and Yuri Gordee, Mr. Tarasko was appointed coordinator of scouting in Eastern Europe for the Atlanta Braves of major league baseball.

- Ukraine's national men's basketball team took part in its first Eurobasket championship, held in Badalona, northeast of Barcelona, Spain, on June 24-July 6. They played respectably in the round robin (beating a high-scoring Croatian squad and the entry from Latvia), but did not make it into the playoffs. The Ukrainian women's national team, European champions in 1995, reached the semifinals in this year's competition in Budapest, Hungary, but were ousted in a close-fought contest with the Czech Republic, and denied a spot on the top-six list of teams advancing to the world championships.

- In hockey, superstar center Dale Hawerchuk, the Ukrainian Canadian (Toronto-born) captain of the National Hockey League's Philadelphia Flyers, was forced into retirement by a chronic hip injury. The Winnipeg Jets' 1981 No. 1 draft pick amassed 518 goals and 891 assists for 1,409 points over a Hall of Fame career (any forward who scores over 500 goals is considered a lock for the shrine on the corner of Toronto's Front and Yonge streets).

- "Shutout: The Legend of Terry Sawchuk," Toronto-based author Brian Kendall's biography of the world's greatest goaltender (103 career shutouts, an unreachable record) was published this year by Penguin Books Canada Ltd.

The UNA: moves, mergers and missions

How does one describe what 1997 was like for the Ukrainian National Association? It was a bitter-sweet year for the UNA as it sold its headquarters building in Jersey City, N.J., and moved to new quarters 30 miles westward in Parsippany, N.J., released its long-awaited centennial history, made its debut in cyberspace and prepared for its next regular convention, which is to be held in 1998.

The 15-story headquarters building in Jersey City was sold on August 14 for \$21.2 million to Montgomery Associates. The decision to sell the building had been approved by the UNA General Assembly in May 1995 after the UNA Executive Committee reported that there was pressure from New Jersey state insurance authorities, who had expressed concern over the significant financial investment that would have to be made to renovate the building. The agreement of sale was signed on May 16 after the UNA accepted the highest bid offered for its building. The offer was approved on April 19 by the special committee on the sale and purchase of UNA headquarters buildings established by the UNA General Assembly, whose members are: the five members of the UNURC board of directors, Ulana Diachuk, Martha Lysko, Alexander Blahitka, Alexander Serafyn and Walter Korchynsky; auditors William Pastuszek and Anatole Doroshenko; and Honorary Member of the General Assembly John O. Flis.

The special committee was charged with reviewing all bids on the UNA headquarters building in Jersey City, and with approving the purchase of new facilities for the UNA Home Office and its publishing house.

Soon thereafter, the special committee approved the purchase of a new headquarters building, owned by the Fidelco Group, in Parsippany for \$4,931,250. The closing took place on August 28, and the move to the new building took place over the Columbus Day weekend, October 10-13.

The new UNA headquarters is a 10-year-old, two-story building comprising 65,750 square feet of office space. The UNA's insurance operations as well as the

editorial and administrative offices of its two newspapers, the Ukrainian-language daily Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, occupy the second floor of the building, while the first floor is rental space. Although the newspapers' typesetting and layout operations have been moved to Parsippany, the Svoboda Press print shop continued to operate at the previous headquarters building at 30 Montgomery St. in Jersey City.

The new headquarters building, formerly known as Executive 10, is located in Morris County at 2200 Route 10 (westbound), just past the Route 10-Route 202 intersection and near routes 287 and 80. A new sign was put up on December 9 identifying the building as the Ukrainian National Association Corporate Headquarters.

More than 160 persons helped the Ukrainian National Association celebrate the blessing of its new headquarters building on Sunday, November 9. The rite was conducted by clergy of the Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches: the Rev. Marian Struc, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Jersey City, N.J. (home to the UNA's former headquarters); the Rev. Oleh Hucul, pastor of Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Maplewood, N.J.; and the Rev. Myron Stasiw, a UNA advisor who is pastor of Holy Protectress Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toronto.

Among the guests were representatives of many Ukrainian community organizations, as well as district and branch officers from the tri-state New York, New Jersey and Connecticut region. Also present were many employees of the UNA and its two official publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, and their families. Almost all the members of the UNA General Assembly – UNA executive officers, auditors, advisors and honorary members – who had just completed their annual deliberations at the Soyuzivka resort the previous day attended the ceremonies.

The General Assembly, the highest decision-making body of the Ukrainian National Association between quadrennial conventions, met on November 6-8 at its annual meeting. During its three days of deliberations, officers, auditors and advisors examined and approved merger agreements with the Ukrainian National Aid Association of America (UNAAA) and the Ukrainian Fraternal Association (UFA), which will be presented for final approval to the UNA convention; discussed and approved several proposed amendments to the UNA By-Laws that will be presented to convention delegates (who must ratify any changes by a two-thirds majority); and adopted a budget for 1998 of \$10,774,000 in income and \$11,024,000 in expenses.

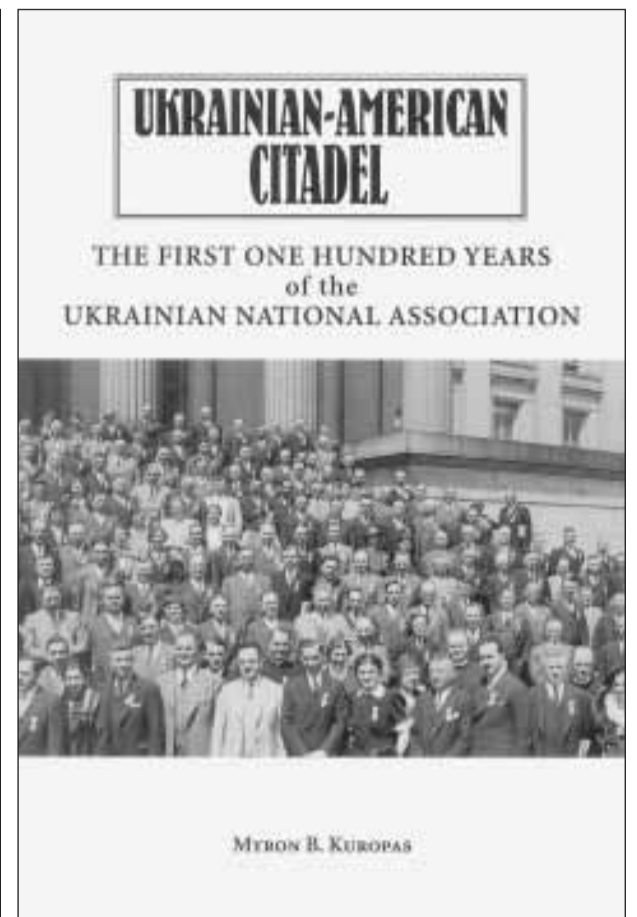
In regard to the mergers involving two other Ukrainian fraternal organizations, Assembly members reviewed the details of merger agreements with the UNAAA and UFA. The General Assembly voted in both cases to authorize the Executive Committee to execute the agreement of merger.

In the case of the UFA, however, there was the additional provision of a new name for the merged entity, as the Ukrainian Fraternal Association insists that the new organization be called the Ukrainian National Fraternal Association. Members of the General Assembly discussed and debated the issue of the name change and then voted 12 to 9 (with one abstention) to accept the UFA's proposed name change. However, that provision has to be approved by a two-thirds majority at the 1998 convention of the UNA since it involves an amendment to the UNA By-Laws.

Among the proposed changes to the UNA By-Laws were the following:

- to create the position of senior vice-president as a full-time salaried executive position that will be reserved in 1998 for a representative of the Ukrainian Fraternal Association (this provision eliminates one of the two existing non-salaried vice-presidents' positions);
- to reserve three advisors' seats and one auditor's seat for UFA candidates;
- beginning with the year 2002, to change the executive structure of the UNA to a corporate structure, whereby the convention would elect an 11-member board of directors, which would then hire executives to run the day-to-day business of the UNA (the board of directors would meet quarterly and would elect a chairman of the board).

The Assembly also confirmed the Executive Committee's acceptance of a request made by Treasurer Alexander Blahitka for a leave of absence (with full salary) for medical reasons, effective through June 30, 1998. President Ulana Diachuk then announced that, acting in accordance with the UNA By-Laws, the Executive Committee had appointed an acting treasurer. He is Stefan Kaczaraj, C.P.A., who has been the UNA's chief accountant for the past four years and prior to that had



Cover of Dr. Myron B. Kuropas' centennial history of the Ukrainian National Association.

served as an outside auditor for the UNA. Mr. Kaczaraj will serve out the remainder of the treasurer's term. (The officers elected at the 1998 convention assume office on July 1.)

A mission statement of the Ukrainian National Association that underlines the principles enumerated in the UNA's charter and renews the fraternal commitments made therein was adopted by the General Assembly. The mission statement is designed to serve as both a shortened version and an updated restatement of the organizational purposes delineated in the UNA charter. Its text reads as follows: "The Ukrainian National Association exists: to promote the principles of fraternalism; to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and to provide quality financial services and products to its members. As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community."

1997 was also the year this fraternal organization's centennial history, a labor of love by Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, an honorary member of the UNA General Assembly and a researcher of immigration history, rolled off the presses. "Ukrainian-American Citadel: The First One Hundred Years of the Ukrainian National Association," was released by East European Monographs of Boulder, Colo., in the summer. In its 13 chapters and 658 pages the book chronicles the founding of the UNA in 1894; its transformation from the Ruskyi Narodnyi Soyuz to the Ukrainian National Association; its leading role in establishing a Ukrainian identity in America; its activism in the American political milieu and its current role within the Ukrainian American community.

Speaking of his work since 1990 on this "social history," as he describes it, Dr. Kuropas said: "I learned a lot more than I had ever known about the role of the UNA in the development and growth of the Ukrainian American community. The UNA truly is a citadel and remains as a beacon for all Ukrainians worldwide. ... It is my hope that this book will awaken Ukrainians in North America to the importance of continuing to support this exemplary institution."

According to the author, the guiding principle behind the book is: "In order for us to know where we're going we have to realize where we have been." Thus, it is perhaps fitting that this very important work appeared in 1997, the year before the UNA's next regular convention – which most observers see as pivotal for the future of the organization.

As it was a pre-convention year, there was a flurry of activity in preparation for the May 1998 quadrennial convention to be held in Toronto. At a special meeting attended by representatives of branches of the Toronto District Committee held on April 13, a Convention Committee was organized to take charge of planning all cultural and entertainment programs for the conclave.

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The old: the Ukrainian National Association's headquarters building in Jersey City, N.J.

The committee is headed by the Rev. Stasiw, a UNA advisor from Toronto; Honorary Member of the General Assembly Wasyl Didiuk is the committee's vice-chairman.

This was also the year the UNA entered cyberspace (having been beaten there by its own English-language official publication, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, which first appeared on the Internet in July of 1995). In March of this year, we first announced that the UNA's homepage was on line and ready to be visited at <http://www.tryzub.com/UNA>. The site, set up by the General Assembly's Internet Committee, includes a lead article "About the UNA," covering the organization's history, support of Ukrainian causes, patronage of the arts, charitable activity, publications, promotion of sports and programs for youth, care of senior members, Soyuzivka and fraternal benefits. The site is regularly updated with new articles under several sections: From the Home Office, Membership, About Insurance, Youth Benefits, Fraternal Activities and Aid to Ukraine. Also available on the homepage: a list of members of the UNA General Assembly (executive officers, auditors, advisors and honorary members), UNA sales offices, and press bureaus of *The Ukrainian Weekly*. There is a link from the UNA homepage to the highlights of *The Weekly* that appear each week in the Current Events section of the Ukraine FAQ Plus site as well as to the Soyuzivka Homepage and the homepage of the UNA's manager of insurance sales and marketing, Joe Binczak.

During the first nine months of this year Executive Committee members were primarily occupied with the sale of the UNA's headquarters building in Jersey City, N.J., and the purchase of new office space. But there were other weighty matters. At their meeting on March 3, the six-member UNA Executive Committee discussed the future of *Svoboda*, the UNA's official Ukrainian-language publication.

Treasurer Blahitka reported that the UNA made progress in reducing the losses incurred by its fraternal operations. The UNA's subsidy to its official publications decreased by \$179,512. Even though UNA publications' income increased by \$191,116, the resulting profit on an accrual basis was only \$24,325. This compared favorably with the previous year's loss of \$106,391, Mr. Blahitka underlined, marking an improvement of approximately \$130,000.

Under the rubric of "miscellaneous," Mrs. Diachuk proposed that *Svoboda*, the UNA's Ukrainian-language newspaper, be published as a daily, but only two times per week at a savings of \$216,000 per year. She suggested that three days' issues could be published in one edition and that two issues could be published in another; thus, five issues per week would still appear, but they would be printed and mailed only twice per week. After a lengthy discussion the motion was tabled.

Secretary Lysko reported that the UNA closed 1996

with a total membership of 59,083 members, as compared to 61,126 in 1995. This downward spiral has been seen since 1970, when UNA membership reached its zenith at 89,107 members. Every year since 1970, she explained, the UNA has consistently lost members, or rather failed to replace the deaths, cash surrenders and endowments that occur annually. In terms of percentage, the loss in 1996 was smaller than in previous years, she added.

In May the UNA Executive Committee announced the suspension of dividends for 1997 due to the costs of mergers involving two other Ukrainian fraternal benefits societies, the UNAAA and UFA. At the same time it was announced that senior members age 79 or over would be given a fraternal donation equal to the amount of their annual premiums, thus these members would not pay their next annual premium. The UNA continued its various other fraternal benefits, such as a 10 percent discount at Soyuzivka, a 25 percent discount on subscriptions to *Svoboda* and a 33.3 percent discount on subscriptions to *The Ukrainian Weekly*, as well as student scholarships.

At the execs' second quarterly meeting of the year, held on June 2, Mr. Blahitka reported that the UNA's total assets had risen to \$67,702,834. Mrs. Diachuk reported that 24 teacher-volunteers will teach in 14 regional centers during the 1997 English Teachers for Ukraine program, and the Summer Institute for Teachers of English in Ukraine will be held in Luhansk with 60 participants enrolled.

The next quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee was the first to be held at the UNA's new headquarters in Parsippany. At the November 5 meeting, held on the eve of the General Assembly's annual session, the Executive Committee confirmed Mr. Kaczaraj as acting treasurer during Mr. Blahitka's absence due to illness. The other significant point of discussion at the Executive Committee's meeting was the issue of the UNA's printing facilities, which remain in the UNA's previous headquarters building in Jersey City. After reviewing basic trade-offs between continuing to maintain in-house printing facilities and subcontracting to an outside printer, the execs decided to subcontract the job of printing the UNA's two newspapers in order to save approximately \$51,000 annually on printing costs and an additional \$65,488 on rental costs. Whether *Svoboda* will remain a daily apparently was a question left to be decided at the 1998 UNA convention.

The UNA's Auditing Committee conducted its twice yearly review of the association's operations on May 3-7, and then again on November 3-5, before the General Assembly meeting. While acknowledging that the UNA continues to cover the deficits of its two official publications, the UNA Auditing Committee noted in its May report: "The *Svoboda* daily and *The Ukrainian Weekly* serve a vital informational role, maintaining contact among our settlements in various countries and, for the sixth year now, with independent Ukraine as well. ...That is why we must do everything possible to find an appropriate way to maintain our daily with daily postal delivery." The auditors also appealed to the UNA membership and the community at large to support the UNA's news-

papers by becoming subscribers.

The 1997-1998 UNA Scholarships were awarded in July by the Scholarship Committee, which allocated \$70,300 to 186 undergraduate students studying at colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada. Among them were several larger scholarships — in amounts as high as \$2,500 — awarded to exceptional students. The annual scholarship issue of *The Ukrainian Weekly* was published in December.

Among UNA grants during 1997 were the following: \$5,000 to the Federation of Ukrainians in Poland for publication of a commemorative volume on *Akcja Wisla* and \$2,000 to the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Krynytsia, Poland — both paid out of the Buczynskij Fund, an endowment created thanks to the bequest of a deceased member of the UNA. A sum of \$19,000 was paid out during 1997 from the Ukrainian National Foundation as the first installment to cover publication in Ukraine of a new children's book, "Ivasyk Telesyk," by Ivan Malkovych. Meanwhile, the UNA's Fund for the Rebirth of Ukraine continued to support the work of the Kyiv Press Bureau, which is manned full-time by a staffer of *The Ukrainian Weekly*.

The UNA Seniors Association held its 23rd annual conference at Soyuzivka on June 8-13. The 103 seniors in attendance re-elected Dr. Anna Chopek as their president. In addition to their usual bingo night and Ukrainian sing-along, the seniors this year had a square dance night and they visited The Metropolitan Museum's landmark exhibit "The Glory of Byzantium," where they paid particular attention to artifacts dating to the time of Kyivan Rus'. They also raised \$1,400 for charitable causes; the amount was split equally between the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund and the "Babusia Fund" of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

Early in the year, UNA'ers were saddened to learn about the death on December 28, 1996, of Walter Kwas, the legendary manager of Soyuzivka and a longtime supreme advisor of the Ukrainian National Association, at the age of 80. During his 28 years as manager of the UNA estate in the Catskills, Mr. Kwas transformed Soyuzivka into a little piece of Ukraine, complete with Hutsul-style architectural embellishments. The funeral was held on January 4 with liturgy at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church and burial at the nearby local cemetery where Mr. Kwas was bid a final farewell with the sound of a lone trembita echoing through his beloved mountains.

Several months later came the passing of another UNA luminary, Anne Herman, former supreme vice-presidentess of the UNA (1958-1966) and widow of Gregory Herman, supreme secretary of the UNA during the 1950s (he died in 1957). Mrs. Herman died on March 8 at the age of 90.

In other UNA-related news, this year's UNA Almanac was dedicated to the 50th anniversary of *Akcja Wisla*, the forced deportation by the government of Poland of Ukrainians living in southeastern and eastern Poland to the country's northern and northwestern regions in an attempt to de-Ukrainianize ethnically Ukrainian lands and to ravage the Ukrainian minority.



The new: the Ukrainian National Association's Corporate Headquarters in Parsippany, N.J.

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At the beginning of 1997, the UNA estate, whose Senior Citizens' Home, Halych, has been available to permanent residents, announced that it was now welcoming seniors for short-term stays ranging from a week to several months. In this way, the UNA tried to cater to the needs of its elderly members.

Later in the year, as a prelude to its upcoming summer season, Soyuzivka held its Springfest '97 during the Memorial Day weekend. Among the features: live music in the Trembita Lounge, restaurant dining at the resort's "Winter Inn" (that's what Soyuzivka called its intimate dinner setting around the Main House lobby's fireplace, which was first opened to the public during winter weekends); a clam and shrimp bake, and brunch on Memorial Day.

Then, on June 15, the resort hosted Batko Soyuz's annual celebration of Fathers' Day. The 13th annual event attracted some 400 guests who came for a special program featuring the Arkan Dance Company of Toronto and soprano Alexandra Hrabova of the Ivan Franko National Theater of Opera and Ballet in Lviv. Many of the guests came by the busload as UNA branches and districts organized bus trips for the occasion.

The year-round resort opened its 43rd summer season during the Independence Day weekend, July 4-6, featuring the Voloshky vocal trio from Saskatoon and bandurist Ostap Stakhiv, midnight fireworks and dancing to the music of Fata Morgana, Lviviany, Burlaky and Tempo, plus art exhibits and sports. Of course, there was good food as well, with the first of many Odesa Nights — a seafood buffet — held on July 4.

There was much more of all of the above throughout the summer, as Soyuzivka's stage was graced by performers from near and far: from the United States, Canada and Ukraine. The resort also hosted several camps and workshops: Tabir Ptashat (Plast's camp for preschoolers), Chemny's Fun Center, tennis camp, boys' and girls' camps, and Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky's Ukrainian folk dance workshop, whose students were the headliners for the special program held to mark the sixth anniversary of Ukraine's independence over the weekend of August 23-24. A week prior to that the annual Miss Soyuzivka contest took place. Stefania Chaban, an 18-year-old vocalist from Ukraine and a voice major at the Baltimore School of Arts, was crowned Miss Soyuzivka 1998 during the 42nd annual contest just before midnight on August 16.

The season finale was held, as usual, over the Labor Day weekend. Highlights of the four days of celebration were concerts, fireworks, national competitions in tennis and swimming, and dances to the music of Tempo. The headliners of the entertainment program were the Viter Ukrainian Dancers of Edmonton and Lviv vocalist Irchyk. On stage for the dances were the Luna, Tempo, Fata Morgana and Lviviany bands.

As 1997 drew to a close, the Ukrainian National Association and its members were looking toward its next convention — sure to be a milestone in the history of this 103-year-old institution — which is scheduled to take place on May 15-19 in Toronto. Among the issues: fraternal mergers, by-laws changes, the future of Svoboda, and, of course, the elections of new leaders to take the UNA into the 21st century.

The noteworthy: people in the news

Our list of noteworthy people in 1997 is replete with Ukrainians who were honored for their professional and civic contributions to Canada and the United States.

- Walter Chyzowych, the former soccer coach, was inducted posthumously into the Hall of Fame of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America at a NSCAA Convention held in Nashville, Tenn., on January 17. He was honored as "a pioneer for American collegiate coaches" and for his role in founding, organizing and promoting the first nationwide soccer coaching education program. Mr. Chyzowych, who coached the World Cup, Olympic, Pan American and National Youth soccer teams, died in 1994 at the age of 57. His award was accepted by his brothers, Ihor and Eugene, and nephew, Ihor Jr.

- Nestor Burtnyk, a retired scientist from Canada's National Research Council, received an Academy Award for Technical Achievement in Beverly Hills, Calif., on March 1. Mr. Burtnyk, of Kanata, Ontario, and his former colleague, Dr. Marcell Wein of Kingston, Ontario, were honored for their early work in computer animation. The pair developed key-frame animation in the late 1960s-early



Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj

Danylo Shumuk as he was honored in Toronto.

1970s, a technique that imitates conventional celanimation on the computer.

- Victor Malarek, co-host of CBC-TV's "The Fifth Estate" weekly investigative news program, won the Gordon Sinclair Award for best overall broadcast journalist on March 1. The award was presented by the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television during its 11th annual Gemini Awards. A former reporter with Canada's national daily newspaper, The Globe and Mail, Mr. Malarek is currently in his seventh season at "The Fifth Estate."

- Osyp Zinkewych, founder of the Smoloskyp publishing house and human rights organization, was presented Ukraine's Presidential Award by Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadii Udoenko on March 7 at a ceremony held at the residence of Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Yuri Shcherbak. Mr. Zinkewych was honored for his educational and charitable activities spanning more than 30 years. Founded in Baltimore in 1967, Smoloskyp was a leading publisher of works by persecuted and imprisoned writers in Ukraine. Today the publishing house is located in Kyiv, where it continues to publish the works of young writers and activists.

- The Svoboda Ukrainian-language daily newspaper was presented an award for contributing to American life by the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Philadelphia during the center's anniversary banquet on April 5. Zenon Snylyk, who has served as Svoboda's editor-in-chief for 17 years, accepted the award on behalf of the Ukrainian daily, which has been published by the Ukrainian National Association, now based in Parsippany, N.J., for 104 years.

- Olha Kuzmowycz, a longtime editor and reporter with the Svoboda Ukrainian-language daily newspaper, was feted for writing her 1,000th article at an evening of tribute held in her honor at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Philadelphia on April 12. Mrs. Kuzmowycz, of Babylon, N.Y., began her career at Svoboda at the age of 65 and has penned articles, interviews and the "Pro Tse i Te" (About This and That) column under the pen name "OKA" for the past 15 years.

- Dr. Olexander and Yaroslava Gudziak of Syracuse, N.Y., endowed a new professorship in theology at the Lviv Theological Academy through a gift of \$250,000 announced on April 7. Bishop Lubomyr Husar of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church presented the Gudziaks with a scroll of gratitude from Cardinal Myroslav Ivan Lubachivsky and the Rev. Michael Dymyd, rector of the Lviv Theological Academy, during a "sviachene" (Easter dinner) in Detroit.

- Several community institutions joined forces to honor a community activist for his lifelong contributions to various Ukrainian causes. Joseph Lesawyer was the guest of honor at the June 8 testimonial banquet held at the Sheraton New York Hotel under the sponsorship of the Ukrainian Institute of America, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Ukrainian National Association. For over three-quarters of a century, Mr. Lesawyer held positions as an executive in the Ukrainian Youth League of North America, executive vice-president of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians, president of the Ukrainian National

Association for 17 years, executive director of the Shevchenko Memorial Committee and national chairman of Ukrainian American Democrats. He was actively involved in many other community organizations as well.

- Danylo Shumuk, the longest serving Soviet political prisoner, was honored by the Toronto Branch of Amnesty International and numerous Ukrainian Canadian watchdog groups at a tribute marking the 10th anniversary of his release held in Toronto on September 28. The 82-year-old Mr. Shumuk served 42 years in Soviet jails, prison camps and in exile, and arrived in Canada in May 1987.

- The Washington Group's "Friend of Ukraine" award was presented during the annual Leadership Conference [see "Ukrainians in the U.S.: looking to the future"] held in Washington on October 10-12 to two prominent New York cultural figures: Lidia Krushelnytsky, director of the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble, and Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, choreographer/artistic director of the Syzokryli dance ensemble. The two women were cited for "their outstanding contribution to the cause of Ukraine and the Ukrainian American community" in a ceremony that took place during TWG's annual awards banquet.

They are mourned by our community

During 1997 we mourned the passing of a number of community activists, artists, political leaders, musicians and other prominent individuals. Among them were the following.

- Sister Anna Duda SSMI, 80, longtime worker at Rome-based Catholic NearEast Welfare Association — Sloatsburg, N.Y., November 28, 1996.

- Walter Kwas, 80, manager of the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka resort in upstate New York — Kerhonkson, N.Y., December 28, 1996.

- George Chranewycz, 67, city planner, prominent political and sports activist — Secaucus, N.J., December 29, 1996.

- Taras Durbak, 86, leading activist in Plast and the Ukrainian Catholic Church — St. Petersburg, Fla., December 31, 1996.

- Peter Krawchuk, 85, Ukrainian Canadian Communist known for his press and organizational work with the Ukrainian Labor Farmer Temple Association and its successor, the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians — Toronto, February 3.

- Liudmyla Morozova, 89, artist — Hunter, N.Y., March 1.

- Rosalie C. Polche, national president, Ladies Auxiliary of the Ukrainian American Veterans and active member of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 72 — New York, March 3.

- Anne Herman, 90, former supreme vice-presidentess of the Ukrainian National Association — Berea, Ohio, March 8.

- Mychajlo Dmytrenko, 88, artist — Detroit, March 8.

- Msgr. Anthony Borsa, 91, pastor in Ukraine and in numerous parishes in the U.S., who was named papal chaplain by Pope John Paul II in 1980 — Aberdeen, N.J., March 12.

- Wolodymyr Mazur, 75, president of the Ukrainian National Aid Association, longtime chairman of the National Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists — Chicago, March 24.

- Antonina Horokhovych, 84, officer in the Union of Ukrainian Women (Soyuz Ukrainok) in Ukraine, Plast activist and educator — Toronto, April 3.

- The Rev. Dr. Simon Hayuk, 87, Ukrainian Orthodox pastor and Church scholar — Buffalo, N.Y., April 4.

- Wilhelm Fushchych, 60, pioneer in mathematical physics — Kyiv, April 7.

- Oleksa Horbach, 79, eminent Ukrainian linguist, professor of Slavic philology and dean of department of Eastern European languages at the University of Frankfurt — Frankfurt am Main, Germany, May 23.

- Lev Kopelev, 85, writer, dissident, witness to the famine of 1932-1933 and author of "The Education of A True Believer" (1978), who appeared in the documentary "Harvest of Despair" (1984) — Köln, Germany, June 18.

- The Very Rev. Stephen Hankavich, 74, pastor emeritus of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma — Parma, Ohio, June 20.

- John Switalski, 88, editor and traveling journalist — Barrington, R.I., July 4.

- Sviatoslav Richter, 82, one of the most acclaimed pianists of the 20th century, who was born March 20, 1915,

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in Zhytomyr, Ukraine — Moscow, August 1.

- Myron Leskiw, national director of the Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine and New Jersey chairman of the Ukrainian American Republican Association — Newark, N.J., August 7.

- Ireney Kowal, 55, founder and leader of the popular Tempo Orchestra — died en route from Kosiv to Lviv while on a trip to Ukraine, August 9.

- Stepan Procyk, 75, member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and former political prisoner in Nazi German concentration camps — Jersey City, N.J., August 16.

- Eugene Oryszczyn, 82, Canadian sports personality, trainer, coach and judge at national and world championships in gymnastics — Toronto, August 17.

- Liubka Kolessa, 93, prominent Ukrainian pianist and educator, who concertized in Europe and Soviet Ukraine and upon emigration to Canada in 1940 taught at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto — Toronto, August 15.

- Apollinare Osadca, 81, architect — Glen Spey, N.Y., September 26.

- John Kolasky, 82, former Ukrainian Canadian Communist, writer, lecturer and educator, author of "Two Years in Soviet Ukraine: A Canadian's Personal Account of Russian Oppression and the Growing Opposition" — Kyiv, October 20.

- Volodymyr Kolesnyk, 69, conductor, choirmaster and musicologist, former director of Kyiv Theater of Opera and Ballet and the Canadian Ukrainian Opera Chorus — Toronto, November 7.

- Peter Lishchynski, 56, Canadian career diplomat and chief of the NATO information service in Ukraine — killed in a car accident near the village of Bohdanivka, Kirovohrad region, Ukraine, November 13.

- Vasyl Sichko, 41, former Ukrainian political prisoner and president of the Ukrainian Christian Democratic Party in Ukraine — died in a house fire in Chicago, November 18.

- John Sopinka, 64, justice of the Supreme Court of Canada — Ottawa, November 24.

- George Kuzmycz, 53, nuclear physicist at the U.S. Department of Energy, who was honored posthumously with the department's Distinguished Career Service Award — killed in a car accident in Mykolaiv, Ukraine, December 6.

Meanwhile, back at The Weekly ...

Certainly, the biggest news during 1997 at The Ukrainian Weekly was our move from Jersey City to Parsippany [see "The UNA: moves, mergers and missions"]. It was difficult to leave the Ukrainian National Association's headquarters building at 30 Montgomery St., (it was the UNA that had begun the urban renewal in this part of the city when it broke ground in 1970 for its new headquarters building), the place we had called home for the last 23 years. After all, this was where The Ukrainian Weekly grew up, literally. That edifice holds many precious memories, for it was there that our paper's first 16-page tabloid issue came out on July 4, 1976, on our new offset printing press; it was there that we published our book dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Great Famine in Ukraine and countless special issues dedicated to the Ukrainian Helsinki Monitoring Group, Ukraine's independence, the Chernobyl nuclear accident; it was there that our paper grew to 24 pages.

We wondered in a special pictorial tribute to our old home: "How do you say good-bye to a building? Especially one that was so much a part of your history?"

We're in our new offices now; Weekly staffers are enjoying the view of a wooded area outside our windows. First we marveled at the glorious fall colors, and later we looked out at pristine snow, (we managed to take some time out for photos and a snowball fight on our first snow day). But still, some of our boxes remain unpacked.

Despite our temporary displacement in this place/state of being we call "Parsippanivschyna," we managed to put out an issue every week in 1997, without skipping a beat.

We started the year off with news that the January issue of the NJEA Review, the official publication of the New Jersey Education Association, focused on the genocide curriculum mandated to be taught in the state's schools. Among the genocides that could be studied under the state curriculum (though the law does not specify which genocides must be taught) is the Ukrainian famine, which Dr.

Paul Winkler, executive director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, described as "the planned starvation of a group of people.... [which] happened between 1932 and 1933 when the Soviet Union carried out a policy that led to the starvation of up to 10 million Ukrainian people." In looking for illustrations to accompany Dr. Winkler's article, editor Martha Onuferko DeBlieu telephoned The Ukrainian Weekly for a copy of its booklet on "The Great Famine in Ukraine: The Unknown Holocaust" published in 1983 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of that genocide. The cover and two of its pages were reproduced in the magazine, and readers were informed that copies of the booklet are still available from the Svoboda Press.

Next came some sobering news: The Weekly continued to experience a drop in subscribers. This was noted by UNA President Ulana Diachuk in February in a letter to Weekly readers published on "The Ukrainian National Association Forum" page. People were reading and writing in, but still the number of paying readers fell off. We suspect, as subscriptions were expiring after the 200 percent rate hike enacted back in 1996, readers were not renewing. So, people were reading other's copies instead of buying their own. Ergo, our new ads: "Are you still reading your mother's copy of The Ukrainian Weekly? How adult of you ..."

Also in February, we introduced our new monthly columnist, Andrew Fedynsky, who writes "Perspectives." In August "The Things We Do," a column by our longtime contributor Orysia Paszczak-Tracz, made its debut. They joined our other columnists: Myron B. Kuropas ("Faces and Places") and Christopher Guly ("Canada Courier"), as well as the Ukrainian National Information Service's occasional column called "Washington Notebook," plus the columns periodically written by our staffers who serve in the Kyiv bureau, and "Letter from Kyiv," contributed from time to time by our former associate editor Marta Kolomayets.

We also have two sports columnists: Ihor Stelmach, who writes primarily about hockey ("Ukrainian Pro Hockey Update"), and Mr. Wynnyckyj, who is the author of "Sportsline." Helen Smindak writes on cultural matters and the arts in "Dateline New York," while a music column is occasionally written by Roman Sawycky ("Sounds and Views") and music reviews are penned by Oles Kuzyszyn.

At this point, it would be good to note, for the record, that the staff of The Ukrainian Weekly in 1997 included: Editor-in-Chief Roma Hadzewycz, Assistant Editor Christina Lew, and Staff Editors Roman Woronowycz and Andrij Wynnyckyj, who is stationed in our Toronto Press Bureau. Since mid-December 1996 Irene Jarosewich has worked on The Weekly editorial staff as an independent consultant. Ika Koznarska Casanova continues as our part-time editorial staffer and our de facto arts editor. Also employed by The Weekly during 1997 was Yarema Bachynsky, who helped us out as an editorial assistant during the summer. The Kyiv Press Bureau was served during the report period by Mr. Woronowycz (September 1996-July 1997 and September 1997 to date) and Ms. Lew (July-August 1997).

The Weekly is extremely lucky to have two key employees on the production side. Awilda Rolon continues as our typesetter (she's been with us for 17 years), and Serhiy Polishchuk is our layout artist and computer specialist/troubleshooter (he has been with The Weekly for just about five years now, since early 1993).

Our regular correspondents included two of the most dependable and dedicated of free-lancers: Yaro Bihun, who writes from Washington, and Mr. Guly, who is based in the Canadian capital, Ottawa.

On the personal side, we must report news about our two staff editors.

Mr. Woronowycz married Viktoria Punchak on January 25, at the Orthodox Monastery of St. Feodosius in Kyiv. Mr. Woronowycz is currently stationed at the Kyiv Press Bureau. Ms. Punchak is a paralegal for a Kyiv-based law firm. The couple met at a political seminar in the Carpathian Mountains three years ago when Mr. Woronowycz was on his first tour of duty in Ukraine for The Weekly.

At year's end there was some wonderful news on December 18, the eve of St. Nicholas Feast Day. Little Yarynka (well, not so little, weighing in at 9 pounds and measuring a tad more than 23 inches in length) — or more properly Yaryna Maria (Magdalena) Kudla — was born to our Canadian editor Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj and his wife, Zirka Kudla. And, we might add, she made it on deadline for this yearend issue.

In addition to our regular issues, which contained a mix of material covering news and features from Ukraine, the United States, Canada and just about anywhere else

Ukrainians were active, special issues during 1997 were: "A Ukrainian Summer," published on May 4 as an eight-page pullout section; "Ukraine's Independence: The Sixth Anniversary," published in August; a Veterans' Day issue published on November 16; the UNA scholarships issue released in mid-December and, well, this huge issue featuring a round-up of the year's top events.

Our summer issue was especially successful, and we thanked out readers for that in an editorial: " 'A Ukrainian Summer' ... hinged on your cooperation. We turned to readers via several announcements of the upcoming special issue and you responded. You made that issue come alive. ... One reader commented that the issue illustrated the connections among our community members and showed that our 'hromada' has so much to offer. Another reader wrote: "The Ukrainian Summer section looks great! Where did you find all those bylines?" The answer: our readers came through.

During 1997 we tried to refocus on our communities here, via editorials that asked us all to take a look inward and consider how we can help our communities better serve our needs, coverage of conferences that discussed the future of our community (e.g., the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation's August convention, which discussed the direction of the community in the 21st century, and The Washington Group's October 1997 Leadership Conference, whose topic insisted "We Can Do Better" in terms of our Ukrainian American activity). We tried to spotlight our communities through various features, such as special graduation pages featuring students of our parochial schools and Ukrainian studies schools, and we introduced a new section for news from local communities, "Community Chronicle," which includes photos with captions and news items in a brief, readable format.

In conclusion, it is only fitting to express gratitude and appreciation to the following:

- The Svoboda Press administration and print shop, which have provided exemplary cooperation during 1997 as always — especially after our move to Parsippany, now that our editorial, circulation, typesetting and layout operations are in one place, while our printing and mailing facilities are in another.

- Our many correspondents and free-lancers, who have contributed to enriching the pages of our newspaper. We must note also the contributions of our many readers who are, in effect, an extension of our editorial staff when they submit news stories and photos from their local community events.

- Our subscribers, who have stayed with us through several price increases and continue to support us. (It is gratifying to receive letters to the editor signed by "your devoted reader," or "your faithful and constant reader" — we do get quite a number of these.)

- Our readers who helped support the work of the Kyiv Press Bureau via donations to the UNA's Fund for the Rebirth of Ukraine.

- The UNA General Assembly for understanding the importance of The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian National Association, its members, our Ukrainian community in North America and to Ukraine. The support of the majority of General Assembly members has enabled our newspaper to continue to do the job it was established to do: to keep our community informed and in touch.

Certainly, we at The Weekly believe there is a future for our Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities, and we pledge to continue serving them both in 1998 — our 65th anniversary year — and beyond that. We meant it when we wrote in our May 11 editorial that The Ukrainian Weekly is "our community newspaper." That was true in 1933, and that remains the case today, as through the decades The Weekly changed with the needs of its readers and with the challenges faced by our community. The newspaper continues to adapt, striving to offer readers the latest news from Ukraine, news that concerns and affects our community, as well as news from our communities throughout the United States and Canada.

To all our readers and our correspondents we send best wishes for the New Year. May 1998 bring you good fortune, good health, much happiness and the fulfillment of your dreams and ambitions.

Author, author

The articles in this special year-end issue of The Ukrainian Weekly were written by The Weekly staff, Roma Hadzewycz, Christina Lew, Roman Woronowycz, Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj, Irene Jarosewich and Ika Koznarska Casanova, and our colleague in Ottawa, Christopher Guly.

NEW RELEASES: CDs by Krysa and Tchekina

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — Violinist Oleh Krysa and pianist Tatiana Tchekina have recorded five CDs this year. Two of their recordings of the violin sonatas of Bartok and Brahms were reviewed in classical recordings guides.

"Classic CD" ran a comparative review (in its July issue) of the Krysa/Tchekina and Isaac Stern/Yefim Bronfman recordings of "Bartok: Violin Sonatas — Nos. 1 and 2."

The review refers to the Krysa/Tchekina recording as an "outstandingly sensitive performance of 'difficult' repertoire" and gives it a rating of five stars. The Stern/Bronfman recording (Sony label) is defined as "warm-hearted readings from old masters" and given a rating of four stars.

The Krysa/Tchekina performance, recorded in the Moscow Conservatory's Small Hall, was described as encompassing "a stunning wide range of emotions and colors without ever threatening to overbalance the music's structural integrity. Krysa's bowing can only be described as Kremesque in its ear-tweaking timbral subtlety and dynamic inflection — try the opening of the first Sonata's slow movement where the potentially diffuse material emerges with ravishing purity and phrasal intuitiveness. Tchekina [sic] partners throughout with remarkable sensitivity, imbuing with a haunting memorability passages which in other hands can sound decidedly mundane."

The American Record Guide reviewed the recording "Brahms: Violin Sonatas," with Mr. Krysa, violin, and Ms. Tchekina, piano, in its July/August issue.

The recording, released on the Russian Disc label, was deemed to be "among the very finest recordings of these works ever made."

The reason the recording is so good, the reviewer notes, is that "Krysa is a consummate violinist with temperament, perfect intonation (...) and a wealth of subtle inflections. This music demands a big sound and a noble heart, and Krysa has these. Tchekina, his wife, gets a rich, beautifully modulated sound out of her piano and meshes perfectly with Krysa."

Additional recordings released this year are two performances with the Winnipeg Chamber Players on the Russian Disc label: one features works of Charles Ives, Erwin Schulhoff and Antonin Dvorak; the other includes Tchaikovsky's String Sextet in D minor, Op. 70, "Souvenir de Florence"; and Anton Arensky's Quartet for Violin, Viola and Two Cellos, Op. 35 (with cellists Natalia Khoma and Suren Bagratuni).

The Winnipeg Chamber Players are a group of 12 artists — prominent soloists, chamber musicians and members

of America's finest orchestras — who form the core group of the Lake Winnepesaukee Music Festival, founded in 1995 by violinist Peter Krysa and his wife, cellist Rachel Lewis Krysa. The festival, based in Wolfeboro, N.H., brings acclaimed musicians to New Hampshire's Lakes Region to perform each summer.

To be released at the beginning of next year is a recording by Mr. Krysa and Ms. Tchekina of Borys Liatoshynsky's Sonata for Violin, and two Piano Trios, with Ms. Khoma, cello.

Among Mr. Krysa's other recordings are:

- "Ernest Bloch: Violin Concerto; Poems of the Sea; Suite symphonique," with the Malmö Symphony Orchestra, Sakari Oramo, conductor; BIS label, 1995; and

- "Mozart: Violin Concertos Nos. 3 and 5; Adagio; Rondo; with the Ukrainian Chamber Orchestra, Theodore Kuchar, conductor; Lydian label, 1995.

Forthcoming on the Cambria label are:

- "Ukrainian Violin Concertos: Shtoharenko, Hubarenko and Skoryk";

- "Alfred Schnittke: Concerti Grossi, Nos. 1 and 2," with Schnittke performing on the piano and harpsichord (first time on CD);

- "Violin Miniatures" (first time on CD): works by Prokofiev, Szymanowski, Josef Suk, Karabys, Stankovych and Silvestrov;

- violin concertos by Viotti and Bruch;
- and a CD of works by Paganini.

Mr. Krysa, internationally recognized as a distinguished soloist, chamber musician and teacher, is professor at the Eastman School of Music.

Ms. Tchekina has been performing with her husband, Oleh Krysa, in solo and chamber music concerts since 1967.

Mr. Krysa and Ms. Tchekina have recently completed concert tours in Italy, Taiwan, Sweden, England, Germany, Russia and Ukraine.



CD cover of the violin sonatas of Bartok, as recorded by Oleh Krysa and Tatiana Tchekina.

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Kyiv Chamber Choir...

(Continued from page 1)

almost all of the 1,800 seats of the George Mason Arts Center, apparently found the program interesting enough for a standing ovation and calls for encores.

While the Saturday evening concert was the reason for the Kyiv Chamber Choir's visit to the capital area, the most memorable event for the choristers was their performance earlier that afternoon at the White House, where they were invited to sing Ukrainian carols during the annual VIP viewing of the Christmas-decorated White House. Their appearance coincided with the tour of the president's residence by Washington's diplomatic corps, including some representatives from the Ukrainian Embassy. They were also greeted by the first lady's chief of staff, Melanne Verveer, who is of Ukrainian descent.

Another memorable moment came the following morning, when the visiting choir stood in front of the main altar of the National Cathedral and sang a half-hour choral prelude to the cathedral's Sunday religious service, filling the huge gothic structure with the religious works of

Bortniansky, Berezovsky, Stetsenko, Lysenko, Leontovych and Stepurko.

The choir members' Washington visit began with a Friday evening reception at the Ukrainian Embassy, yet another occasion to show their artistry as well as to help the other guests in a sing-along of Ukrainian Christmas carols.

The reception was sponsored by The Washington Group Cultural Fund, one of many organizations and institutions that assisted in bringing the ensemble to the U.S. under the lead sponsorship of American Friends for Ukraine Inc. The supporting groups also included the Ukrainian National Association, the Ukrainian Institute of America, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Air Ukraine, the Kyiv City Department of Culture, and Ukraine's Embassy, Mission to the United Nations and Consulate General in New York.

Founded in 1990, the Kyiv Chamber Choir set as its goal the restoration of ancient Ukrainian liturgical music. It has performed extensively in Europe, winning at a number of prestigious choral festivals.

The choir has a half a dozen recordings that cover the centuries of Ukrainian liturgical music composition.

Ukrainian National...

(Continued from page 2)

ist UNA were apparent. The party platform includes goals of Ukrainian economic, cultural and military "domination" in Central and Eastern Europe, claims to land in Moldova and the northern Caucasus, where ethnic Ukrainians have a significant presence, and "direct competition" and antagonism with Russia on all political issues.

But in an appeal to Ukraine's working classes, the party has diluted its chauvinistic positions by emphasizing its goals of raising military and working wages. Promises of exorbitant wages for soldiers (\$600 per month) pensions, tax-free salaries for all physical laborers, an end to corruption and restoration of order are points stressed in the party platform. At the party conference, Mr. Korchynskyi said the quality of life in Ukraine "will be like it was during Brezhnev," only better under

the UNA's leadership. However, Mr. Korchynskyi left the organization in early November, after the nomination of candidates, claiming that the organization "had become like an old car that had reached maximum speed ... better to leave it behind and get into an airplane."

Although Mr. Vitovych declined to say whether he feels support for the party is growing, a recent poll conducted by the Eurasia Regional Problems Research Center stated that 12.4 percent of Ukrainians would vote for the UNA in the upcoming parliamentary elections. The poll's results were published by the Interfax news service, but several publications, including Ukraina Moloda, cited the center's close ties with the UNA. Mr. Vitovych said that, if the figures in the poll were inflated, then a more realistic figure might be 8 or 9 percent. He expects that the UNA will win at least 4 percent of the vote in March. Almost 90 percent of the organization's members are under age 35.

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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

largest single item of expenditure is financing cooperation between the internal affairs ministries, border guards and customs services, for which 42.1 percent of total expenditures are earmarked. Another 17.1 percent is for finance, military and technical cooperation, Interfax reported. Addressing the session, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Valerii Serov said that a single currency may be established for certain unspecified financial transactions within the union. (RFE/RL Newline)

Ukraine's foreign debt nearly \$10 B

KYIV — According to information released by Finance Ministry sources, Ukraine's foreign debt as of November 1, 1997, stood at \$9.568 billion (U.S.) The biggest creditor is Russia, which is owed \$2.1 billion. Ukraine's debt to Russian AO Gazprom stood at \$1.12 billion. Other debts include \$1.196 billion owed to the World Bank, \$2.333 billion to the International Monetary Fund and \$56 million to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. (Eastern Economist)

Donor nations hold meeting on SIP

LONDON — The first meeting of the assembly of donors of the special Ukryttia Fund created by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for the granting of funds for the Shelter Implementation Plan at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant took place December 16. Twenty donor countries have already invested \$160 million (U.S.). These countries have pledged to donate a total of \$337 million. Participants of the assembly's first session approved a number of documents on the fund's activities, especially on the beginning of two tender processes to create a group that would be responsible for managing the package of measures to be carried out at the Chernobyl plant and on preparation of technical documentation regarding the first projects to be carried out on the sarcophagus under the SIP. (Eastern Economist)

Lviv 'nationalizes' Soviet war monument

LVIV — The Lviv City Council voted

to change a monument erected in honor of Soviet troops who liberated the city from Nazi troops at the end of World War II into one commemorating "fighters for the freedom of Ukraine," including the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and other groups that fought against Soviet power there in the 1940s and 1950s, ITAR-TASS reported on December 11. (RFE/RL Newline)

Shadow Cabinet favors earlier elections

KYIV — One of the leaders of the Hromada association and chair of its Shadow Cabinet, Yulia Tymoshenko, said on December 2 that presidential elections should be held earlier than planned. In her view, the election is crucially important because President Leonid Kuchma has undertaken too many commitments and is unable to fulfill them. She added that the Ukrainian economy is being ruined through policies laid down in presidential decrees and governmental regulations. (Eastern Economist)

Ivano-Frankivsk institute graduates 30

IVANO-FRANKIVSK — The first 30 graduates of the Ivano-Frankivsk Institute of Management received their diplomas as newly qualified specialists in securities trading. According to the institute's director, Gennadii Bakaliar, the training of specialists of such a high caliber is carried out with the approval of the State Securities and Exchange Commission, from whom a license must be obtained. (Eastern Economist)

Ukrainian-Polish bank opens in Kharkiv

KHARKIV — The first joint Ukrainian-Polish Bank, UPB, opened in Kharkiv. The UPB was created on the basis of a local credit investment bank, which has operated on the Polish financial market since 1994, working with StaroPolskyi bank and Invest-Holding, an inter-bank investment consortium. UPB's statutory fund is 5 million ECU, with the Polish side providing 85 percent. UPB anticipates investing into long-term investment projects in agriculture and the processing industry in the Kharkiv Oblast. (Eastern Economist)

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Wednesday, December 31

JERSEY CITY, N.J.: The Ukrainian National Home, 90-96 Fleet St., is holding a New Year's Eve dance, beginning at 9 p.m., with music by Mriya. Tickets: \$15, includes New Year's toast and buffet. For reservations call (201) 656-7755.

January 10, 1998

HARTFORD, Conn.: A traditional malanka - Ukrainian New Years Eve Dance - will be held at 9 p.m. at the Ukrainian National Home, 961 Wethersfield Ave., featuring the Charivini Ochi Orchestra. Tickets: adults, \$20; students, \$15. Evening attire requested. For tickets call (860) 296-6955.

IRVINGTON, N.J.: The Ukrainian National Home and the Ukrainian American Youth Association, 140 Prospect Ave., invite the community to a traditional "Malanka" dance. A buffet dinner will be served at 8 p.m.; open bar, 8-9 p.m. Admission: adults, \$35; youths, \$20. For more information and reservations call (973) 375-0156.

Sunday, January 11, 1998

NEW YORK: The representatives to the United Nations of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America and the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's

Organizations invite the public to a meeting and reception for Dina Udovenko, wife of Hennadii Udovenko, president of the 52nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine. The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. at the Shevchenko Scientific Society, 63 Fourth Ave. The formal program will be followed by a reception and the opportunity to meet with Mrs. Udovenko. For additional information call (212) 533-4646.

Saturday, January 18, 1998

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., will open a group art show titled "Evidence," curated by Natalie Domchenko. The show, which investigates notions of the post-urban environment, includes mixed media and installations by five Chicago artists: Gina Hartig-Williams, Eric Lindveit, Jennifer Mannebach, Michael Paha and Grant Smith. The work on view challenges the viewer to see the inherent beauty of simple materials, evoking memories of our personal landscapes, past and present. The exhibit, runs through March 1. The opening reception will be held at noon-4 p.m. Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. For more information call the institute, (773) 227-5522.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES IN PREVIEW REQUIREMENTS:

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Thirty parties...

(Continued from page 1)

tures, while the Communists presented more than 620,000.

Some controversy has arisen in regard to how votes were gathered. The Hromada Party and the Party of Reform and Order are alleged to have paid workers for the signatures they gathered. There are also allegations that representatives of some political parties went to workers, collectives pressuring people to sign petitions. Rumors also have flown that signatures were collected via post, electronic mail and fax.

However, Yaroslav Davidovich, secretary to the CEC, said that no evidence exists that any of the documents were falsified or that signatures illegally gathered.

At a press conference, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz, who is also a leader of the Socialist Party, said he has heard the allegations but that the

law on elections is written in such a way that few guidelines were prepared on how petitions were to be gathered. "I have heard that all kinds of questionable procedures for getting petitions were used," said Mr. Moroz. "We are past that stage. I think we should move forward."

The CEC received petitions from 32 of the 54 registered parties in Ukraine. The petitions of the Party of National Salvation and the Women of Ukraine Party were rejected because they did not submit all the required documentation by the deadline.

Other major political parties and the amount of signatures they gathered are as follows: the Peasant and Socialist parties political bloc - 980,000; National Democratic Party - 350,000; the National Front - 400,000; the SLOn (Social-Liberal Union) political bloc - 475,000; the Together (Razom) political bloc of the Labor Party and the Liberal Party; the Christian Democratic Party - 500,000; Ukrainian National Assembly - 230,000.

Plane wreckage...

(Continued from page 1)

been identified thus far.

Investigators are examining whether the crash was due to pilot error. Leonid Pohrebniak, the president of Aerosweet [Editor's note: last week the name of the airline was improperly given as Aeroswift], the airline company that owned the plane, said on December 18, the day after the crash occurred, that the pilots had never made the challenging landing at Salonika Airport, which is sandwiched between the Mount Olympus range and the Aegean Sea.

The flight, originally on a Boeing 737, had left Kyiv on December 17 on its way to Salonika with a scheduled stopover in

Odesa. After experiencing engine trouble before landing at the Ukrainian Black Sea port, Aerosweet authorities decided to switch planes and borrowed the YAK-42 from Air Ukraine.

According to the Greek Ministry of Transportation, at Salonika a heavy rain and fog caused the pilot to abort his first landing attempt and circle for a second one. In his last communication with the airport's control tower, the pilot said he was at 3,500 feet and that everything was fine. The wreckage of the plane was discovered at 4,000 feet above sea level.

A Greek C-130 military transport plane and its crew were also among the casualties of the catastrophe. It went down on December 20 moments after leaving Athens to join the search, which was hampered by heavy fog and snow.